

Inter-Governmental Regional Conference to come out with Sana'a Declaration

Arab governments to declare commitment to democracy

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sana'a Inter-Governmental Regional Conference on Democracy, Human Rights and the role of the International Criminal Court will kick off Saturday with a great participation from all Arab countries and other foreign governments and international organizations.

The conference which is to be held in partnership with the European Union, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, UK, and No Peace without Justice Organization and UNDP, will be attended by over 480 personalities including 37 ministers from different countries. All Arab countries will be represented in the event as well as some neighboring Asian and African countries. Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, told Yemen Times that the outcome of the conference is Sana'a Declaration which will define the adherence of participating members to the questions of human rights, democracy and protection of minorities. He confirmed that participants will, of course, debate the implications of the fight on terrorism on human rights. He pointed out that there will be no working papers to be presented in the event; rather there will be open speeches, dialogues and debates between the participants over three days.

Open Debate

Mr. Mohammed al-Tayib, member of consultative council and coordinator of the conference on the Yemen side said that the event is a "response to the recent changes and developments in the Arab region and is a dialogue of principles between Arabs and the West." He pointed out that it is for the first time decision makers, NGOs, Research centers,

thinkers...etc will sit at one table and discuss the future of democracy and the Arab Human Development Report which figured out the situation of backwardness in the Arab region. They will conduct in-depth dialogues, sharing experiences and reviewing the experiences achieved in democracy and human rights issues and the role of the International Criminal court. He refused the idea that the event is a response to pressure on the Arab political regimes to democratize and adhere to the rule of law. However, he said that the changes that have taken place in the region, mainly in Iraq have convinced people to start debating democracy which, according to him, has become on the top of the West agenda. "People in the West look at the Arabs as backward in this respect. The West has also to listen to us and to our views," he said. He said the idea started before the coalition forces went to Iraq and ousted Saddam Hussein but it was clearly shaped up after the fall of Saddam's regime.

Thematic sessions

The event will be divided to some thematic sessions; the first one will cover the start of operations of the ICC and its repercussions for the protection of human rights and the promotion of democratic values inherent in the Rule of Law as well as the ICC and the Arab World. The second thematic session will focus on the discussion of the interdependence of democracy and human rights, highlighting the Arab Human Development Reports. The third one will discuss the role of civil society organisations in the promotion of democracy, human rights and the ICC in addition to the civil society and the Arab World.

Sana'a Declaration

Yemen Times has obtained a copy of the preliminary draft of the Sana'a declaration which stipulates that the participating regional government delegations declare that they have reached a broad consensus on certain principles related to democracy,



Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi

human rights, application of the rule of law, promotion of free and independent media, democratic governance, civil society as well as the establishment of the International Criminal Court. The declaration says that "democracy and human rights, which are compatible with all faiths and cultures, are interdependent and inseparable; human rights standards must underpin any meaningful conception of democracy in order to strengthen its foundations and its ability to promote and protect human

rights." It also emphasizes that "the rights, interest and voices of minorities, indigenous people, women, disempowered, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups must be safeguarded," and that "democracy goes beyond formal institutions and should be measured by the degree to which its principles, norms, standards and values are actually implemented and the extent to which they advance the realization of human rights."

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Saleh Calls on Eritrea to join Sana'a Grouping for Cooperation

Yemen Times Staff

President Ali Abdllah Saleh called again Eritrea to join the Sana'a Grouping for Cooperation which includes Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia during meeting the Eritrean Foreign Minister Sunday. The agreement concerning the establishment of the gathering was signed last week at a summit of the three countries in Ethiopia.

Yemeni official sources said that Saleh emphasized that Eritrea is welcomed to join the gathering when meeting Ali Said Abdullah, Eritrean Foreign Minister who conveyed a message to Saleh from Eritrean president relating to bilateral relations as well as the escalation of the dispute between Eritrea and

Ethiopia over border demarcation. He pointed out that would achieve the "goals of the gathering based on interests and enhancing peace, security and stability in the region." Eritrea which has border problems with the three countries believes that the grouping is targeting it and thus refuses to join it. Saleh called to sorting out disputes and problems in the region through dialogue and peaceful means so as to achieve objectives of development. The three countries emphasized the importance of joining hands to fight terrorism, enhancing economic cooperation and work for the peace and stability in the region which is believed by the U.S. to be a haven for terrorists.

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إجابة (٥) _____

للمشاركة إقرأ التفاصيل:

على الراغبين في المشاركة في المسابقة تعبئة الكوبون المرفق وكتابة الإجابات الصحيحة للأسئلة المنشورة في كوبون الأسئلة للعدد الماضي ومن ثم قص الكوبون وإرفاقه مع كوربون الأسئلة 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). لن يتم قبول المشاركات التي ينقصها أي من الكوربين أو التي تحوي معلومات شخصية نافذة أو إجابات خاطئة لأي من الأسئلة المنشورة.

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

المصدقية هي شعارنا، وثقتكم هي غايتنا، شاركوا وترقبوا أسماءكم من بين الفائزين.....

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Yemen denies pollution of its agricultural products

An official source at the Yemeni ministry of agriculture and irrigation on Monday confirmed his surprise about the Saudi decision on preventing Yemeni agricultural products from entering Saudi markets, describing the reasons as unconvincing scientifically and practically.

The source also affirmed that Yemeni agricultural products entertained western and European satisfaction due to their high quality. The source refuted correctness of news ascribed to some sources in the Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia (KSA), claiming to be polluted with contagious virus and bacteria, saying the news as groundless and not depending on any scientific fact, asserting that Yemeni exporters commit to GCC specifications regarding agricultural products. He said the Saudi banning decisions whether in previous periods or at present are not based on accurate scientific data or grounds.

The source had further added that a ministerial meeting was earlier held in Riyadh devoted to discussion the matter and was agreed to send a Saudi technical team. The team had actually made field visits to production sites, exporting centers, quality laboratories, health and agriculture to get ascertained about safety of measures, despite the team's conviction of soundness of measures we are still astonished concerning the Saudi measures.



Yemeni agricultural products on display in the market

Three Iraqis previously working at Iraqi embassy detained

Yemeni authorities had Sunday arrested and detained three Iraqi former diplomats accused of embezzling sums of money from the Iraqi embassy in late of last July.

The three diplomats; Hassan Talib Hatim, Mohammed Abdulla Jassim and Kareem Rabat Mizban were working at the Iraqi embassy and are charged by stealing a \$650 thousand sum of money from the embassy's strongbox. They are currently under lock at the prison of the Yemeni Immigration and Passports Authority after they had been released

from Criminal Investigations Prison as the charge against them was lacking of enough evident.

Meanwhile, attorney Jamal al-Juabi told Reuters that "The three Iraqi diplomats were transferred to the Interlope office, which could mean they may be deported." Juabi said the men, accused last year of embezzling money from the Iraqi embassy, did not want to return to Iraq.

One official earlier said Yemen was holding talks with Jordan about deporting the three men to Amman.

Yemeni-Saudi cooperation on fighting malaria

Director general of the national program on fighting malaria disease Dr Shawqi al-Maweri said last Monday there were joint cooperation, efforts and activities for fighting malaria to be embarked on during this month. The cooperation in this field would be started on border areas between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

A large number of doctors and technicians in this health area are taking part in preventative campaigns and these campaigns are in implementation of outcomes of meetings of the Yemeni-Saudi joint specialized committee that held its meetings in the city of Hardh, Hajja governorate during the period 9-10 last December.

Prisoner appeals to Human Rights Minister

Prisoner Fuad Abdulla al-Shahmi currently in Taiz central prison, spending up to now nine years there. Prisoner al-Shahmi was sentenced to imprisonment in the wake of a law suit raised against him by Taiz communications department for which he was working as an employee on charge of financial inability.

The prisoner claims that it was a vexatious lawsuit fabricated against him. He has enclosed with his complaint many various documents proving his innocence.

Appellant al-Shahmi appeals to the minister of Human Rights to interfere in his tragedy, as he describes it.

Midwives graduated

The project of training society midwives affiliate of the health ministry had on Monday organized in cooperation with the Dutch government and the UN Fund for Population Activities organized in Taiz a ceremony for the graduation of a number of midwives from training courses on society midwives.

The courses aimed at spreading health awareness amongst members of the society and raising the level of midwifery profession and service of motherhood and childhood especially in the rural areas. The addresses delivered at the ceremony by sponsors of the project reviewed goals of the project for consolidation of reproduction health services and further development of administrative and supervision efficiency of the staff in this field.

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 think the Arab regimes have learnt a lesson from results of Saddam Hussein's suppressive policy in Iraq?

- Yes, they should
- I don't think they would
- I don't think they may care

How do you view year 2003?

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

No, I have lost hope	46%
Let's just wait & see	41%
Yes, I still have hope	13%

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

Lahj, Dhalie suffer from drought

Some areas of the governorates of Lahj and Dhalie have lately suffered from a severe wave of drought leading to draining away of subterranean waters there.

This problem has affected people needs of drinking water in addition to dwindling of water in some wells of those regions. Sources attribute the cause of the problem to scarcity of rainfalls in addition to some water projects that are not operative because of some problems between the residents of the areas as every side wants to pump waters for its own benefit as well as to water exhaustion as a result of some agricultural projects such as qat plantations.

The Embassy of United of America announces for an immediate jobs within its organization.

"Administrative clerk"

The position is located in the Yemen America language institute (YALI), American Embassy, under the immediate supervision of the office manager and the general supervision of the director of courses. Employee will provide critical and administrative duties to the YALI.

Required Qualification

Education: Secondary school is required, university graduate is preferable.

Prior work Experience: one and one-half year of experience (or previous study at YALI) is required.

Language proficiency: Level IV English (excellent working) level is required.

Ability: strong interpersonal skills and team work skills are essential; ability to work rotating shifts, which includes evening and Thursday work in order to fit into and support YALI's 13 hours per day, 6 days per week of operation.

Grade/salary: *EFM/MOH/Non ordinary resident: FP-9 (to be confirmed by Washington)

* Ordinary Resident: Fsn-5

How to apply: interested applicants should complete of-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degree earned) that address the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy personnel office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar street, Sana'a. Tel: 303-155, no later than January 17, 2004

Note: all ordinary resident applicants must be residing in country and have the required work and residency permits to be eligible for consideration.



Water Resources Specialist: Sana'a Office

The World Bank country office in Sana'a is seeking to recruit a Water Resources specialist to contribute to the Rural Development, Water and Environment sector work on water resources management, irrigation, water supply and sanitation. Duties and responsibilities will include:

- Initially be a team member for supervision of existing and planned IDA sector investment operations focusing on improved water resource management, irrigation, water supply and sanitation;
- As a team member, support Bank operations teams in the project cycle, including review of documents, monitoring of physical progress and undertaking regular supervision;
- Interact with Yemeni counterparts and provide technical support for MNSRE/MNSIF water projects staff and the GOY clients;
- Provide inputs for the development of basin-wide approaches to water resources management in Sana'a and other basins in Yemen;
- Contribute to the Yemen country team for the development and delivery of the broader country assistance strategy aimed at poverty reduction, improved public sector management and governance, promotion of private sector, civil society with NGO participation and stakeholder consultations;
- Work closely with MNSRE Washington-based and other staff and the Yemen Country Office in ensuring project compliance with Bank safeguards policies and procedures;
- Work closely with MNSIF Washington-based and the Yemen Country Office staff and donor community in Yemen in water issues and actively contribute to water meetings/workshop etc.
- Work with the MNSRE/MNSIF Departments and the Yemen Country Office in facilitating the effective management of country and client relations in the water, environment, agriculture, social and rural development sectors.

Selection Criteria

- Masters degree or equivalent in water resources management or related fields, and familiarity with irrigation, water resource management, community-driven development and water supply and sanitation issues;
- At least 5 years practical experience working on water resource issues, notably groundwater management, spate irrigation and in establishing water user associations;
- Strong communication skills, in both English and Arabic, must have proven ability to communicate effectively to a variety of audiences through both the spoken and written word, (writing samples required at interview);
- Knowledge of best practices in water management and irrigation in Yemen and elsewhere;
- Ability to work in a team environment, and demonstrated coordination skills;
- Proven client and people skills, including the ability to listen and to influence without taking over, and an ability to work with a range of stakeholders, including government, NGOs, local communities and the private sector;
- Ability to provide high quality written outputs;
- Experience in working with NGOs desirable, and experience with community managed/community driven projects highly desirable.

For full consideration, the applicant's CV and a cover letter should be transmitted by fax before February 2, 2004 to the World Bank Office in Sana'a, fax no.: 413-709/418-733

Saving-credit seminar held

Woman Economic Empowerment Association (WEEA) held a saving-credit seminar on Tuesday 6th January that took place in Hada'a Hotel.

Mr. Ali Saleh, Social Affairs and labor undersecretary, Mrs. Irma Van Dueren, First Secretary for Gender at Royal Netherlands Embassy, along with a number of micro-finance and saving and credit field attended the seminar.

Dr. Fatihia Bahran, the head of WEEA, delivered a welcoming speech in which she explained the WEEA mission in developing women status economically especially the poor and ensure an income for them "Women are the weakest part in the society and studies and researches have proved that most of families depend on woman."

Dr. Bahran, also thanked the ministry of Social affairs and Labor, as well as the Royal Netherlands embassy for their continuous support for WEEA



since its foundation. The seminar came to present the WEEA proposed micro-finance system and gave a chance to participants to comment on and enrich it.

Basic health care

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Of the main achievements in the last century was the increase in the average life span in the world as the average life span has increased by 20 years in the world and infant mortality in the first year reduced by almost two thirds. And yet those achievements are not comparable to the greater ones that were aspired to take place through the world's action plan for population and the declarations that were announced in the international conference for basic health in 1978. Because nations and countries and many of the populations remain handicapped with preventable diseases and illness as well as high mortality rates increasing the social and economic gaps between the various layers in the society, leading to more poverty, violence and deaths.

The increase in the average life span in many countries is evidence to the

improvement in the basic health services. For example 80% of the world's children have received vaccination in order to sustain children's lives. In spite of this there are still many preventable diseases and so many sectors in the society lack basic resources such as clean water, hygienic drainage system and those people are forced to live in crowded localities and lacking of sufficient nutrition. Being by that they are subjected to various diseases such as malaria, bilharzias and others.

The decrease in spending on health services and other social services as it has happened in many of the countries due to the decrease in the public sector, and the mismanagement of the available resources as well and the negative environments that don't encourage investment, all those lead to worsening the health situation and increasing the numbers of ill people and mortality rate.



Delivering equipment for the Extended Program for Immunizations (EPI)

Mr. Hisatsugu Shimizu, Charge de Affairs, Embassy of Japan in Sana'a, today attended the delivery ceremony that took place at the Extended program for Immunizations (EPI) building on the occasion of delivering two cars to the EPI office for its supervisory activities concerning tetanus control in the districts where this disease maybe found.

A Japanese embassy press release on Tuesday mentioned that this cooperation

is part of Japanese grant in aid to tetanus control campaign this year, which includes a quantity of Tetanus vaccines, syringes and safety boxes costing a total of \$ 280,000 (two hundred and eight thousand US dollars). It is worth mentioning that the government of Japan has been providing support to the various EPI programs including polio eradication campaigns and tetanus control campaigns for the last several years.

Continued from page 1

Arab governments to declare commitment to democracy, human rights and ICC role

The participating regional government delegations will also commit to building strong institutions of democratic governance based on the rule of law and including an accountable executive, an elected legislature and an independent judiciary as well as encouraging a permanent forum to continue dialogue and discussion, exchanging of views among democratic countries. Another principle includes "building, protecting and consolidating democracy requires overcoming potential threats to the form and substance of democracy, including the concentration and abuse of power, ineffective and unaccountable civil service, poverty, inadequate education, corruption, foreign occupation, crime under international law, inequality, discrimination, repression of minorities and the exclusion of women." They will also commit themselves to an effective application of the rule of law and fair administration of justice to reach good functioning of democracy and application of human rights law in judicial decisions. It emphasizes the important role of free and independent media can play in democracies through contributing to the dissemination of human rights information, promoting tolerance and contributing to government accountability as well as the role of a responsible and vibrant civil society in democratic governance and adherence to the principles of human rights. It says that "the establishment of the International Criminal Court is an important means for promoting respect for international humanitarian law and human rights, thus strengthening of the rule of law as well as facilitating

the prevention of armed conflicts, the preservation of peace and the strengthening of international security and, to that end, increased participation by countries in the region is to be encouraged, so that regional legal systems and traditions might be better represented in all aspects of the ICC."

They will also commit themselves to: "the promotion and protection of all human rights, including people's fundamental rights to express their views and adhere to their religious beliefs and ethnic identity," "empower the role of women and promote their rights, with a view to achieving equality between men and women," "the establishment of an independent and fair judiciary, an elected legislature and an accountable executive, as well as an electoral system that is transparent and accessible to all persons," "ensure equality before the law and equal protection under the law, in particular through the adoption and enforcement of laws ensuring the liberty and security of all persons and fair trial guarantees."

Other commitments include assisting countries with limited resources to promote democracy, eliminating impunity and prevent reemergence by acting pursuant to national legislation and through the ICC to investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute individuals, irrespective of their stands, who are suspected of having committed the most serious crimes under the international law, enhancing the role of the ICC as an important and innovative means for promoting respect for international humanitarian law and human rights.

VACANCY

International Agency in Yemen invites applications for the post of
Snr. Finance/Programme Assistant

DUTIES OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Maintain ledgers and accounting records of financial transactions for reconciliation of account and preparation of recurring or special reports;
2. Calculation and payment of salaries, allowances, travel claims and other payments and reconcile cash books with banks statements. Also maintain VFs accounts and ensure any outstanding advances are recovered correctly and recorded and submitted to HQs as/and when required;
3. Maintain liaison with officials of local banks to obtain day-to-day information on exchange rate, interest rates and other matters relating to office bank accounts;
4. Assist higher-level officers in all aspects of accounts maintenance and budget control, providing reports on financial status, procedures, expenditures and potential funding problems;
5. Perform personnel administration tasks including issuance of P.35, contracts etc. and act as Focal point for MIP;
6. Select information mainly from records and reports and prepares periodic and ad hoc reports on programme and project activities;
7. Organize data and information, prepare and maintains records, documents and control plans for the monitoring of project/programme implementation;
8. Contribute to the preparation of Status and progress reports and project submissions and sub-agreements by providing background information, preparing tables and drafting selections of it. Prepare background material for use in discussions and briefing sessions;
9. Scrutinize plans of operations, exchanges of letters and takes appropriate follow-up action. Assists in the administrative processing of government requests for assistance;
10. Ensure utilization and accountability of project budgets;
11. Consolidate the network of coordination among Protection/Field Units, Implementing Partners and Government relevant offices;
12. Manage effectively DAFI scholarship programme for refugees including payments of fees and allowances, preparation of monitoring reports;
13. May be required to carry out specific administrative operational/control tasks for project / programme activities;
14. Carry out regular visits on weekly basis to NGO's implementing partners to monitor their financial project records and assets, and report accordingly;
15. Perform any other duties as may be required by the supervisor.

QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:

- 10 Years previous job experience or 5 Years in the same functional area.
- Proficiency in the use of computers and office software package.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (Written and oral)

Candidates who have the necessary qualifications and experience are invited to submit their Curriculum vitae with letter not later than 15 January 2004 to:

**Admin & Finance Unit
P. O. Box: 12093
Sana'a - Republic of Yemen**

Announcement on auction sale of two reservoirs through closed bids

The Yemen Rubber Manufacturing Co. Ltd - Aden is announcing that it will sell on auction two of its reservoirs located in the Maalla region in Aden City. The two reservoirs are rented by the State Real Estate Authority Office - Aden.

The two reservoirs have good technical features and are designed for commercial purposes.

- 1- The two reservoirs enjoy a strategic location in the middle of Maalla region. They are located on the Maalla main street and by the Maalla-Aden platform on the other side. They are adjacent to other industrial buildings.
- 2- Reservoir (1) is of 350 square meters and 5 meters high, while the other is 375 square meters and 6 meters high.
- 3- Those who wish to participate in the auction are invited to inspect the two reservoirs during official working hours and while this announcement is valid. They can approach the General Manager of the company to receive the specifications of the two structures in return of a non-refundable YR 5,000.
- 4- Bid offers for buying the reservoirs can be specific to one of them or both.
- 5- Bid offers should be submitted in wax sealed envelopes to the GM of the company, whose new location is opposite to the Mansoura electricity station - Aden.
- 6- In order to secure participation in the auction, 5% of the proposed purchase amount should be submitted to the company in the form of a current (not postdated) check or a bank guarantee valid for 60 days. The rest of the amount needs to be fully paid within one week after the auction's results are announced.
- 7- The last date to receive the bid offers is 19 January 2004. The envelopes will be opened on the same day (19 Jan) at 11:00 in the morning at the office of the GM of the company in Al-Mansoura amid presence of all bidders.

For more information, please call (02) 350913 during official working hours

Sana'a Regional Conference on Democracy and Human Rights



BY SAMEER MOHAMMED ABDULHAQ,
SENIOR SPECIALIST OF
STUDIES AND RESEARCH,
PRIME MINISTERSHIP
OFFICE

A Regional Conference will be held on 10/11 January, 2004 on Democracy and Human Rights in the historical capital Sana'a with a focus on human rights, freedoms and legislation's that protect these rights and the role of International Criminal Court in protection of these rights. The participants of this conference include delegates from the region, Africa, Asia, Middle East and Europe including Amro Mossa Secretary General of the Arab League, General Secretary aides of the United Nations, mass media representatives and members of the international Criminal Court. The participants will discuss the methods of consolidating democracy and human rights. Democracy is a holy concept which includes procedural and executive institutions.

Sana'a Regional Conference does not come from a vacuum. It is a democratic parade, revealing the significant role of Yemen in the democratic practices since 1994 parliamentary elections and the late 2003 parliamentary elections as well. The European Union has chosen Yemen as a hosting country for this conference due to its democrat-

ic practices in the region. For the first time in the history of the region, The leadership of the country nominated a minister for the human rights within its portfolio in addition to the committees in relation with women rights and civil organizations. The democratic developments have not stopped since unification of the country. It is significant to note that democracy could not be exported from one country to another. It is important for each society and country to develop its own democratic traditions naturally in conformity with its democratic institutional traditions. The execution of the democratic principles require building up democratic ruling institutions based on the rule of law and legislative/executive institutions and under an independent judiciary system. In this regard, it is important to protect the rights, interests, voice of the minorities, women rights, and the groups which do not hold power and liable to attacks from those powers that violate the democratic practices. The arbitration to democracy includes its attachment with the progress of equality in life for all human beings. There is no development without sustainable democracy. Specifically, democracy means existence of free independent press that protect democracy from failure or violations. Free independent press should have a role in spreading information about human rights and facilitating the task of public participation, consolidating the principle of tolerance and else of noble principles that activate democracy.

Any mis-use of democracy by the ruling power shall threat democracy in form and concept in addition to poverty, corruption, foreign occupation and any violation or aggression on the rights of others. The conference will avail the opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions, which serve the cause of democracy in the region. To develop and provide more concern to this conference, his excellency the premier Abdulkader Ba Jamal has given his instructions to all the diplomatic missions of the country to exert efforts to finalize the preparations for this conference due to its importance. The peoples of the region will be before an important event in relation with new concepts that require building up stabilized democratic ruling institutions. This conference will open the doors for a new era of specifying the points of agreements and disagreement. The principles of democracy and human rights are the issues which prevail the discussions of the conference participants, aiming at creating an appropriate atmosphere for implementation of the democratic reforms within a mechanism agreed upon by the delegates. Protection of democracy means necessarily standing against all the threats that violate human rights and it is important to reach a mechanism for a trial to the individuals that commit crimes against humanity or accused of genocide crimes. It is necessary for the intelligentsia, politicians, and political parties to have a core role in contributing substantially in this conference.

The British Embassy – Sana'a would like to invite applications for the post of Projects Officer – Small Grants Scheme & Global Opportunities Fund

The British Embassy – Sana'a is seeking an enthusiastic self-starter to fill the position of projects officer. The job holder will be working under the direct supervision of the British Embassy and, for some projects, under the guidance of the Department of International Development. The Project Officer will be responsible for:

- Encouraging project proposals from local NGOs
- Analysing and preparing proposals and sending them to London for approval where appropriate
- Supervising projects in the field
- Maintaining accurate financial reports for different types of projects and reporting on a monthly basis
- Monitoring and Evaluation of projects.
- Preparing regular reports

We are looking for candidates who have:

- Some experience in development and in particular with project analysis
- Experience of dealing with budgets and some financial management
- Fluent Arabic and English
- Good computer skills and knowledge of Word & Excel
- Political insight – some of the projects have political goals
- Integrity, commitment and respect for diversity.

The starting salary for this post is subject to previous experience but will not be less than US\$727 per month. If you are interested in applying, please send your detailed CV along with a covering letter sating why you would be good at this job to britemb-sanaa@y.net.ye. Deadline for receipt of applications is Sunday 18 January, 2004. Only candidates who fulfil the job requirements will be shortlisted and contacted for an interview.



Al-Saeed educational complex in Hodeidah Al-Qamariyah kitchen inaugurated

By Aref Ahmed al-Zuraiqi
Yemen Times Staff

Brothers Ahmed Jazim Saeed, Regional Manager of Hayel Saeed Anaam Group of Companies and Mr. Shukri al-Furais, "Yemen Company for Ghee & Soap Industry" General Manager inaugurated Al-Qamariyah Kitchen in Al-Saeed Educational Complex for Girls in Hodeidah.

A speech ceremony was held on the occasion where a number of addresses were delivered by the Regional Manager and "Yemen Ghee and Detergents Company" General Manager as well as the director of the complex who indicated that the aim behind the establishment of an a housekeeping hall at the complex was to teach girl students cooking and various dishes that many houses and housewives were lacking.

The speeches also affirmed that opening of a housekeeping section in the complex was part of activating girls' school classes in the complex in the domain of different cuisines which are complementary to different school activities in the field of arts, engraving, handicrafts and embroidery which promote skills and innovations and inventions of the complex girl students

They all emphasized the role of national industry in offering various services services for the society and contribution of the private sector to the educational and development process.

The students performed many splendid artistic shows. Furthermore, Mr. Ahmed J. Saeed, and Mr. Shukri al-Furais, inaugurated also the official Auditorium in the complex.



البركة

مياه صحية نقية

أنتى مياه صحية في اليمن

إنتاج الشركة التضامنية اليمنية للمشروبات الغازية (بيكو)

أول شركة يمنية تقوم بتعبئة المياه في قارورة صحية من مادة (بي.إي.تي)

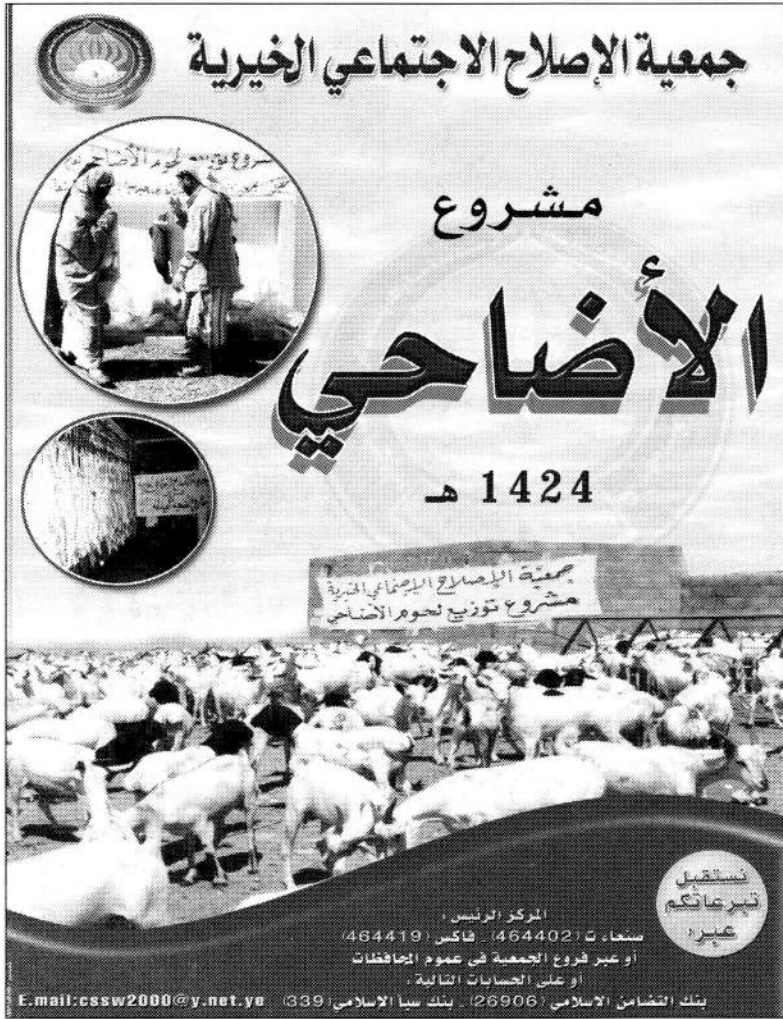
CSSW observes the International Volunteering Day

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Charitable Society for Social Welfare had last week celebrated the International Volunteering Day. On this occasion the society had organised recreational tours in honor of the volunteers included the cities of Aden and Hudeida. The event also included distribution of pamphlets and organisation of health campaigns for treatment of contagious diseases and treatment of children and mothers in the governorates of Al-Mahweet, Hajja, Hudeidah, and Sana'a. Foodstuffs and winter clothes were also distributed among some of the poor on the occasion.

Behind the benevolent efforts of the Charitable Society Welfare (CSSW) is the spread of more than (12,000) volunteers in several of governorates of the Republic's. They provide various services in fields of poverty alleviation, health and relief (including Somali relief), education, population, environment, social aspects, as well as seasonal projects, training and rehabilitation...etc. since its establishment in 1990, the CSSW is considered to be a focal point of collaboration with NV. It works as the program's national coordinator in Yemen. The CSSW represented the Republic of Yemen in the conclusion forum of the International Volunteering Year, Nov. 2001, in Geneva in recognition of the society's role in identification, promotion, and facilitation of voluntary work on the Yemeni arena. Since the current year logo of the UNV program focuses on the millennium developmental objectives in the fields of poverty control, child mortality reduction, environment, girl education, the CSSW implemented various programs in poverty control as follows:

- Food support: to about (1066) families and a regular support to (5229) families.



- Small project development program: A developmental program which provides a connected series of small amount of funding of easy repayment to people of manual skills, handicrafts and small establishments aiming at developing their projects. Until last April, the project was able to fund (2935) projects with a total amount worth (93) million YR.
- Sponsorship of (16,000) male and female orphans.
- Medicine free distribution through mobile clinics in rural areas and through Sowda control program (Mectizan tablets).

- Health caravan project and surgical operation camps: the CSSW was able until the end of 2003 to mobilize (120) health caravans and established (7) surgical operation camps in a number of governorates in which (354,765) individual benefited from.
- Health care for Somali refugees: this project is being implemented by the CSSW for the Somali refugees in Kharaz Camp since 2001. The CSSW also implements another project for Somali refugee in Al-Basateen, Aden governorate, since 1993. The total number of benefici-

aries from these two projects reached up to 23,700 refugees until the end of 2003.

Reducing child mortality rate:
-The CSSW through the Reproductive Health Project, established in 1998 in cooperation with (UNFPA), provides ante natal care, family planning and awareness activities through field visits by the CSSW Women Section volunteers. These services are provided within a complete primary health service bouquet besides social services to poor families offered through the CSSW's (22) branches and (270) volunteering committees in the Republic's governorates and districts. The program printed two guides: one for health workers and the other one is for mosque preachers vis-à-vis reproductive health, family planning, and population issues.

Encouragement of girl enrollment in education:
- One of conditions required by the CSSW for supporting poor families (monthly food support) is the obligatory enrollment of those families' girls in public schools. The CSSW also stipulates that sponsored girl orphans should go to school.
- Establishment bag distribution at the beginning of every school year. Until the end of 2002, (17,198) bags were distributed to schoolgirls of needy families.
- Educational sponsorship for needy schoolgirls: Until the year of 2003, (39) girls' students have been sponsored by the Women Sector.

International Volunteering Day
On the occasion of International Volunteering Day, the CSSW greets Mrs. Sharon Capeling-Alakija, the former UNV executive coordinator, who passed away last November as a result of a chronic disease. Alakija is regarded as one of the volunteering movement champions in the world.

Population and environment



Unorganized population growth leads directly to more pollution to the environment

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It can be said that the population density in Yemen is higher than that of many other countries and that the population growth is one of the highest in the world. The particularities of this country are also to the effect that criticizing excessive child birth or encouraging family planning would be calling for trouble from the conservative and the fanatic people who would not hesitate from terming those who call for family planning as infidels. The issue is that there should be some vision and thought for the future. Especially when looking at the current situation of the country and the deteriorating economy and how poor and weak people are getting poorer and weaker, and becoming more in numbers. Not only that but also the growth in population is directly proportional to deforestation as people are increasingly transferring fertile land into buildings and constructions. More so, the increase in population means a less hygienic environment and more rubbish and waste. It also means more consumption of natural resources such as water and fuel. All these factors and in the presence of unorganized resource handling will surely result disastrous consequences on the people and the land. Unorganized population growth leads directly to more pollution to the environment, for example the more people there are in a country

the more cars they use and hence the more populated the air becomes especially in Yemen where traffic laws are not strong enough to regulate the quality of vehicles and their permissible life span. Another very important point in this aspect is the relation between Qat and the population growth. Since most if not all Yemenis chew Qat or rather are addicted to it, Qat farmers become quiet influential and buy their way through anything offering their Qat in return. The tragedy of this is that this means more care is taken to growing Qat on the expense of other more important agricultural products and it also means more dangerous effects of the chemical used in growing Qat without professional direction leading to many health hazards. Chemicals are also used in the growth of most of the agricultural products seeking more profitable return on the expense of the consumer's health. The environment in Yemen has reached a very low level and many preventable diseases are spread among the people, in addition to disease greatly influenced by environmental factors whether in the food or in the air such as gum and throat cancer. The basic facilities in the rural areas such as clean water and a good drainage system are almost extinct and in spite of that focus and concern is with the Qat farms and less important facilities. It is high time that we wake up and do something about the situation, before it becomes too late and we ruin ourselves and our lives.

A workshop on micro-finance concluded

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Woman Economic Empowerment Association (WEEA) received the new year by concluding a 6-day workshop about saving and lending on Thursday 1 Jaunty 2004 that was held in cooperation with the Dutch embassy and sponsored by Mr. Abdulkareem al-Arahabi, the minister of social affairs and labor. The event was held at the WEEA headquarters. Dr. Fathia Barahan, the head of WEEA, thanked all the participants and hoped that they would go and implement the things they were lectured in the workshop. Ria Hussein, Sana'a coordinator, "The workshop was new and this is the first time I attended such a workshop. The workshop added more new information in the lending and saving filed, as we had not had a good background of these things. We know what we should do and we are going to implement system we have taken in the local communities."



Dr. Bahran hands a certificate to one of the trainees

WEEA mission is to enable women economically. In other words, WEEA is specialist economic association. The goal of our project is first to establish the unite of saving and lending and secondly to develop the abilities and skills of WEEA members and volunteers. The importance of this workshop is the work has started randomly and there is no special system and rules to organize the work. We have tried to select the participants with special criterion as all participants work in the same field. The coordinators in all governorates are responsible of lending and saving in local communities. Beside them we have groups leaders as

well as volunteers who will train and rehabilitate and follow up the implementation of the system. The participants are trained in the workshop in all system forms starting with policies, bylaws, regulations and organizational structure. We have done the workshop and we will not stop here. However, we will follow the trainees and see how they will implement the system in the reality. We along with WEEA expert will visit the environment in which the system will be applied. Abdualmajid al-Khuliji, a regional expert, who lectured the participants, commented "A large number of partic-

ipants were serious and they really want to serve their community. The proposed system can be modified and changed updating any developments" Asia Makwai, the head of saving and lending unit said, "Through our field visits we know the local communities do not have enough information in saving and lending. So we held this workshop to enrich the participants information. In addition the participants had a chance to display their problems to the expert who tried to help them. Moreover, the decision-makers and intellectuals will discuss and comment on the supposed system."

Vacancy

The European Union is funding a project in the water sector, to 'Support the Aden NWSA Restructuring'. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) has been established to implement the project, under international consultant supervision, in partnership with the Aden Local Corporation for water and Sanitation. Applications from suitable candidates are invited for the following posts:

ASSISTANT PROCUREMENT OFFICER

The successful candidate will assist the Procurement Officer to manage the tendering, contracting and administration of the project investments. Training and supervision will be provided. Applicants should have the following skills and experiences:

- University level education in an appropriate subject
- Good English and Arabic
- Excellent computer skills in Word and Excel
- Experience of working in an international organization
- Some experience in an engineering, procurement or contracts management environment
- Able to work in a team environment

INTERPRETER

The successful candidate will assist the Co-project manager on a day-to-day basis and attend official meetings to act as interpreter. Applicants should have the following skills and experience:

- University level education in an English/Arabic, preferably overseas
- Excellent English and Arabic
- Basic computer skills for reporting purposes
- Some experience of working in an international organization
- Confident and lively personality, able to translate at meetings at the highest level (minister, governor level)

Applications for the above posts, including detailed Curriculum Vitae and reference, in the English language, should be submitted by 14 January 2004 to the following address:

Attn: Mr. David Hardman
Republic of Yemen, Khormaksar, Aden,
P. O. Box 6058

Ex-Iraqi soldiers protest in Basra, four injured

BASRA, Iraq, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Iraqi police opened fire on soldiers of the former Iraqi army in the southern city of Basra on Tuesday as they staged a protest demanding payment of salaries, witnesses said.

At least four people were injured, they said.

Hundreds of former soldiers protested in front of three banks in Basra after

being told their salaries had not been received.

They said the last time they were paid was in September, a \$150 one-off payment for three months' wages.

"We are bread-earners and have families and want to feed our families," said Ahmad Abdul Aziz, a former army officer. "Which is better, armed conflict or getting our rights

peacefully?"

The witnesses said the four injured were taken to hospital and British army tanks took up position near the banks.

A spokesman for British forces in Iraq said he was aware of a demonstration in Basra but had not so far received any reports of shots being fired. Basra is part of a southern region

of Iraq controlled by British forces, which supported U.S. troops in their invasion of Iraq last March.

Iraq's U.S. governor Paul Bremer abolished the 400,000-strong Iraqi army in May and the United States is recruiting and training an army it envisions as a force of about 40,000, along with larger numbers of police and border guards.



British Army troops take position near a crowd of protesting former Iraqi soldiers after stones were thrown in the southern Iraq city of Basra January 6. Iraqi police opened fire on soldiers of the former Iraqi army in Basra on Tuesday as they staged a protest demanding payment of salaries, witnesses said, in an incident which injured at least four people. REUTERS

French find possible Egypt crash black box signal

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt, Jan 6 (Reuters) - French divers may have detected a signal from the flight recorder of an Egyptian plane which crashed into the Red Sea, but French sources could not confirm an Egyptian report that the device had been found.

The "black boxes", which record technical data about the flight and conversations between pilots, should help explain what caused the crash, which killed all 148 people on board, including 133 French tourists.

Once they are sure of the location, French salvage experts plan to use a submersible robot to retrieve the flight recorders of the plane, which crashed on Saturday into deep water off the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"They caught a signal which could be from the black box but they did not locate the boxes, they just caught a signal. They will continue...this morning to locate the boxes, when they locate them they will use the robot," a French official said.

The depth of the signal had yet to be determined, he said.

The fuselage and most of the bodies are now believed to lie at a depth of about 400 metres (1,300 feet).

French officials could not confirm a report by Egypt's official Middle East News Agency (MENA) that French divers had located a flight recorder and the exact position of the Paris-bound Boeing 737.

"We have no information on this," the French official said. "We only know that they found a weak signal," he added.

France said on Monday it attached little credence to a previously unknown Islamic group's claim to have brought down the plane. Egypt has ruled out an attack.

Egypt has defended the safety record of Flash Airlines, operators of the plane, but Switzerland has said it banned the Egyptian company from its airspace on safety grounds.

Swiss authorities said on Monday they had found two Flash aircraft unsafe in 2002, raising the possibility that one was the plane that crashed on Saturday. Flash officials were not immediately available for comment.

But they have said the doomed plane was one of only two that Flash has operated in recent years, including all of 2002. Swiss officials could not confirm positively that it was one of those they had inspected.

Syrian president makes landmark Turkey trip

ANKARA, Jan 6 (Reuters) - President Bashar al-Assad began the first official visit by a Syrian head of state to Turkey on Tuesday, to try to nurture a new warmth between neighbours that were close to war only five years ago.

Relations have been frosty for decades, chilled by a border dispute, rows over shared water resources and Syria's long-time tacit support for Kurdish separatists fighting in south-eastern Turkey.

The three-day visit aims to fan the spark of cooperation kindled last November when Syria handed over 22 people suspected of involvement in a wave of deadly suicide bombings in Istanbul.

"Syria wants at least to smooth over and be sure of its Turkish front," columnist Fikret Ertan wrote in Turkey's Zaman daily, pointing to U.S. pressure on Damascus after the Iraq war.

Assad brought his wife, baby daughter and toddler son on the trip, expected to be something of a charm offensive in a country that has close ties to Israel and the United States.

He was given a low-key welcome at Ankara's Esenboga airport. Turkey's Foreign Ministry said talks would focus on regional and international matters as well as bilateral relations.

The thaw began in 1998 when Damascus expelled Kurdish separatist leader Abdullah Ocalan, whose PKK guerrillas had for years used Syria as a base and bolt-hole. Then, Damascus acted only after Turkey threatened war. Now, analysts say, the spirit of rapprochement is more genuine.

Shared Kurdish fears

The two countries share fears that Iraqi Kurds who have governed themselves with U.S. backing since 1991 could try to firm their autonomy into statehood, stirring separatist demands by Kurds in Turkey and Syria.

In an interview with CNN Turk television on Monday, Assad said the creation of any Kurdish or other ethnic entity in Iraq would cross a "red line" for all Iraq's neighbours, including Syria and Turkey.

U.S. authorities say the creation of any such entity is up to Iraqis alone.

Commercial accords will also be on the agenda. And Turkish newspapers said the timing of a deal approved by the Israeli cabinet on Sunday to import Turkish water was far from coincidental in the light of Assad's trip.

Turkey, a mainly Muslim but staunchly secular state, has strong security ties with Israel, Syria's bitter foe. But the Sabah daily said strains had emerged over the role of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency in northern Iraq, which Turkey's powerful army regards as its strategic back-yard.

Old territorial suspicions also linger between Turkey and Syria, particularly over Turkey's southern Hatay region, which is claimed by Damascus.

Political commentator Cengiz Candar said Turkey should beware of getting too close to Syria at the possible expense of good relations with Washington and Tel Aviv.

"Let Bashar Assad's 'historic' visit stay low profile," he wrote in the Turkish Daily News.

Israel uses "back channels" to test Syria on talks

JERUSALEM, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Israel is using diplomatic back channels to test whether Syria really wants to resume peace talks and stands ready to reopen negotiations if Damascus takes key steps, a senior Israeli official said on Tuesday.

Syria urged the United States last month to help revive talks that collapsed in 2000, but hopes took a hit after an Israeli minister revealed a plan to expand Jewish settlements on the occupied Golan Heights — drawing outrage from Syria.

If the two did decide to test the waters, Turkey could as a go-between, diplomatic sources were quoted as saying by Turkey's Anatolia news agency.

Turkey is Israel's longest standing ally in the Middle East and welcomed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Tuesday on the first visit there by a Syrian head of state.

The senior Israeli official said Israel was still trying to gauge Syria's readiness for talks and wanted it to show good faith by taking concrete measures.

"There are certain steps. I don't want to elaborate on that and don't want to elaborate on the channels," the official said.

"Syria could take those steps and if we get a positive response on those cross examinations, Israel will be willing to conduct negotiations with Syria." Israel and Syria are technically still at

war, though there has been little direct confrontation since Israel occupied the Golan in 1967. The grassy plateau was annexed in 1981 in a move not recognised internationally.

The peace talks in 2000 collapsed over the issue of how much of the Golan would be returned. Syria wants all of it, but Israel sees it as important strategic ground and vital for controlling water resources in the arid region.

Syria lodged a complaint at the U.N. Security Council on Monday over Israel's possible drive to expand Golan settlements. Some 17,000 Jewish settlers live in the heights among 20,000 Druze who consider themselves to be Syrians.

Israel has knocked down a plan announced by a government minister to double the number of settlers on the Golan, but has said there is a scheme that would increase numbers by about one-third over three years.

In an interview published in Britain's Daily Telegraph on Tuesday, Assad defended Syria's right to acquire weapons of mass destruction so long as it faced "aggression" by Israel, which is believed to have nuclear weapons.

He was also asked why he seemed to hate Israel and the Jews so much. "We don't hate. We look for peace. If you hate you cannot talk about peace. Peace and hatred are mutually exclusive," he said.

Arafat says Sharon proves not serious about peace

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said on Tuesday that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had proved he was not serious about peace by stressing his readiness to unilaterally incorporate some occupied land.

Booed by hard right-wingers who oppose giving up any land to Palestinians at all, Sharon told his Likud party late on Monday that he would push through his so-called "disengagement plan" if a U.S.-backed "road map" plan collapses.

"What Sharon said in his speech proves what we've said before — that he does not want to implement the road map," Arafat, a former guerrilla leader, told reporters as he planted an olive tree at his battered West Bank headquarters.

Sharon has said that if negotiations fail on the road map, then one-sided separation steps to secure Israelis will mean less land for Palestinians than they might get through talks.

Palestinians fear unilateral measures

have already begun with construction of a huge barrier in the West Bank that Israel says keeps out suicide bombers but which also incorporates settlement blocs Sharon vows not to yield under any peace deal.

Palestinians call the razor wire and concrete barrier an attempt to grab land captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

While Israeli officials say in public they wholeheartedly back the peace plan favoured by key ally the United States, in private they give it little chance of success.

Efraim Halevy, former head of Israel's Mossad intelligence service and head of the government's security council until mid-2003, said on Tuesday the road map was unworkable because the Palestinian Authority could not control Islamic militants.

Palestinians say that to crack down on militants without Israeli withdrawals from occupied land would cause civil war.

Sharon told a raucous gathering of

Likud's Central Committee on Monday: "My disengagement plan is the best plan for our security. This is my plan and I will see it carried out."

The road map, meant to lead to a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by 2005, is stalled by persistent violence and the failure of both sides to carry out parallel confidence-building steps.

Palestinians are meant to crack down on militant factions behind suicide bombings and shooting attacks on Israelis.

Israel is supposed to dismantle Jewish outposts that were built without authorisation in the West Bank, freeze all settlement construction and ease closures on Palestinian cities that have helped bring economic collapse.

Israeli troops pulled back from the ancient heart of the West Bank city of Nablus and ended a curfew there on Tuesday, but military sources emphasised that the operation in the area to hunt militants would go on.



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat (L) holds a hand with Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei (R) outside Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah during a ceremony marking the Palestinian Arbor Day January 6. REUTERS

India, Pakistan reach breakthrough deal on talks

ISLAMABAD, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan reached a breakthrough agreement on Tuesday to open talks and said they were confident of settling their dispute over Kashmir which brought them to the brink of their fourth war almost two years ago.

Diplomats hailed the agreement as an important step towards ending half a century of hatred, but cautioned that the two sides were still far apart on fundamental issues.

The agreement followed an ice-breaking meeting on Monday between Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on the sidelines of a regional summit. It was their first meeting in more than two years.

"History has been made," Musharraf told a news conference. "This is a beginning."

A joint statement said the two sides had agreed to start a dialogue in February 2004, although details had to be worked out.

"The two leaders are confident that the resumption of the composite dialogue will lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues including Jammu and Kashmir," they said.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri praised the deal as a victory for both sides.

"It is a victory for commonsense, it is a victory for moderation, it is a victory for statesmanship, it is a victory for the people of India and Pakistan, it is victory particularly for the poor people of South Asia," he told a news conference.

The two sides almost came to war in

2002 after an attack on the parliament in New Delhi that India blamed on Pakistani-backed militants.

But in April, the 79-year-old Vajpayee launched what he called a final bid for peace in his lifetime. In November Pakistan announced a ceasefire along the front line dividing the two armies in Kashmir.

"STILL A LONG WAY TO GO"

"There seems to be a recognition on both sides that the other is serious," said one diplomat. "That is a fundamental step, simply to have overcome the mistrust."

But he added: "There is still an awfully long way to go."

One of the most difficult challenges — crucial to any lasting solution to the bloody dispute — will be satisfying the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. That will mean reducing the violence in the region and improving the lives of ordinary Kashmiris.

"I don't trust these handshakes," said Ashok Pundit, a leading Indian film-maker and spokesman for a group representing thousands of Hindus forced by militant attacks to flee the Kashmir Valley.

"They are like a romantic couple — one promising the moon to the other. But when reality dawns, they will be fighting against each other. Kashmir will never be resolved."

The Himalayan region of Kashmir has been split between India and Pakistan since just after independence from Britain in 1947. It has been the cause of two of their three wars and the dispute has cost tens of thousands of lives.



Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf (R) and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee hold talks on the sidelines of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Islamabad on Jan. 5. The leaders, seeking to cast aside the enmity that took their nuclear-armed countries to the brink of war in 2002, held talks for over an hour after meeting for the first time in more than two years.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training militants fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, and had refused to talk until it had evidence Pakistan was no longer encouraging "cross-border terrorism".

Pakistan denies fuelling the militancy and accuses India of heinous rights abuses in its part of Kashmir.

"President Musharraf has reassured

Prime Minister Vajpayee that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner," the joint statement said.

Before coming to Islamabad, Vajpayee cautioned that any solution to the decades-old dispute would need time, and diplomats also warned against expecting a quick deal.

"I can't see them coming to a solution that could be agreed on now that would be acceptable to India, Pakistan and Kashmiris," said the diplomat.

"More likely is an evolutionary process. If they change the context on the ground over a period of a few years, solutions can become acceptable that are now unacceptable."

REUTERS

Bomb destroys Ethiopia fuel truck, no injuries-TV

ADDIS ABABA, Jan 6 (Reuters) - A small bomb planted on an Ethiopian fuel truck exploded in an Addis Ababa suburb, engulfing the vehicle in flames but causing no injuries, state-owned television quoted police as saying.

Police defused another bomb on a second fuel truck after a tip-off from the public, the television report said late on Monday.

There were no claims of responsibility for the attack, the television said. In the past the Ethiopian government has blamed the rebel Oromo Liberation Front for bombings in the capital and other towns. The rebels have denied the charges.

Tuesday is Christmas Eve in the Ethiopian Orthodox calendar and police were not available for comment.

The rebels have been fighting for independence in the southern Oromo region since 1993. They say the government puts the blame on them to justify "repression" of the Oromo, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group.

Last July a grenade lobbed into a hotel in the capital's business district injured 31 people.

In September 2002, three people were killed and 38 injured when a bomb wrecked the Tigray hotel in Addis Ababa.

Many children among victims in deadly Afghan attack

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan, Jan 6 (Reuters) - A powerful explosion in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Tuesday killed at least 12 people and wounded dozens, two days after the country adopted a new constitution aimed at healing the wounds from decades of bloodshed.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the attack as an "act of cruelty and barbarism" and said it would only strengthen his resolve to fight terrorism in Afghanistan.

A statement from his office said at least eight children were among the dead and 58 people were wounded in the explosion, which officials called a "terrorist attack".

But a spokesman for the ousted Taliban militia, linked to a wave of violence in recent months, denied involvement.

A Reuters reporter at the scene saw the bodies of three young men. Pools of blood, shoes and a turban littered the blast site.

"At first there was a small explosion in which a child was injured," said local witness Gulalai. "When people gathered to help the child, the big explosion happened."

General Abdul Wasi, spokesman for the corps commander of Kandahar province, told Reuters the blast was a "terrorist act".

"The majority of victims were school children. This was a very bad incident," he said.

Doctors at a nearby hospital were treating at least 29 people, 18 of them with serious wounds. They said the majority of the victims were children between seven and 15 years old.

Kandahar Corps commander Khan Mohammad Khan told Reuters one man had been detained on suspicion of coordinating the explosion. Around 50 U.S. and Afghan soldiers quickly sealed off the area.

Rival Afghan factions agreed on a new national constitution on Sunday, clearing the way for the country's first free elections after nearly a quarter of a century of war.



Bicycles litter the street near the site of a powerful explosion in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar Jan. 6. At least eight children on their way home from school were among those killed on Tuesday when a powerful blast ripped through a truck in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, and dozens more were injured.

REUTERS

METHOD USED BEFORE

The method of the attack was similar to one used last September 2002 when dozens of people who rushed to help those injured in a blast in Kabul were killed by a second larger one.

Later that same day, Karzai narrowly escaped with his life when a man opened fire on his vehicle in Kandahar.

Kandahar, a bleak and dusty city, is the former bastion of the ousted Taliban, which has declared a "jihad", or holy war on foreign and Afghan soldiers and aid workers. Several attacks have been staged there on aid groups and civilians in recent months.

In early December, at least 18 people were wounded in an explosion in a crowded Kandahar market, an attack blamed by the authorities on the Taliban but denied by the hardline Islamic militia toppled from power by U.S.-led forces in late 2001.

A Taliban official, speaking by

satellite phone, said the militia had nothing to do with the latest incident.

"The Taliban does not target civilians," he said. "We condemn this attack in which civilians have been killed and injured."

But Tuesday's blast will raise fresh fears that Islamic militants from the Taliban and al Qaeda network it once sheltered are still capable of undermining stability.

The Taliban has threatened to step up attacks in Afghan cities, and said they carried out a suicide bombing in Kabul just over a week ago that killed five security officials.

A wave of bloodshed mainly in the south and east of the country since early August has claimed more than 400 lives, including many rebels.

Around 12,000 U.S.-led troops are hunting remnants of the Taliban and al Qaeda and 5,700 international peacekeepers are based mainly in the capital. The U.S. military has a large base at Kandahar airport, outside the city.

China issues deadline for SARS civet cat cull

GUANGZHOU, China, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Health workers began drowning and incinerating thousands of civet cats in southern China on Tuesday over fears they carry a new strain of SARS, but international experts worried the cull may only add to the danger.

The slaughter of caged civets in wild animal markets in Guangdong province began on Monday when China announced the first case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome since a world epidemic was declared beaten in July.

Chinese health authorities said a gene sample from the new SARS patient — a 32-year-old television producer in Guangdong — resembled that of a coronavirus found in civets, a local delicacy.

The patient has fully recovered and will be discharged on Thursday, Xinhua news agency quoted health officials as saying.

In neighbouring Hong Kong, researchers said recent genetic studies detected changes in the SARS virus isolated from civets that suggest it may jump more easily to humans.

Health inspectors wearing surgical masks and carrying walkie-talkies patrolled the vast Xinyuan Bird and Livestock Comprehensive Market on the outskirts of Guangzhou, the Guangdong provincial capital, and local officials said 320 civet cats and other banned exotic animals had been seized.

The civets are drowned in chemical disinfectant and their carcasses hauled away in huge metal containers for incineration. Guangdong authorities have given a Saturday deadline for the slaughter of some 10,000 of the animals.

World Health Organisation officials have expressed concern that if the killing is not handled carefully it could create a risk by exposing humans to contaminated blood.

They also worry that by destroying the civets, medical researchers will lose vital evidence to help them understand how mutations in the

SARS virus may be occurring.

Other experts warned the cull was not a full solution.

"The civet cat is only one of the origins of the virus," said Hon Kam-lun, an assistant medical professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "Some other animals also carry the virus. You can't kill them all. The virus won't be exterminated."

CHINESE CITIES CALM

Most Chinese urban residents shrugged off the danger, in stark contrast to the panic that gripped cities when SARS first appeared last year.

The calm reaction underlines the hard lessons learned by China's Communist government last year, when it came under heavy international criticism for trying to cover up the epidemic, and a renewed public trust it now enjoys on SARS.

State media have issued details of the new case and the civet slaughter indicates a readiness to take prompt and draconian action to protect the population.

"Everybody's used to it," said Zhou Yun, 26, an attendant on a China Southern flight from Beijing to Guangzhou.

"I would not expect to see much impact from SARS. The government's measures are all in place and should be able to keep things under control."

Beijing kindergarten teacher, Sun Jing, said: "I don't think SARS this year will be as serious as last year because people all know its danger."

To prevent wildlife from entering Guangdong, the official Xinhua news agency said inspection stations had been set up along highways from eight major cities.

Xinhua quoted the Health Ministry as saying the Guangzhou patient was in stable condition "with no abnormal symptoms" after being admitted to hospital in late December.

Experts believe the flu-like disease emerged in southern China in late 2002 before spreading to almost 30 countries, infecting about 8,000 people and killing nearly 800, about 300 of them in China.



A Chinese policeman checks confiscated civet cats during a raid at a wild animal market in Guangzhou, the capital of China's southern province of Guangdong, Jan. 5. Guangdong, which is monitoring its first confirmed SARS patient in months, will kill about 10,000 civets and close wild animal markets to eliminate the possible source of the disease, state media said.

REUTERS

UK to probe Diana death as Charles named in "plot"

LONDON, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Britain launched a top-level police investigation into the death of Princess Diana on Tuesday as a tabloid newspaper named her former husband Prince Charles as the person she suspected of plotting to kill her.

More than six years after Diana died in a car crash in Paris, Royal Coroner Michael Burgess opened an inquest into her death by saying Britain's top police officer should investigate claims her death was not an accident but a deliberate plot.

"I am aware that there is speculation that (her death was) not the result of a sad but relatively straightforward road traffic accident in Paris," Burgess told the inquest, which was packed with hundreds of journalists from around the world.

"I have asked the metropolitan police commissioner to make inquiries."

Diana died at the age of 36, along with her lover Dodi al Fayed and their chauffeur Henri Paul, in the August 1997 crash.

In a front-page splash on Tuesday, the Daily Mirror tabloid newspaper

said Diana's claim that her husband wanted her dead reduced the credibility of the allegation.

"It does raise the question about Diana's state of mind, her own paranoia, her sense of panic," he told Reuters.

"It does reduce it to the arena of squabbling ex-spouses. I think people will come to their own views as to whether or not they think Prince Charles would have plotted the death of the mother of his children."

An inquiry by French authorities in 1999 ruled the accident was caused by chauffeur Paul being drunk and driving too fast.

Dodi's father, Mohamed al Fayed, multi-millionaire owner of the exclusive London store Harrods, has long claimed his son and Diana were murdered by British secret services because their relationship was embarrassing the royal household.

Burrell, who gave The Mirror access to the letter as part of a serialisation of excerpts from his book, published late last year, reacted angrily to news Charles' name had been revealed.



Former butler to Britain's Princess Diana, Paul Burrell, holds flowers as he stands outside his florist shop in Cheshire, western England, Jan. 6. Britain launched a top-level police investigation into the death of Princess Diana on Tuesday as a tabloid newspaper named her former husband Prince Charles as the person she suspected of plotting to kill her. Diana made the allegation in a letter she gave to Burrell ten months before her death. **REUTERS**

named Charles as the person she had claimed was "planning an accident" to kill her.

She made the allegation in a letter she gave to her butler and confidant, Paul Burrell, before she died.

The Mirror quoted from the letter Diana wrote just 10 months before her death. "This particular phase in my life is the most dangerous," it said. "My husband is planning 'an accident' in my car, brake failure and serious head injury."

A spokesman for Prince Charles declined to comment.

PARANOIA AND PANIC

Royal biographer Robert Lacey

"I am not very happy about it...I only learnt about it late last night. And it was always my intention never to publish that name," he told reporters waiting outside his house.

Coroner Burgess said the inquest would now be adjourned for 12 to 15 months, meaning no evidence will be heard for at least another year.

"I have to separate fact from fiction and speculation," he said in a half-hour-long speech. "Speculation and speculative reports are not themselves evidence, however frequently and authoritatively they may be published, broadcast or repeated."

Georgian poll winner faces battle with corruption

TBILISI, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Businessmen warned on Tuesday that Mikhail Saakashvili, victor in Georgia's weekend presidential election, faced an uphill struggle to fulfil his promise to stamp out rampant corruption.

Saakashvili, a pro-Western lawyer, won Sunday's vote by a landslide on promises to reshape the small Caucasus nation, whose economy has been bruised by years of separatism and corruption since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

Election officials were still counting the votes but no one expected an early figure of 96 percent in favour of the 36-year-old to change dramatically when the final results are announced on Wednesday.

Saakashvili has pledged that one of his first steps will be to crack down on graft, which businessmen say flourishes at every level of the bureaucracy and adds to the impoverishment of a country which once prospered from tourism and wine exports.

Wine producers, port officials and other businessmen say even the simplest transaction can require a backhand. Some businessmen say they even have to pay off the police to ensure their offices are not broken into.

Foreign businessmen said complicated laws and a mass of red tape made concluding any deal a marathon task.

"Corruption is one of the biggest problems in our country," Jemal Inaishvili, head of Georgia's main Poti port, said.

"Shippers have to pay money to customs officials to bring their cargoes to Georgia. If they don't they suffer losses."



A Georgian resident reads a newspaper in front of a news stand with a local newspaper featuring Presidential candidate Mikhail Saakashvili (R), who looks set to win a crushing victory in Georgia's presidential election, and Georgia's former president Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi Jan. 5. Saakashvili, who led the "rose revolution" that forced Eduard Shevardnadze from office six weeks ago, won Sunday's Georgian presidential vote by a landslide, according to an independent exit poll. **Reuters**

While some have to pay over the odds to do business, others simply circumvent the law.

"Many cargoes come to Georgia without customs procedures and the state budget is losing out. Mainly it happens in South Ossetia and Adzhara," Inaishvili said.

Breakaway South Ossetia and the Black Sea region of Adzhara, run as a

personal fiefdom by its leader Aslan Abashidze, have become an easy route for those who want to evade customs duties.

Smuggled weapons, drugs and cars find their way into Georgia and beyond without difficulty.

Wine producer Zurab Tkemaladze said obeying the law meant losing money.

"Businessmen are compelled to pay bribes to tax officials rather than pay taxes to the state budget. They have to hide their incomes because if they didn't they would have to pay too much and would not have any profit," he said.

"We are trying to pay taxes, but that's why our output is more expensive than that of other companies. That's why we often cannot compete."

Russian judge jails pilots for Lebed death crash

NOVOSIBIRSK, Russia, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Two pilots were handed jail terms on Tuesday for causing a helicopter crash in which Alexander Lebed, a tough-talking general who helped foil the 1991 coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, was killed.

A Siberian judge ruled the crew's commander Takhir Akhmerov and second pilot Alexei Kurilovich had

acted irresponsibly, leading to the crash in April 2002 that killed eight including Lebed, who had run for president against Boris Yeltsin in 1996.

Akhmerov was jailed for four years and Kurilovich for three.

"The crew showed criminal thoughtlessness which caused the air accident and the death of people," Interfax news agency quoted

judge Sergei Afanasiev as saying.

The Mi-8 helicopter was carrying 19 officials and journalists to the inauguration ceremony of a ski area in Siberia's Krasnoyarsk territory where Lebed was governor.

Akhmerov will serve his sentence in a labour camp, while Kurilovich's three-year sentence has been suspended, a Krasnoyarsk administration official told Reuters.

U.S. air marshal plans resisted in Europe, Africa

LONDON, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Airlines in Europe and Africa vowed on Tuesday to cancel flights rather than comply with American demands to carry armed air marshals on some U.S.-bound planes to guard against more September 11-style attacks.

The decisions by South African Airways and Thomas Cook Airlines, the charter flight arm of Europe's second biggest travel firm, deepened controversy over a move Washington sees as essential to outwitting al Qaeda and other extremist groups.

The British government insisted it would deploy marshals "where appropriate".

Another jet was delayed in London overnight as protracted security checks could not be completed in time for take-off.

British Airways' flight BA183 from London's Heathrow to New York's John F. Kennedy airport, with 262 passengers, was now due to leave nearly a day late at 1530 GMT, BA said.

The Christmas and New Year global aviation scare has already grounded British flights to Saudi Arabia and Washington.

British Transport Secretary Alistair Darling said tighter security would be needed indefinitely and more delays would follow.

Media speculation has suggested intelligence services have specific information about al Qaeda plans to down planes.

"This state of alert is likely to last for

some considerable time," Darling told parliament. "We will continue to be vigilant, we will continue to do what is necessary."

British pilots — unhappy with air marshals but starting to see them as inevitable — were due to meet Darling later on Tuesday to press for an industry-wide agreement on their deployment.

"The fact that you have got people behind you in a pressurised cabin with guns and bullets is not a happy thought," said a spokesman for the British Airline Pilots' Association (BALPA), which groups most of Britain's 9,200 airline pilots.

"But if the government persists, we want certain conditions laid down."

BRITAIN SAYS MARSHALS WILL FLY

Darling insisted sky marshals would be used on flights from Britain because of a heightened terror threat.

"There is an increased threat and we have to deal with that in a balanced and proportionate way," he said. "Sky marshals will be deployed where appropriate."

BALPA wants the government to standardise an agreement it has already reached with Virgin Atlantic Airways.

The main tenets of the accord are that the flight captain should retain overall command, will know who and where the marshals are and that only certain weapons can be used.

Darling said he had always made clear the pilot would remain in charge of

the aircraft.

German-owned Thomas Cook Airlines, which flies to Orlando in Florida from Britain and also flies through U.S. airspace to the Caribbean, ruled out using marshals in any circumstances.

"Thomas Cook Airlines has not changed its policy that if presented with a sky marshal on any of our routes, the flight would be cancelled," it said in a statement.

South African Airways, which has 28 return flights a week to Atlanta and New York, also said it would not for the time being meet U.S. demands.

BA, Europe's biggest airline, says it would accept deployment of an armed police officer on board a flight if it was satisfied safety would be enhanced.

As well as requiring airlines to carry marshals on selected flights, U.S. authorities on Monday began fingerprinting and photographing foreigners arriving at more than 100 airports.

After fears of a possible attack, BA resumed flights to the Saudi capital Riyadh on Monday and its Washington service, cancelled twice last week, took to the skies again.

The security services face a daily dilemma — Western intelligence knows just enough to believe specific flights are at risk, but apparently not enough yet to be able to track down individuals or make arrests.

Additional reporting by Lucia Mutikani in Johannesburg, Peter Apps, Louise Knowles in London.

Polish doctors end strike after deal with govt

WARSAW, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Polish doctors returned to work on Tuesday after a strike over funding threw the health system into disarray over the New Year and dealt a new blow to the unpopular left-wing government.

The five-day protest by 10,000 physicians, mainly family doctors and dentists, affected about 20 percent of patients, shutting hundreds of clinics in southwestern Poland and causing long queues at those that stayed open.

"We are returning to our practices," said Dr. Robert Sapa from the protest committee after reaching an agreement with the National Health Fund.

Amid botched reforms, sleaze scandals and industrial unrest, the strike was another embarrassment for Premier Leszek Miller's government as it struggles to prepare complete preparations to join the European Union in May.

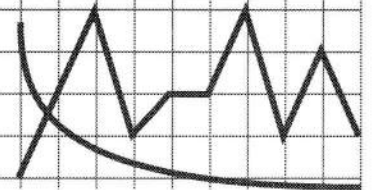
Doctors complained that the Health Fund, to which Poles contribute eight percent of their incomes, had offered them too little money to ensure proper patient care. In the deal, they won extra cash for visiting patients at night and transporting them to hospitals.

The health ministry has recently embarked on reforms which envisage swapping \$2 billion in hospital debts for bonds and introducing free market elements to allow failing clinics to go bankrupt.

Some of Poland's 700 state-run hospitals, which did not take part in the protest, are on the verge of financial collapse, with many Poles having to wait months for complicated surgery.

Private clinics providing high-quality service have sprung up since the fall of communism in 1989, but few can afford them in a country where average monthly pay is about \$500.

YT Business



Shedding light on controversial general sales tax law

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni president Ali Abdulla Saleh has lately issued a decree on a law permitting the beginning of putting into force the general tax on sales on the first of July 2004.

It is the law that has aroused controversy among the productive, industrial and agricultural circles and opposition warnings about it have gone as far as saying that the law was dealing a mortal blow to the consumer.

Some have in fact defended the law No.19 for the year 2001 under justification that it unifies taxes and creates taxation justice, contains a list of names of commodities exempted from taxation, most of which are related to consumption.

It is because of the vital importance of the law, the Yemen Times is exclusively trying in this article to review the most significant aspects and features of the law as levying the tax on sales of commodities and services at the time of selling and importing is calculated by 10% of the gross value of the goods, as stipulated in the law. One of the law articles defined the volume of sums due to be taxed on as not lower than YR 50 million for goods subjected to the tax and YR 40 million for services.

The law stipulated that article 8 would be the value that would be taken as criterion for the tax on commodities and services is the actual value fixed on the selling bill which represents selling price of the commodity or the price actually paid in return for the service. And in case the taxpayer person sells the commodity that is subjected to the tax via middle channels the value for connecting the tax would be the real value fixed on the selling bill in no less than the actual price of the commodity in the market.

Article 9 of the law determines the value of imported commodities subject to the tax through middle channels, which are the customs duties imposed on according to the customs law added to them the other duties and the value of services would be defined to the value stated in the contracts or the invoices or payment vouchers. The article 11 has warned that the taxpayer must not issue but one selling bill for each commodity selling operation or providing services subject to taxation. The article 14 of the law has explained conditions of

discounts on the inputs tax for the taxpayer when calculating the tax due to pay and it would be deducted from the overall tax payable on value of his sales of commodities and services.

The law has also contained provisions defining conditions of deduction on inputs tax as stipulated in article 16 in that the tax is returned pursuant to the terms and situations defined by the executive regulation of the law at a time not exceeding one month starting from the date of presenting the request of returning, and that is in cases as follows:

- the tax already levied on commodities exported as they were or used in production of other goods and then exported,
- the tax that was paid from inputs of a commodity exempted from taxes,
- the tax that has been collected by mistake and this could be retrieved according to a written request presented by the concerned person.

Article 17 of the law gives right to the authority to modify the value subjected to the tax if it is proved that its value of sales of the taxpayer person's commodities or services different of what has been reported by him about any taxation period. The law has given the taxation authority the right to estimate the amount of the tax if the taxpayer did not present the stipulated legal statement and also if any taxpayer person has added the tax to his sales or the services he is providing.

Objection, challenges and settlement

According to article 19 the taxpayer person can forward his objection to the authority on a decision of amending the acknowledgement or estimation of the tax within thirty days from the date of notification and the authority has to decide it within thirty days from the date of objection. If the objection was rejected and was not decided the concerned person has the right to report to the challenges committee within the following thirty days. But the taxation authority's final estimation or changing is not challengeable, according to the article 20 of the law. And if the taxpayer person objected to that it would be referred to the settlement committee. These committees are set up according to the law in the capital secretariat and governorates to discuss objection aspects with the taxpayer to be settled.



Notifications

The eighth chapter of the law deals with means of notification among that the way of conveying a writ to inform the taxpayer on all stipulated procedural actions by administrative notification at the establishment headquarters or residence of the taxpayer or via registered post to the most recent address. In the article 29 there are details on how to respond if the taxpayer refused to receive the notification or closure of his installation and absence of its owner and also it was not possible to inform the taxpayer on the writ by the above means. Such cases are proved by writing a statement by one of the authority's employees and endorsed by the residential quarter chief or the police station and to be put on the notice board at the authority offices. The law also tackles the question of how to collect the sales tax and payable fines. The collection is done according to statements presented to the authority about commodities and services included in taxation and if it exceeds the overall

amount of money fixed as incomes tax the surplus difference must be paid.

Article 33 stipulates that in case the taxpayer failed to pay his dues in time of statement in the fixed period he would bear a delay fine by 2% of the unpaid tax value for each month or part of it delay in not exceeding 20% of the value of payable tax.

The law has given head of the taxation authority or the one he deputize the right to ask general prosecution to issue a provisional seizure order concerning the taxpayer properties if it has been discovered that the tax was exposed to loss, executive seizure whenever the tax and other payable sums of money have become conclusive.

Types of exemptions

The tenth chapter of the law explains the types and cases of exemptions that are special ones fixed in table No.1, the main of which are corn, flour, bread, dairies, meats, fish, vegetables, fruits, tomatoes, honey, coffee, dates, ea, child food, soap,

medicines and medical supplies, ambulance cars, books, tools spare parts, construction materials, and fodders, in addition to hotel services, maintenance, insurance, education services and transport and water and others.

Other exemptions by other laws related to provisions of taxes imposed according to agreements concluded between the government and foreign countries, international and regional organisations, or petroleum and mining agreements approved by law according to constitutional procedures.

Tax evasion

The law punishes acts of tax evasion by imposing fine penalty no less than 5000 rials and not exceeding 50 thousand rials for on anyone who has presented incorrect statements on his sales of services or commodities or upon the appearance of increase or shortage in the goods warehoused in free zones and markets exceeding 5% and not exceeding 10%, or on anyone who fails to inform the tax authority

on changing registration statements or total or partial stop of his activity. In the article 46 the law imposes severer penalties ranging between 50 to 250 thousand rials in case of tax evasion or beginning to do so and the fine would be doubled and could be imprisoned for a term no less than three months and not exceeding 6 months.

The law also tackles the way of monitoring and inspection of bills and records by employees of the tax authority. But the law keeps right of the taxpayer about the secrecy of information regarding vouchers, information, records and ways of production and manufacturing. The law has given the authority officials the right to inspection during the duty hours for seeing the records at places of administration, production and selling.

Those were the most important features of the general sales law that is scheduled to be implemented next July and has already aroused wide-scale controversy among various circles of the society.

Yemeni woman contributes more to agricultural development

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni woman tops the list of contributors to agriculture in Yemen, especially in the countryside where man's role gets retreated before woman agricultural works at a percentage no less than 55%.

In the Mahweet area for instance, results of studies and field surveys carried out by agriculture and irrigation office in the governorate emphasized that Yemeni countryside woman contributes to the agriculture sector and development by 40.9% compared to man and the rest of family members.

The studies have explained that

Yemeni woman takes great care by a big proportion in developing animal wealth and planting seeds, gathering crops and storing grains in addition to household work. The studies stressed that the increase of men's migration and expatriation has made the woman depends on herself and works at a rate of 16 hours a day, distributed between bringing drinking water, gathering firewood, agricultural works, breeding animals and works that yield profits as well as bringing up children.

Non-governmental organisations have embarked on improving the status and condition of the rural; woman and to raise the standard of her living by holding many qualification, training and professional courses for including the woman in development

programs in the country.

Among these activities are those carried out by the Woman Forum for Research & Training (WFRT) through holding training courses for non-governmental and governmental organisations in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout, Ibb, Hajja, Dhamar and Hudeidah in fields mainly focusing on administration, planning, writing reports, evaluating projects and programs and other courses specialized in the field of human rights.

The activities also include developing knowledge and skill in rural handicraft in a bid to fighting poverty and increasing family income in the countryside for enhancement of sustainable development in Yemen.

Investment directory on expatriates projects, completed

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of expatriates affairs has finished preparations for issuing an investment directory on expatriates projects that are being implemented in order to give prominence to activities of these people in development and services areas.

The directory includes detailed information on the degree of expatriates willingness for taking interest in investment in opportunities available for them in the country and the volume of continuous growth of expatriates' capitals in various fields.

Sources at the ministry of expatriates mention that the fish and housing sectors are at the top of the list of expatriates' money investment, added to them charitable projects such as building mosques and schools.

Among priorities of investment projects the expatriates are implementing in Yemen is the finishing of the project of Housing City in the capital Sana'a. This project is being financed by the Yemeni businessman Salem Hameed Kasheem, father of the Yemeni boxing world champion Naseem, in addition to building factories for fish canning in Mukalla and other projects of road building.

Expatriates affairs ministry is cur-

rently cooperating with the ministry of social affairs and labour on studying the phenomenon of unemployment and what would the return of expatriates from some countries cause of increase in the volume of this phenomenon and how to find suitable solutions for it as well as the possibility of investing aid and foreign remittances for the mitigation of unemployment severity.

The ministry is studying with other competent authorities the question of rehabilitation and training of Yemeni labour for the purpose of preparing skillful labour capable of obtaining job opportunities in neighbouring countries markets.

Words of Wisdom

The atmosphere in Yemen is ripe for change – real change. The country needs reform, and the political leadership seems willing and able to introduce the needed change.

Political, economical and military changes have taken place & on a massive scale. But the acid test for the transformation will only come if & when economic change occurs.

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

OUR
OPINION

Human rights:

Why we are behind,
how to move forward

Preparations for the upcoming The "Sana'a Regional Conference on Human Rights and the Role of the International Criminal Court" to start next Saturday is an opportunity to analyze why Yemen and neighboring countries are behind and how to move forward in enhancing human rights.

Human rights violations have continuously been and continue to be a scar in our countries' progress towards democracy and freedom. Without respect to human rights, we, as nations seeking democracy will go nowhere.

But to start with, we need to identify why we have been unconcerned about human rights for so long. Why are prisoners kept in cells without sentences, why female prisoners are abused without any action by authorities, and why the poor continue to suffer from lack of basic goods needed for living decently?

The participants must admit that all of those are indeed happening, and that is the first step towards the solution. Then we must understand why law enforcement is not justly carried out, and how financial corruption is leading to corrupt judges issuing unjust verdicts convicting innocent people without enough evidence.

Yemen needs to be appreciated for taking the initiative in holding this important conference. Hence, it should be the first to start introducing major reforms in developing the understanding of human rights, all human rights of its citizens.

Neighboring countries should also help in introducing ideas and comments that would help bring the required change urgently needed throughout the Arab world.

There has been a lot of talk in the past by officials in Yemen and other countries claiming to have committed themselves towards democratization, but apart from talking, very little has been implemented in the ground. What we need right now is a change of heart and real commitment for change.

Recently I was proposing that the Political Security Organization reveal how many prisoners they had and why they have been held. I even proposed to have a website about this organization that many human rights activities have complained is indeed a major human rights violator. Why not bring transparency to the way the organization works, and why can't the regime in Yemen start showing us that it can indeed bring the change needed to properly associate the propaganda that we see with action on the ground?

I believe it is about time to prove that the participating governments are indeed eager to promote human rights as they say they would. This conference could be the start for some solid action.

Let's hope that deeds would follow words after the last plane carrying the last participant leaves the country.

The Editor

Historic opportunity
for Yemen to ratify the
International Criminal
Court Treaty

By JOYDEEP SENGUPTA*

The year 2004 has brought the world's attention to human rights in Yemen. Beginning in December, 2003, over 2000 NGOs, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, under the umbrella of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), selected Yemen as the target country of the month urging its ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The establishment of the ICC in July 2002 marked an historic turning point in the quest for international justice. Unlike the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the ICC will have individual criminal jurisdiction over those accused of the worst human rights violations, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Primary jurisdiction of these crimes would still fall under national courts, and the ICC would only act when a country is genuinely unable or unwilling to provide a fair trial. The Court is forward looking - its jurisdiction is only for crimes committed after the Statute's entry into force in 2002, and no past crimes can be brought before it. By ratifying the ICC treaty, Yemen would be able to cement its commitment to upholding human rights worldwide and joining a community of 92 nations responsible for the most groundbreaking advances in international law in decades.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan calls the ICC, "a gift of hope for future generations." It is particularly troubling that the Arab world is not well represented among the ICC States Parties - only Jordan and Djibouti have ratified, while several countries in the region (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) have only signed the treaty. Without the participation of Arab and Muslim countries in the ICC process, the region's rich and diverse legal traditions, and representation on the staff of the Court will be lacking. Islamic law, in particular, has special relevance to the ICC, given its long tradition of protecting non-combatants and prisoners of war during conflicts. As Justice Weeramantry of the International Court of Justice points out in his book, "Islamic Jurisprudence: An International Perspective", the Qur'an, hadith and Sunna provide extensive guidelines for upholding many principles of today's international human rights and humanitarian laws. For instance, Islamic jurisprudence on the laws of war forbids, (i) cruel ways of killing, (ii) killing of non-combatants (civilians, women, children), (iii) executing prisoners of war, (iv) mutilation, (v) unnecessary environmental damage (destruction of crops, trees, cattle, etc.), (vi), rape and sexual abuse of captured women, (vii) killing envoys/messengers, including revenge killing, (viii) massacre, and (ix) use of poisonous weapons.

In the past, some countries have stated their unwillingness to join interna-

tional human rights mechanisms as they accuse them of having a western bias. This claim is questionable, as the west does not have a cultural monopoly over human rights. While the sources of rights and protection mechanisms vary in different cultures, many of the crimes under the Rome Statute are deemed criminal in nearly all legal traditions, and are not culture specific. Islamic jurisprudence, for instance, was far advanced in terms of treatment of civilian and non-combatants during conflicts with both Islamic and non-Islamic states long before the 19th century attempts to codify such laws in Western Europe. Today, government officials and intellectuals from the Arab world continue to advance the ICC process. The President of the ICC's Assembly of States Parties, His Excellency, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini of Jordan, continues to play a leading role in moving the ICC forward. Likewise, Professor Sherif Bassiouni of Egypt has provided critical technical assistance during and after the 1998 Rome Conference where the ICC treaty was adopted. Her Majesty Queen Rania al-Abdallah of Jordan was recently elected to serve on the ICC's Trust Fund for Victims. Globally respected intellectual and Palestinian activist Professor Edward Said, who passed away last year, was a "Friend" of the Coalition for the ICC as well.

Some powerful Western countries have opposed the ICC by claiming that it could target its citizens by politically motivated trials. Despite being two of the earliest advocates for a permanent ICC, the United States and Israel have now turned around to oppose the Court in order to prevent their citizens from ever facing the Court. In fact, the ICC's numerous checks and balances and strong principle of complementarity makes it most unlikely that politically motivated cases would ever be prosecuted. While former US President Bill Clinton signed the Rome Statute in 2000, President George Bush illegally "withdrew" the US signature by informing the UN it has no intention to ratify the treaty. Many Americans, including leading experts of international law, remain opposed to the government's policy. Recently, Professor Harold Hongju Koh, Dean of Yale Law School (one of the most respected law schools in the United States) described America's opposition to the ICC as "short-sighted", and has urged the US to strengthen its commitment to international law as an alternative to war. He has called for international and Iraqi cooperation in devising a hybrid domestic-international tribunal to bring Saddam Hussein to justice, instead of a solely domestic court largely influenced by the US. Leading Democratic Presidential candidates challenging George Bush in 2004, namely Howard Dean and Wesley Clark have also questioned the Bush administration's withdrawal from the ICC, as an arrogant move which alienates democratic allies around the world, especially the European Union.

For too long, lack of a permanent ICC

and abuse of the principle of sovereignty has perpetuated the impunity gap, but strengthening international justice in recent years offers new hope for justice. The trial of Slobodan Milosevic in The Hague sends a clear message that the international community is committed to prosecuting grave human rights violations regardless of the position or power of the perpetrator.

Yemen should be congratulated for signing the Rome Statute in December 2000, and for sending observer missions to the last ICC Assembly of States Parties at the UN. Still, unless it ratifies, Yemen will not have the opportunity to nominate or vote in the election of future judges and other high officials of the court, and take part in its decision making. In October 2003, Yemeni NGOs came together in forming the Yemeni Coalition for the ICC, under the inspiring leadership of Sisters' Arab Forum for Human Rights, thereby joining the global campaign to support the Court. By bringing together diverse NGOs from all governorates, the Yemeni Coalition can play a crucial role in raising awareness and understanding of the ICC in Yemen, and in partnership with the government, in drafting effective ratification and implementation legislation.

We stand at a tumultuous time in history, when cooperation, mutual respect and understanding between nations is more necessary than ever before. By ratifying the Rome Statute, Yemen would find itself among countries with excellent human rights records, which support accountability at the global level through the universal rule of law. Yemen's recent commitments to strengthening human rights have been impressive: from the creation of a Ministry for Human Rights, currently headed by a woman, to supporting a culture of participatory democracy among civil society, to co-sponsoring the upcoming regional democracy, human rights and ICC conference, in partnership with the European Commission, No Peace Without Justice, and other governments. The Coalition for the ICC salutes the work of the Yemeni Coalition and the Yemeni government, in moving towards ratification. We would especially like to thank CICC member organizations Sisters' Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF, Yemen), Amnesty International, Federation Internationale des Ligues de Droits de l'Homme (FIDH, France), No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ, Italy) and local NGOs for their commitment and dedication to Yemen and the ICC. The Coalition looks forward to Yemen's speedy ratification of the ICC treaty, and welcoming it to the next Assembly of States Parties.

* Joydeep Sengupta is the Outreach Liaison for the Middle East at the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (<http://www.iccnw.org>), a network of over 2000 NGOs around the world supporting a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court.

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

We ought to be
a good example

I urge the writer of "Your attitude makes you ineligible to rule" to think again before he writes such letters simply because as Muslims, we should always be better than this meaning that we should not try to badmouth any other nation but always be a good example for others.

Please dear editor rethink about publishing such letters because as you know every nation has its own disasters and we have to teach others that we as Muslims have patience and can reply to any insult with wisdom in our words and be winners. Therefore, no need for disrespectful words despite the fact that such things exist "gay marriage and so on and

so forth." I mean Mr Abdulaziz A. could have replied to the other reader in a much more informed way if he chose to but unfortunately he did not.

Personally, I loved Mr Barkatullah Marwat's reply to David Welch's feedback. We need people like him to answer for the misinformed readers about the US and the Middle East issue.

Neena A.
Nina2255@hotmail.com

Saddam was better
than the occupiers

As an Iraqi, I believe I have a duty to clarify that Iraqis are Muslims of different sects and races such as Sunni, Shiite, Kurdish, and so on. Despite the fact that Saddam Hussein was a

dictator, Iraqis like me are beginning to feel that he still was far better for us than the current American occupying forces. Those forces, with their attitudes made Saddam look good in front of Iraqi people. Today, the future of Iraqi people is at stake? I would like to conclude my comment by asking everyone to wait and see how things would be developing on the ground. I would welcome any disagreement with my opinion, which I believe will become more common as days pass by.

Hassan Maalim Ali
xassanmalin@yahoo.com

Good editorials
Thank you for another fine editorial by Editor Walid Al-Saqqaf. His percep-

tive insight and straightforward language lead us all toward a more peaceful and just world.

Richard Geissal
ricksahm@yahoo.com

Mukalla poem: excellent

I loved the poem about al-Mukalla. I was fortunate to visit there in 2001 with an academic group from the United States doing archaeological research. Mukalla will always be like a beautiful dream to me - the beaches, the sea, the city streets, the hospitable people, and the wonderful meals of fresh fish we enjoyed. I glad I got to see Mukalla before it becomes over-developed. It is a lovely place.

Sharon Henslee
s.henslee@mchsi.com

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Massacre
victims should
be compensated
also

Anyone who has any illusions about the humane characteristics of Zionism must have a poor memory or a closed mind when it comes to the spilling of innocent civilian Arab blood. The victims of the Lockerbie airplane crash are being paid to the tune of US \$ 6,000,000 each. No one questions the rights of innocent people to be compensated by the irresponsible actions of other human beings, but it in all fairness the rules should apply to everyone, no matter how nice and polished the perpetrator may be made out to be. The historical fact is that the Arabs living in Palestine or the surrounding areas have witnessed scores of deliberate bloodletting by the Israeli Defense Forces, from the very early days of the Jewish State, when the Zionist gangs of Stern, Irgun and the Haganah were unleashing the terror that was to uproot the Palestinians from their homeland to the well known massacre of the last decade in Qana Lebanon, when Israeli artillery bombed a refugee camp sponsored by the United Nations set up to "protect" Lebanese civilians from the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel. Most western witnesses who saw the carnage right after the attack could not help but bear witness that the signs were very clear of a deliberate shelling on a civilian site that was inescapable to the "elite crack" troops of the Israeli Army. But the massacre that took 106 lives and wounded hundreds more was wholly dismissed by the Israeli Government and the United States as a "mistake". God only knows how many "mistakes" have literally sent thousands of Arab civilians to their graves under Israeli bombardments, shillings and arranged massacres. Crack and elite troops do not make mistakes, but thanks to the international political cover provided by the United States, Israel can continue to make all the mistakes it wants to and no one will call a spade a spade. In fact, even American forces can also get away with murder, killing thousands of Iraqi civilians as they come to liberate them from the bloodthirsty regimes their government originally sponsored and covered up when he used the most lethal weapons to fight America's war against Iran. The present Minister of Defense, Ronald Rumsfeld was sent to Iraq to assure Saddam that the US has no qualms about his use of WMD against anyone he likes, even if he hears lip service disapproval by the US against such use.

The point is that it is really unfair to see thousands of Arab civilians killed by the armies of the sovereign states that claim to bear the standard on human rights, democracy and all that fancy talk, when at the same time the demands will continue for Arabs to compensate the death of any western civilian to the point of making their heirs wealthy. Yet to this day, Israel has not compensated any one for the massacres of Deir Yasin, Qana, Sabra and Shatilla, Jenin and continues to regard them as outstanding military achievements of the crack Israeli Defense Forces or the Mossad.

This double standard of dealing with victims of deliberate massacres raises many questions about how sane is the world we live in today. The powerful and the perpetrators of massacres can get away with all their bloodletting, but the Arabs will never see justice done for them, even if the Israelis rain all their 200 or so atomic weapons on the Arab capitals. Most Arabs have no respect for the killing of civilians and there is nothing in our values that would condone such actions. But the fact that Arab blood is not regarded as pure by Israel and her American friends and the death of Arab civilians has become a leisure hobby of many Israeli commanders has led many Arab youths to feel so much frustration that they become willing ordinance carriers in order to voice their frustration at the double standards applied even for the cost of innocent blood.

Even with the whole world having witnessed the carnages which Israeli forces raved about on so many occasions, Israel continues to enjoy immunity from even being condemned in the international forums that supposedly represent international legitimacy, and the United States will go to great lengths to safeguard massacre engineers like Ariel Sharon from any genuine prosecution efforts. We saw this in Belgium, and we saw this in the United Nations. But if anyone has any doubts about what we are saying all one has to do is read the Israeli press: In an interview with the "kol haer" magazine five Israeli soldiers said that the Artillery commander had said to his soldiers "We are skilled marksmen... Anyhow, there are millions of Arabs... It's their problem. Whether Arabs become one more or less is just the same...we have accomplished our duty." That is how the crack and the elite think. Need we say more.

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No future!

BY TED RALL
FOR UPS

People say it every December but for once it's true: the year ahead will be a crucial one for America. The 2004 elections will offer voters a discrete choice between two possible futures, each offering benefits and pitfalls. Should the Republicans and Bush prevail, the radical reforms enacted under his first term—a shift of power away from Congress toward an increasingly imperious presidency, the transition from European-influenced secular democracy to Third World-style theocratic police state, perpetual war—will take on an air of institutional permanence. The neoconservatives' vision of the United States (aggressive, unilateral, despised and feared) will slowly but surely replace the 20th century ideal of the American nation (strong yet slow to anger, generous, democratic and freedom-loving). On its face a Howard Dean victory would be even less appealing in the short run. Fiscal austerity in the wake of Bush's tax giveaways would require difficult spending cuts and tax increases. Engineering a withdrawal from Afghanistan and Iraq, two pointless and unaffordable wars, would suck up time and money. Terrorists might mistake reasonableness for weakness and strike more aggressively at American targets. The real benefits of a Dean victory—a stronger economy, improved international relations, maybe a solution to the healthcare crisis—might not become

feasible until after the post-Bush clean-up, during a second term. So who's going to win? Will the U.S. become the new Evil Empire? Are things going to improve in Iraq? Predictions are for saps, but what the hell. Here's what, failing the inevitable, unforeseeable events that can and will change everything, I see happening during the coming year. Clip this column and bury it in a time capsule under a begonia, then dig it out next year to see how well I played the role of Cassandra. The Democratic Nominee: Howard Dean, hands down. He's leading in Iowa and New Hampshire, and 32 percent of Democratic National Committee members say they support the former Vermont governor. (Gephardt and Kerry get 15 and 14 percent respectively.) Not even a gaffe can stop him now. He got where he is by speaking off the cuff; no one will hold anything he says against him. Unfortunately, defending himself from primary opponents with no chance to win and nothing to lose will leave him bloodied and tens of millions of dollars poorer than Bush in the general election. Riots in New York: It won't disintegrate into Chicago '68-style anarchy but the Republican convention, scheduled for early September at Madison Square Garden in order to coincide with 9/11 anniversary ceremonies at Ground Zero, will be a singularly ugly affair. More than 200,000 protesters are expected to converge on the capital of American liberalism to scream at delegates wearing those silly elephant hats. The NYPD will deploy shock-and-awe

tactics to stop them, bloodying nightsticks and claiming a few lives. Continuing Jobless Recovery: Though overpriced and fiscally reckless, the \$1.8 trillion in tax cuts will continue to prime the pump of corporate recovery. The Dow will keep rising, perhaps as high as 12,000 by November. But a recovery isn't worthy of the name unless it creates good, high-pay, high-benefit jobs—and that won't happen. Due to three years of recession and the export of jobs overseas, there just isn't enough disposable income in the pockets of the average American to fuel the two-thirds of the economy directly dependent on consumer spending. No matter what, the unemployment rate won't drop below 5.2 percent. Karzai's Last Year: Regardless of whether Dean or Bush wins in the fall, Hamid Karzai's tenure as puppet president of Afghanistan will end in 2004 or 2005 (I'm betting the latter). Ironically, his last year will be characterized by unprecedented optimism for the future. Scheduled elections will be held on time, and Karzai will win. Modest rebuilding projects, the beneficiaries of a (U.S.) election-year funding boost, will finally begin. But Karzai's pet Trans-Afghanistan oil and gas pipeline project, as Asia Times says, remains on hold "basically because Afghanistan remains a country at war." Since the rump Afghan government doesn't control areas outside Kabul, Karzai's "election" won't enjoy international recognition. Worst of all, from Karzai's standpoint, is the fact that the U.S. put Afghanistan on the back burner last year. Opium production is going like



Libya weapons: nice start, now the tough cases

BY MICHAEL R. GORDON
FOR THE NY TIMES

Undoing a weapons program is one of the rarest of decisions for an absolute leader. After South Africa's apartheid government was replaced by black majority rule, South Africa astonished the world by disclosing that it had developed six nuclear weapons and then allowing the UN nuclear inspections agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, to disarm it. That decision, in effect, was the result of a naturally occurring "regime change." Libya's important and welcome decision to abandon its unconventional weapons programs is all the more interesting since the same government that got Libya into the business of developing forbidden weapons has now ordered the change of course. But the larger issue is whether North Korea and Iran can be similarly disarmed and, if so, how best to go about it. Libya never got very far down the nuclear road and its weapons programs were not enough of a worry to rate inclusion in the "axis of evil" proclaimed by US President George W. Bush in his State of the Union speech in 2002 (Iraq, Iran and North Korea made the cut). While Libya had acquired centrifuges on the black market, it had not yet assembled them into a large-scale cascade for producing highly enriched uranium. When it came to a nuclear arsenal, Libya was abandoning a distant—but still dangerous—dream, not a real ability. North Korea and Iran are much tougher cases and ultimately a far more important test of the Bush administration's efforts to roll back weapon programs through a mixture of force and diplomacy, rather than the more traditional reliance on weak international treaties and policing. US intelligence agents project that North Korea has already got one or two nuclear weapons and the ability to expand this presumed nuclear arsenal. Iran has also been working energetically toward developing a nuclear weapons capacity. US intelligence says. It remains to be seen if the sign-

effect found itself with little leverage. Threatening military force is not an option. War on the heavily armed Korean Peninsula would be a calamity. No Asian ally is prepared to back a policy of confrontation. With most of the US Army preoccupied with Iraq and Afghanistan, the US simply lacks the military muscle to marshal a credible threat. In talks, North Korea has proved to be frustrating and possibly untrustworthy. The Bush administration, meanwhile, has oscillated between a hard-line policy of waiting for North Korea's collapse and trying to engage the North in bargaining. If there is hope of replicating the Libyan reversal it may be in Iran. First, Iran has not yet developed nuclear weapons. So it would be giving up a prospective, and not actual, ability. Second, a diplomatic process is already under way. Gary Samore, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and a former proliferation expert on the National Security Council under former US President Bill Clinton, notes that Iran has responded to diplomatic pressure—from Europe and the US—and temporarily suspended its previously clandestine efforts to enrich uranium at its Natanz site. What is needed now is a permanent solution, one in which Iran will permanently forgo efforts to produce nuclear weapons materials by enriching uranium or producing plutonium. European nations have offered Iran access to fuel supplies for a peaceful nuclear program if it gives up its ambitions to develop nuclear weapons. Whether the US would be party to such a deal and whether Iran would embrace it, Samore notes, are unclear. "In the case of North Korea the Libya model is unrealistic," he said in a telephone interview. "It is not plausible that the North Korean regime, given their perception of the world, will give up their missiles and chemical, biological and nuclear programs in exchange for better relations. They view them as essential for their survivability. The best you can do is to achieve limits." If there is a chance to repeat the Libyan experience, he notes, "the test will come in Iran."

ple a satisfaction not otherwise achievable. (3) The model in The Hague gives us Slobodan Milosevic as the star player. That action is in its third year. It has served only the purpose of encouraging equivocations, in which Milosevic is as accomplished as he was in executing a genocidal approach to ethnic cleansing. A truly balanced judiciary is at work here: three judges of disparate backgrounds, one Englishman, one South Korean and one Jamaican. One might mention the international court in Sierra Leone, commissioned to look into regional war criminals. The court has been operating for about a year. There have been indictments. Nobody has yet been tried. The very idea that Saddam Hussein needs the niceties of Blackstone's laws prescribing judicial procedure and the means of protecting the innocent is a surrender to epistemological pessimism: the notion that you can't ever really prove anything. Built into that nihilist surrender is doubt about first principles. If there is anybody in town who believes that Saddam Hussein is not guilty of crimes however described, what we need to worry about is him, not Saddam. The notion that we should be immobilized by the kind of skepticism that demands full-blown trials with judges from Jamaica and amici curiae from Russia and France tells us that a lot more is riding here than the fate of Saddam Hussein. It isn't to ask for lynch law or even for victor's justice to say simply: This is a man, finally apprehended, who killed by the thousands and tortured his people, committing genocide north and south. His "trial" should be of the order we'd have given to Adolf Hitler if he had been taken alive. Exhibit him, make him dwell on what he has done, satisfy the Iraqi people that we share their concern, and that having dispatched an army to their country to contain and disarm him, we will back the Iraqi court that sends him to the gallows. If anybody around wants to plead his cause, go ahead. There will always be fever swamps from which they can make their nescient calls.

gangbusters. The U.S. has already begun acknowledging Taliban control of various provinces. Karzai will be forced to choose between exile and assassination. More of the Same in Iraq: The guerilla war against U.S. occupation forces will continue. Foreign and local resistance fighters, funded and armed through neighboring Iran, Afghanistan and Syria, will continue to launch hourly attacks that claim a life and a dozen limbs per day. The U.S., meanwhile, will eschew carrot in favor of stick, radicalizing fence-sitting Iraqi moderates with Israeli-style round-ups, house demolitions and indiscriminate retaliatory airstrikes. Things won't get worse, but they won't get better. Supremes Come Through: The U.S.

Supreme Court, asked to judge the Bush Administration's policy of indefinite detention of "enemy combatants," will cite the Constitutional guarantee of due process to rule "release or file charges" re "dirty bomb" suspect Jose Padilla, Yaser Edam Hamdi and/or the Guantánamo Bay concentration camp inmates. Whoever Wins Wins Big: I have no idea who will win the presidency, so I won't venture a prediction here. Most analysts, however, expecting a replay of 2000, think the presidential race will be tight. Not me. The advantages of Bush's ill-gotten incumbency and outsized attack ad budget could let him to trounce Dean in a landslide of Reaganesque proportions. On the other hand, several wild cards may lead to a

Dean sweep: pent-up resentment over Florida 2000, a smart pick for vice president that overcomes concerns about Dean's lack of foreign policy experience (Bob Graham or Wesley Clark), more terrorist attacks, mismatched presidential debates. Thanks to redistributing and a flurry of Democratic retirements, the House and Senate will remain Republican regardless. Another Year, No 9/11: George W. Bush is the best thing that ever happened to Osama bin Laden, Al Qaeda and other Islamist extremist groups. The anti-Americanism fueled by his policies has brought them unprecedented levels of cash and new recruits. Terrorists won't risk losing their benefactor by attacking us on U.S. soil before the election.

Try Saddam?

BY WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

What on earth is it that we should want from Saddam Hussein? The New York Times set are going on about an exemplary trial that will vindicate international tribunal procedures, abiding by "the complex legal issues posed by this trial" (to quote one editorial), which can be done only using "specialists in human rights and war crimes issues." Oh yes, and it would be hard to get participation by lawyers from enlightened states if the trial were to permit capital sentences. The baloney here is truly offensive. Here is what we should want from Saddam, live: As much information as we can usefully get from him concerning the whereabouts of subordinate criminals from his regime. As also, what accounts he can give us of the preparations he had in mind for a future arsenal of war weapons, and what he knows of stratagems for concealing those that he had. We should insist on priorities in the matter of his trial that transcend Ethics 101 courses on proper procedures in the prosecution of criminals. We have three models here to inform us. (1) The Nuremberg trial (1945-'46) for major war criminals was singular because none such had ever been done; because the setup of it was political (a Soviet judge, whose country had engaged in every crime the Nazis were being tried on, participated and had certain veto powers); and because, among the defendants, there were those who could conscientiously plead not guilty. Indeed, three were exonerated, so that was a call for judicial discrimination. (2) The Eichmann model was, once again, sui generis. He had been scooped up from Argentina, raising international political and legal questions. He was unquestionably criminal, but the recounting of the Holocaust story over a period of months served the purpose of reminding the world of the pandemic nature of Nazi guilt. The Israelis had abolished capital sentences—but, with a little nod at legal convention, reinstated it for the commendable purpose of giving the Israeli peo-

VACANCY

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Psychic artist, Hussein Abu-Bakr Al-Mehdar,

By KHALID ABDO
KHALIDABDO67@YAHOO.COM
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I had always dreamed of traveling to Hadramout due to the influence the Hadrami music had on me since I was a child. Finally my dream became true when I was hired by the GTZ to teach a course of English in Hadramout. Needless to say how beautiful the land is, huge gardens of palms and fascinating mud buildings revealing a welcoming smile for guests. Music is a major activity people resort to for recreation. Few weeks after my arrival, I planned a picnic with some of my students. To my surprise, I found that many had brought some musical instruments namely violins, drums and whistles. My wonder diminished by learning from them that almost each house possesses a musical instrument. The discussion and comments of all attendants reflected their devotion, appreciation and love for music in general and their own in particular. The songs of Al-Mehdar, whom they considered to be the father of the Hadrami arts, took the major part of our conversation and singing.

The contribution of Al-Mehdar to the unity and harmony of Hadramout and its people:

Al-Mehdar dedicated many of his songs to the various towns and settlements so that the whole land remains united to the tune and rhythm of his music and to keep up the flavor of Hadramout. This unity was reinforced by the movement of Al-Mehdar between the different towns of Hadramout, sometimes to participate in the Daan sessions, a highly sophisticated type of music, having felt the necessity for the integration of such a community in question. It was, as well, a way of rubbing shoulders. Seiyun (Al-Taweela) (Al-Mukkala, Tarim, Shbiam (Al-Safra), Al-Qatn and Al-Shihr, are just examples of the towns he made lyrics about.

Al-Mehdar preserved the rituals, which date hundreds of years back and other traditions in his music. For example, the Hadrami people are famous for celebrating several ceremonies such as

the visits they pay to the tombs of some saints on several occasions where they trade-in some household stuff, socialize and sing in processions. Such festivals facilitate their communications and safeguard those traditions, the most remarkable to be mentioned is the pilgrimage to the Prophet Hud tomb.

Say hello or wave it by hand,
Oh princess of my heart
And take me a slave and hold me in your possession

As you passed by on the visit festival day
You dazzled the whole procession,
He who saw your beauty praised God for his make.

You were the leading beauty of your age,
Maids to your left, right and behind
Acting as servants

The spark of your love ignited mine
Keeping my eyes awake
Sleepless when all are asleep.

Human emotions:

His poetic gift allowed him to dive into the inner life of his fellow people and feel their problems. Therefore, he kept the balance by moving on with the norm and criticizing odds, many couplets the songs end up with have some connotation to wisdom and advice.

"Adhere firmly to honesty"

Abandon and do not water the one who has no sense of honor.

Symbolism:

Symbolism is one of the main characteristics of Al-Mehdar's lyrics, for instance, he implied politics and other relevant issues some of which are subject to interpretation depending on the degree of transparency. He for instance predicted the unity of Yemen before it took place in May 1990. In other words, he fulfilled the satisfaction of various people ranging from issues related nomads in the desert to debates and politics.

Creativity and innovation:

The songs of Al-Mehdar would have

not acquired this international recognition without the major part played by Abu Bakr Salem, one of the most distinguished artists in the Arab world.

Who excelled in making words sound exotic. His magical sound turned, lyrics, music and performance into a world of perfection.

One night in Al-Taweelah

One night in Al-Taweelah,
More romantic than those of the Arabian nights
(to the truck driver: "please, slow down".
Al-Qarn, it is that I wish to have home

No resemblance of that Joy I had that night
She is so precious to give up for all pearls.
Al-Qarn, it is that I wish to have home

The top sights of the city have arisen
women are spreading the word,
revealing the secret
And fear's gone
Al-Qarn, it is that I wish to have home

Stop and relax your heart
Before, you get too old to enjoy the scenery of the sweeties
Al-Qarn, it is that I wish to have home

Had your eye seen what mine saw of her beauty
You would be tempted to seduction
Al-Qarn, it is that I wish to have home

Puzzling when she speaks,
Her height shapes perfect
Her eyes are arrows which, if casted
They never miss the target,
Al-Qarn, it is that I wish to have home

They have proved successful in romance talks
Chuckling one's balance,
Allowing love to go all over the body
Al-Qarn, it is that I wish to have home

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- Plan and organize procurement of goods and services for UNDP, UN Agencies ensuring full compliance to UNDP procurement rules and regulations.
- Prepare procurement contracts and submissions to Local and Headquarters committees ensuring transparency, competitiveness and completeness of processes.
- Ensure prompt clearance and timely delivery of UN and project consignments.
- Create and up-date the suppliers database with corresponding performance evaluation; share and exchange the database with UN Agencies and Projects.
- Lead the expansion of Common Services to be shared with other UN Agencies; establish a system of performance evaluation service providers.
- Perform any other duties as required

Competencies required

- Capacity to analyze and interpret rules and regulations
- Capacity to focus on impact results for the client, promote an ethic of client oriented service
- Ability to produce quality outputs in a timely manner
- Capacity to maintain confidentiality and responsibility
- Ability to apply sound judgement in solving problems and negotiation process
- Strong interest to pursue personal development

Qualifications

- Master Degree or equivalent in business administration, economics or related areas.
- Minimum of five years of increasingly responsible experience on procurement, preferably in international organizations.
- Full proficiency in usage of computer and office software packages.
- Excellent knowledge of English and Arabic languages (written, spoken, reading).

II. Administrative Assistant

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Facilitate the work of the DRR (Operations) through the organization of his/her agenda, bring urgent matters to the attention of the DRR operations, organize Operations and other meetings, prepare agenda, finalize and distribute minutes of meetings.
- Screen all incoming and outgoing correspondence addressed to the DRR(O), clear correspondence for conformity with established procedures and accuracy of statements before being signed by the DRR(O) and draft proposed replies on routine issues. Maintain a follow-up system in the Operations Unit;
- Organize and maintain a follow-up system pertaining to all strategic and corporate actions by Operations Section.
- Prepare correspondence in Arabic/English related to protocol/administrative issues to Government authorities. Update lists of names, addresses and telephone numbers of high level government officials.
- Maintain and update filing list on administration.
- Screen telephone calls, answer routine queries with discretion, route phone calls to appropriate colleagues while applying client oriented service approach.
- Perform any other duties as required

Competencies required

- Excellent organizational skills and sound judgment.
- Strong sense of initiative and ability to work independently.
- Good interpersonal and high level of discretion.
- Ability to work under heavy pressure.

Qualifications

- University Degree in business administration, management or related field of study.
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د. شهاب محمد مهيب العززي

وربة الصوت والعفاف

ابنة المرحوم محمد عبدالله أحمد الهدادي

الف مبروك ..

وأجمل وأزكى التهناني والأمنيات الطيبة

المنشوعة بباقات من الضل والورد والياسمين ..

وعقبال البكري

المعتمدون :

الموالدة والأخوة / أحمد، عبدالعزيز، عبد الكريم، عبد الباقي، وعبد الواحد، عادل.

بسام محمد عبدالله وأسرهم، ونصر، عبد الحكيم، خالد محمد مهيب ووالدتهم وأسرهم.

وعبدالله أحمد وأسرته، وباسل محمد قعطي وأسرته، وعبدالله حسن وأسرته.

وصابر عبدالوارث وأسرته، وجميع الأهل والأقارب.

Germans started Christmas truce of World War One

BERLIN, (Reuters) - Singing "Silent Night" and calling "We not shoot, you not shoot", German soldiers began the Christmas Truce of World War One, when whole regiments stopped killing each other and played football in no-man's land instead.

"The Germans started it. That's the miracle. For the first time it wasn't the Germans who waged war but started a peace," Michael Juergs, the first German author to write a book about the legendary ceasefire of December 1914, told Reuters.

British troops holding the front line in Flanders on a cold, clear Christmas Eve four months into the war heard "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) being sung across the battlefield littered with frozen corpses.

They started clapping and shouting "More, more". German soldiers ventured their heads above the parapets and put candles along the edge of their trenches, writes Juergs in his book, "The Little Peace in the Great War", published last month.

It resembled the footlights of a theatre, one British soldier recalled.

One German officer sang the Scottish ballad "Annie Laurie", in perfect English. "We were overwhelmed, as if the war was suddenly over," Juergs quoted a British rifleman, W.A. Quinton, as writing 15 years later.

The officer called: "I am a lieutenant, gentlemen, my life is in your hands. I'm outside the trench and walking towards you. Would one of your officers please meet me half way?"

A British sergeant walked up to him and they started talking. Others followed. The news spread rapidly, with British soldiers taking part readily, and French and Belgian troops more hesitantly, writes Juergs.

"It was maybe almost 1,000 soldiers at first. Then word spread by field telephone."

JOINT BURIALS

Along the entire 40 km (25 miles) from the Belgian North Sea port of Nieuwpoort to the town of Ypres, soldiers met and arranged not to shoot each other over Christmas.

Juergs matched war diaries and letters from soldiers on both sides to piece together a detailed account of the series of spontaneous armistices that by December 26 had silenced much of the western front from the North Sea to the Swiss border.



A handout picture shows German and British troops meeting in no-man's land during the Christmas Truce of 1914. The first German book on the legendary event is based on accounts from soldiers on both sides who staged impromptu armistices along most of the western front of World War One, playing football, swapping food, and burying their dead together.

They staged joint burials, hunted rabbits, and cooked a pig. One British soldier, a hairdresser by trade, brought out a stool and offered haircuts to all comers for a few cigarettes a time.

It was the first Christmas of a war that has come to epitomise pointless sacrifice on a biblical scale. In over four years an estimated 10 million military personnel were killed in action or listed as missing, with more than 20 million wounded.

"If there had been live television footage at the time and people had seen the pictures of this truce, it would have been the end of the war," said Juergs.

Soldiers exchanged food and cigarettes and showed each other photos of their families. A frequent topic was how best to get rid of lice and the rats that plagued them.

They swapped Dresden "Stollen" Christmas cake and sausages for British jam and whisky. One German infantryman even handed over a Christmas tree with lit candles.

Some French civilians scorned at the fraternisation taking place on their invaded soil. Some British troops reported French women spat at them for it.

While many officers took part, the top brass on both sides were outraged, ordering their men back into the trenches and threatening court martials whenever they heard about it.

But soldiers continued to shoot above each other's heads until February on some stretches of the front, said Juergs.

Prussian troops, traditionally the most disciplined in the German army, were less prone to join the armistices than others, such as soldiers from Saxony in what is now eastern Germany.

"We are Saxons, you are Anglo-Saxons, why should we shoot each other?" said one Saxon.

OFFSIDE TRAP

"After the dead had been buried, and

because the ground had frozen, hundreds of men played football wildly in uniforms with leather balls which the English supplied, or tins or balls of straw," said Juergs.

The diary of the Lancashire Fusiliers tells of one match the Germans won 3:2, but notes that the third goal should not have been allowed because the scorer was offside, he writes.

British newspapers gave the truce prominent coverage, perhaps because the idea appealed to a British sense of fair play among gentlemen, writes Juergs.

German newspapers largely ignored it, while French papers wrote that French soldiers shouted out "Shut up, German pigs" as soon as the Germans started singing. In fact, whole French regiments took part.

Attempts to repeat the truce a year later were rapidly quashed. "In the history of war there had never been such a peace from below. There has never been once since," writes Juergs.

Some Canada Muslims to use sharia in civil disputes

TORONTO, (Reuters) - Some Canadian Muslims will soon be able to use an Islamic tribunal to arbitrate civil disputes, bringing Muslim sharia law to a largely secular society and raising concerns about the extent to which it might be applied.

Canada's Islamic Institute of Civil Justice was formed in October and plans to begin arbitrating family and business disputes early next year using Muslim personal law in Ontario. Eventually, operations will be expanded across Canada.

Since arbitrators' rulings can be enforced by the courts, the development has raised eyebrows that sharia will in effect be endorsed by Canada's secular courts.

While Muslim leaders insist decisions are binding only if all parties agreed to the arbitration, critics say people may be pressured to take part in the process.

"It involves inheritance, divorces and family matters and the sharia law is a distinct disadvantage to Muslim women and they will be pressured. There's no doubt about this," said Sheila Ayala of the Humanist Association of Canada which advocates separating church and state.

Sharia is a code of law based primarily on the Koran as well as the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad and is meant to govern all aspects of Muslim life including prayer, fasting and even finance, in which interest payments are banned.

Individual Muslims adopt sharia to varying degrees according to personal belief, and many Muslim countries have instituted elements of sharia as law. For example, Saudi Arabia, which follows strict Islamic law, executes murderers, rapists and drug smugglers, usually by public beheading.

In Canada, where the new plan would not cover criminal offences, objections have ranged from concerns about institutionalising sharia to the more radical perception that women might be stoned in the streets for adultery.

"Sharia law is known in the West mainly by its more extreme clauses, which recommend brutal punishments and authorise the unequal treatment of women," said a recent newspaper editorial. "Perhaps this is an unfair image. But no country can have two competing codes of law."

For example, critics say the tribunal could decree unequal inheritance settlements for women because sharia states that a son inherits twice as much as a daughter.

Muslim and non-Muslim experts say concerns are overblown. To complain about sharia hints at racism against a community that feels under siege after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, lawyers said.

'SENSATIONALISED'

"It is being sensationalised. It is part of the general hysteria that's out there since 9/11, the Talibanization of (North) America," said Irfan Syed, chair of the Toronto-based Muslim Lawyers Association.

"The mechanisms are all there for oversight and it is unfortunate that people are...leaping to conclusions."

Rahim Khan, co-founder of the institute, also dismisses concerns but, with an eye to public perception, insisted that the word "civil" be inserted into the original name, Institute of Islamic Justice.

"There should be no concern. We're dealing with Canadian civil law with minor exceptions here and there," Khan said. "Muslim personal law is accepted all over the world. Canada is a bit peculiar; we don't seem to understand it."

Khan said the organisation will help ease the backlog in the civil courts and would not deal with criminal matters.

The sudden public interest — news of the group's plans has made headlines in Canada — has surprised some Muslims who say they already used sharia in divorce arbitration and other disputes. The institute, which has about 50 members, said it wants to formalise that process.

Philippine brand of Islam faces foreign influence

COTABATO City, Philippines, (Reuters) - After 15 years, Amir Baraguir has taken up smoking again.

He doesn't particularly enjoy it, but he likes the message of defiance it sends to Muslim clerics on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao who are trying to instil a much stricter version of Islam than he and many others are used to.

Baraguir's small protest is a sign of how the rise of a more radical doctrine is dividing the country's Muslim homeland and tapping into deep discontent caused by poverty and decades of war between separatist rebels and government troops.

"Our unique culture is under serious threat," said Baraguir, whose family belonged to a centuries-old sultanate system in the central Mindanao region of the mostly Roman Catholic country.

"We might wake up one day and find that the rigid foreign-influenced Islamic beliefs have replaced our own distinct cultural identity. We have to fight back and raise the local consciousness on the

perils of a borrowed culture."

His ancestors were among the first Arab missionaries who introduced Islam to the Philippines in the 15th century.

But times started changing in the late 1970s with the introduction of rigid Wahabi teachings brought to the southern Philippines by religious leaders trained in the Middle East.

The newer ways have little room for the brand of Islam practised by most of the nation's eight million to 10 million Muslims or traditions such as the "pandita", the dwindling number of old village men who conduct cradle-to-grave rituals.

STRICT VERSUS MODERATE

The younger generation of Muslim scholars and preachers, called "ustadz" and "ulama", is fast embracing the imported practices, especially after being given scholarships to Egypt, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

"Their numbers are growing rapidly," Baraguir said. "They have the facilities and the money to recruit more mission-

aries and scholars, send them to the Middle East for schooling and bring them back to influence more people to embrace their faith."

He said the Wahabi influence could be seen in the daily lives of many Filipino Muslims who were being urged to give up habits such as smoking and drinking beer, and were growing beards and attending Islamic schools called "madaris".

Islam in the Philippines is predominantly from the Shafi'ite Sunni school with an influence of Sufism, a more mystical branch of the religion widely practised in Southeast Asia, where close to 300 million Muslims live.

Sidney Jones, the Southeast Asia director for International Crisis Group think-tank, said the influence of Wahabism was not a new phenomenon.

"It's been around for some time in some places in Southeast Asia because of money available to scholars going to Saudi Arabia and teachers brought to the region," she told Reuters.

Zamzamin Ampatuan, executive

director of the government's Office of Muslim Affairs, said the rise of stricter Sunni Islam from Arab countries dated back to 1979 when Iranian Shi'ite students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Ampatuan said the Sunnis mounted an unprecedented Islamic revival campaign by recruiting, training and sending missionaries and even helping the Afghans drive out the Soviet forces.

Poverty was another factor behind the increase of Wahabi influence, he said.

BREEDING GROUND FOR MILITANTS?

Thousands of the Filipino contract workers who have gone to the Middle East since the 1970s have returned as converts, many showing more dedication than those born as Muslims at home.

They build rural clinics, mosques and Islamic schools, and influence the community to embrace their brand of Islam.

Ampatuan said there were now at least 3,000 Islamic schools in Mindanao and some government officials believe

they could be becoming the recruitment ground for militants.

But Izaldin Macamimis, a senior accountancy student at the Catholic-run Notre Dame University, denied that the schools were moulding radicals.

"It's only black propaganda to destroy Islam," he said.

He said he had spent eight years at an Islamic school: "But we were never taught to become guerrillas or terrorists."

He said they were just practising the correct form of a religion that had become corrupted by the marrying of the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad with Oriental mysticism.

Ampatuan also said the schools were not breeding grounds for militants. "But they serve as a social network for extremism," he said. "And extremism tolerates terrorism."

Citing the secular background of al Qaeda operatives behind the September 11 attacks on the United States, Ampatuan said universities — where students can experiment with ideas —

could be the development area for militants.

WAR OF BELIEFS

But Baraguir said the Indonesians behind the Bali bomb attacks last year were products of an Islamic school run by a radical preacher.

He and several others in Cotabato City have taken up the cause of trying to check the inroads of Middle East-inspired Islamic beliefs.

Five years ago, they began broadcasting a radio programme criticising foreign-trained religious leaders seeking to impose practices akin to those of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

But Baraguir has not found it easy trying to prompt Muslims to defend their heritage. Three years ago, a bomb exploded outside the radio station where the group was airing its one-hour daily show.

"We are undaunted by these threats," Baraguir said as he opened another pack of cigarettes. "This is our culture, our tradition. We will defend it with our lives."

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 1 Jan. 2004.

Main headlines:

- Silent demonstration demanding re-investigation into the case of Jarallah Omer assassination
 Columnist Mohammed Qassem Nouman says in his article that democracy, human rights, woman rights, child rights, pluralism, civil society, the freedom of expression and opinion, free press and the people right to political life and ruling...etc are syllabus in the human thought and titles of the international law for human rights. Nevertheless all these remained in the past years absent to a great extent in our Arab culture in general and the Yemeni national culture in particular. Despite the circumstances that imposed the emergence of this new culture and attacking the outdated cultures on which the systems of backwardness and totalitarianism depended but the resistance is intensive between the yesterday culture and this new culture. In our Arab countries this forms a crisis and suffering and compound disasters the Arab people bear its consequences and negatives. It is a crisis caused by the rulers for their insistence on continuing with the same cultures and ideas of the past in the practice of rule and the relation with the people. The other crisis is that of leaderships of the opposition parties for their insistence on continuing the same cultures and ideas of the past and their mechanisms in practicing their roles and their leadership of their parties and their relations with the people.



Al-Sahwa weekly, 1 Jan. 2004.

Main headlines:

- Al-A'nsi: in loyalty to Jarallah we bet on the future
 - Students stage sit-in, prosecution extends time of arrest
 - JMP demands stopping violation of university campus
 Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in his article that a year has elapsed on the assassination of Jarallah Omer the assistant secretary general of the YSP. He was at the apex of giving calling for freedom and condemning injustice and despotism, and to joining forces for building a country spacious for all its sons.
 Perhaps the people do not know a government feels happy with evil as

what our government does. Those who follow up behaviour of the head of the government and official sources would notice that they are still and on every occasion confirm that Yemen is a seminary of terror and then there is the continuous mobilization against the opposition and the JMP especially the Islah and the YSP. It is a call for facing the word with the gun and accusing the opposition by treason. The escalation and progressing restriction against the democratic margin, fighting civil society organisations and confiscating their activities are channeled into the same direction despite we have thought that the regional and international variables would curb this policy.



Al-Shumou weekly, 3 Jan. 2004.

Main headlines:

- While Prosecution interrogating a senior official in Aden,
 - Endowments ministry wavers of investigating with its agents on misconduct regarding endowments lands
 - Aimed at closing al-Mouayad file, secret contacts between the Islah and the American administration
 - In Aden on 8 Jan., Celebration on the Human Rights World Day
 - Arab interior ministers discuss fighting terror and crime
 Political conflict among the journalists circles has begun to appear with the approach of the syndicate elections scheduled to be held beginning of the next month. The past year has witnessed a noticeable action by most of the syndicate leaders in addition to prominent journalists to the wheel of endorsing the law of the syndicate, confirming the achievement is a qualitative transfer for the Yemeni press and to protect their freedom. But he thunder was when that gain has changed into a nightmare ruining and robbing gains of the Yemeni press. That we have not heard about but later as if the haze has suddenly was removed from the eyes of those journalists who had prepared the draft of the law and began to speak about the negatives included in the draft law. Hence whatever the negatives were and whatever the results of the elections were to be the most important thing those genius journalists who had prepared the law that our main concern is to protect ourselves and safeguard our freedom. The most important thing is to revise and amend the law and to work for having it approved in the way that we see

Main Headlines

- After the price rises in corn and flour got out of the government control,
- Is Yemen heading for expected explosion?
- Opposition blocs and independent MPs reject the 2004 budget, call for deep-rooted financial corruption
- Demonstration in front government administration in Seiyoun demanding for heir salaries
- 15 students at security prisons, students demand accounting head of the government
- Celebrating inauguration of crowning Sana'a capital of Arab Culture, postponed
- U.S. State Department investigates into provocation of Yemen's human rights minister
- Yemen heads for the African West after the Gulf
- Opposition refuses 2004 budget
- JMP sends condolences for victims of the earthquake in Iran
- American report on human rights
- U.S. ambassador to Yemen Hull puts final touches for disclosing the black list of Yemen journalists
- Reports on American embassy behind arrests of Yemen students union activists
- Yemen turns its back to the Gulf and turns towards Africa
- In a telephone conversation, the President discusses current developments with the Emir of Qatar
- President issues 8 laws on the budget
- 70 ministers, 1 parliament speakers, 50 international organisations,
- Take part in "Sana'a hosts International Conference on Democracy and Human Rights" 10 January.



Al-Nahar weekly, 1 Jan. 2004.

Main headlines:

- Saudi Arabia announces surrender of leading extremists
 - Official discloses corruption; Drought threatens residents of Jihaf, al-Azzariq with migrating to al-Dhalie
 - Chamber of Commerce warns against sales law
 The Yemeni enthusiasm to obtain full membership of the GCC has retreated after two years since the Muscat summit decision of joining Yemen to four min-

isterial councils. It seems that Sana'a is no longer wagering on the possibility of having a decision issued by the GCC summit modifying the frame that it has placed Yemen in and has become determining the relationship with the GCC. Hat has made Yemen casting its attention towards the Horn of Africa to establish a new alliance.
 A senior government official has recently said the many meetings held by the committee assigned with implementing the Gulf Summit decision and determining the frame of the relationship between the two sides, revealed that there is no real intention to take this relation to the level of full membership.

This could be either because of the GCC statute or because some of its members are not so enthusiastic to end two decades of tug of war on Yemen's position in the Gulf system.



Al-Wahda weekly, 31 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:
 - Planning ministry undersecretary: 12 million dollars and one billion Yen from Japan to Yemen
 - Deputy education minister: Support for technical education costs \$ 20 million
 - Yemen maintains efforts to begin negotiations with the World Trade Organisation
 - 3258 beneficiaries from program of income-yielding activities
 Columnist Mohammed al-Zubaidi says in his article in the wake of the World War II and in the light of the tragedy that had befallen humanity the vision of thinkers headed towards the establishment of the United Nations to form the safety-valve for peace of humanity. The organisation has actually performed its role for a period of time that was characterised by the international balance or what is called the cold war. After the dismantle of the Soviet Union he cold war collapsed and there emerged the dictatorship of power that began to create various techniques of selecting the ways of facing the world and in fabricating accusations and justifications to attack here and there.
 Now we are living in a world that has lost peace of mind and safety and self confidence. The fear from the unknown has become enveloping its entity.
 would serve our press march.



26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, 1 Jan. 2004.

Main headlines:

- Sana'a grouping summit, FM al-Qirbi: Formation a ministerial committee for economic cooperation, businessmen meeting in Sana'a in March
 - Arab interior ministers discuss issues of terror and drugs
 - Human rights minister announces a national strategy for human rights, project for improving prisons conditions
 - Minister of irrigation and environment: Projects worth \$ 200 million
 Mr Ibrahim al-Ashmawi says in his article Yemen is hosting on 10 January a

great international and regional events where 250 personalities of thinkers, politicians and officials from various parts of the world are to take part. The international conference on the role of law in supporting democracy and human rights is to be considered an important demonstration for the exchange of opinion between the countries of the north and those of the south, the rich and the poor, about the successful application of democracy and stabilization of principles of human rights. The significance of the conference lies first in the volume and rank of attendance and participation in it. The participation is to include parliament speakers, ministers, prominent thinkers and men of letter from Europe, Canada, America and Arab and African countries. Therefore is hoped that the conference would come out with political and ideological approaches enhancing and enriching horizons of democracy in its comprehensive meaning under the age of globalization and openness and also under the consequences and developments of post-Oinvasion of Iraq.
 No doubt the European Union choosing Yemen to host such a conference reflects the large-scale international appreciation of what Yemen's democratic experiment has achieved in this field and the areas of public freedoms and press freedom and the improvement of its record in human rights. Yemen has taken a daring initiative in political and party pluralism since the year 1990as it had opened the all horizons for all political spectrum to work in freedom and to issue partisan newspapers and publications, added to that tens of private sector newspapers as well as thousands of civil society organisations. Yemen has also approved and recognised the peaceful transfer of power in a democratic way.
 Countries and international organisations see in Yemen as the democratic example inn the region and the only country that is meting its democratic commitments however difficult they were. Several years ago Sana'a had hosted conference on emerging democracies and contributed to define its experiment in transparency and on the ground.
 The coming conference would surely add momentum and interaction to the Yemeni experiment and offer a positive image of the successes that have been achieved. This would be positively reflected on the international support for the Yemeni experiment, politically and economically.

World Press

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

Egypt

Al Ahram
 Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday called for supporting the initiative on comprehensive development in Africa in his speech at the inaugural session of the Conference of African Parliaments Speakers.
 He said economic aid alone is not enough, and democracy and development are the only way to achieve a better future for the giant continent.
Al Akhbar
 Egyptian search and rescue teams on Monday managed to spot the scene of the crushed Flash Air plane in the Red Sea as a robotic submarine from the French Navy was scouring the

waters in an attempt to find debris and bodies.
Al Gomhuria
 Arab interior ministers wrapped up their conference on Monday by issuing a communique that denounced terrorist acts and called for a comprehensive and continued war against terrorism.
The Egyptian Gazette
 Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday met with US Senator Bill Nelson, who was on a visit to Cairo as part of his eight-day tour in the Middle East region.
 Following the meeting, Nelson said he appreciated Mubarak's prominent role in the peace process in the Middle East.

Japan

Yomiuri
 In its new National Defense Program Outline, the government is considering a 30 percent cutback in tanks and artillery, while boosting the number of regular Ground Self-Defense Force personnel by more than 5,000, a government source said

Monday.
Nihon Keizai
 The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport will relax terms for government-backed housing loans from fiscal 2004. People whose houses cover less than 100 square meters can also get credit.

Pakistan

The News
 Pakistani Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali Monday underlined the need for collective efforts to confront the problems facing the South Asian countries.
The Nation
 South Asian leaders on Monday urged Pakistan and India to resolve their bilateral issues through peaceful

negotiations.
Dawn
 Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee Monday discussed bilateral issues including the contentious Kashmir dispute during the 12th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Nigeria

Vanguard
 Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on Monday gave a marching order to petrol dealers, particularly those with retail outlets to display conspicuously prices of product on their bill boards or face penalty from the government.

The Punch
 Speaker of the House of Representatives Alhaji Bello Massari on Monday restated the opposition of the House to the 1.50 naira (about 1.11 US cents) of petroleum tax introduced by the Nigerian federal government beginning on Jan. 1, 2004.

Germany

Die Welt
 The ruling Social Democrats want to create the ground for more growth in Germany with an "Agenda 2010" for education and innovation.
Handelsblatt
 The latest of a series of bomb attacks against European Union personnel and

institutions has caught a German politician.
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
 India and Pakistan have resumed dialogue as Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf met for one hour Monday.

India

The Statesman
 A significant narrowing of differences appears to have occurred when Indian Prime Minister met Pakistani President Monday morning, resulting not just in "progress" — that was how the Indian side described it — but even the likelihood of a breakthrough in bilateral relations, leading to the start of a composite dialogue process.

morning, Indian President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, and the Deputy Prime Minister, L. K. Advani, expressed the hope that it would bring peace to the region and with it the consequent dividends to development.

The Hindu
 Even as Indian Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was meeting the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, in Islamabad Monday

Indian Express
 The possibility of a breakthrough between India and Pakistan loomed large Monday night as the two sides worked on creating the contours of a peace process that would give centrality to the twin issues of Kashmir and terrorism.

Kenya

Kenya Times
 Students of three of the six public universities in Kenya started trickling into campuses on Monday as the three reopened while the national strike by university lecturers is still going on.

mentations on their peace process.

People Daily
 Somali faction leaders are scheduled to commence a retreat at the end of this week to come up with recom-

East African Standard
 Kenyan Education Minister George Saitoti said on Monday that 317,796 pupils or 54 percent of the total across the country would be locked out of secondary schools as there were only vacancies for 270,205 in the country's national, provincial, district and private schools.

Analysis of verbal interaction in *Waiting For Godot*



By Ms. SHEFALI BAKSHI
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Discourse is a term that is used to study units that are larger than the basic unit of grammar, the sentence. Therefore, discourse, studies spoken speech within the context of verbal communication. (Herman: 2000; 1) mentions that dialogue, as discourse is interactive and interrelational. "It is a mode of speech exchange among participants, speech in relation to another's speech and not merely the verbal expression of one character of actor's 'part'." "Dialogue, therefore includes not only I but we. One may notice that dialogue and discourse may differ from one context to another. "Dialogues in courtroom differ from those in classrooms; social chitchat differs from parliamentary debates. All are, nevertheless, dual or multi-speaker forms..." (Herman: 2000; 3).

The past studies of the language of drama did not take into account dramatic dialogue as discourse. (Herman: 2000; 3) mentions, "the thrust of the argument has generally been to safeguard the separation of dramatic dialogue from conversation in order to preserve the latter's literary quality. The relation between the two forms has been examined contrastively, as between two essences, literary and non-literary. Little attention, therefore, has been paid to connections between them, although conversation and dramatic speech share areas or commonality in being speech exchange systems, which set them apart from poetic genre like the ode or the lyric or the narrator's language in the novel".

Thus the use of the language in drama is different from the use of language in poetry, fiction, and prose. In one sense, the use of language in drama is closer to natural speech than any other genre in literature. There are human characters in drama, who enter into spoken discourse as do people in normal life. However, in normal day-to-day life the speaker and the listener are either alone or are heard by a small number of people who might also take part in spoken discourse. On the other hand, the characters in drama are heard by the audience and thus the audience is part of the dramatic discourse.

Therefore, it is important that we understand how dramatic discourse is developed and exploited by the playwright.

Hymes (1972) developed the concept of Communicative Competence which means it is not enough to be able to produce grammatically correct sentences but it is important that one is able to produce appropriate sentence, understanding the social context, the role of participant, the information they share and the function of the interaction. Hymes (1972) suggested that hierarchy of units called *speech situation*, *speech event*, and *speech act* would be useful and his suggestions have been widely accepted. The three units are in vested hierarchy in the sense that speech acts are part of the speech events which in turn are part of the speech situation. (The speech situation is the context within which sociolinguistic communication occurs). For example, a trial, an auction, a party, a train ride or a class in a school. A speech even begins with the same general purposes of communication, the same general topic and involving the same participants.

The speech act is generally cotermious with a single interactional function such as a *statement*, a *request* or *command* and may be either verbal or non-verbal.

Now let us have an illustration from Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. The speech event will be analysed in terms of the steps presented by Saville – Troike (1982) and Hatch (1992).

The play opens with Estragon's remark: (a) **Estragon:** (giving up again) Nothing to be done. [opening]

(b) **Vladimir:** (advancing with short, stiff strides, legs wide apart). I'm beginning to come round that opinion. All my life I've tried to put it from me, saying, Vladimir, be reasonable, you haven't yet tried everything. And I resumed the struggle. (He broods meeting on the struggle. (Turning to Estragon).

(c) So there you are again. [criticism]

(d) **Estragon:** Am I? [Rhetorical question] [disapproval]

(e) **Vladimir:** I'm glad to see you back... I thought you were gone forever. [appeasing]

(f) **Estragon:** Me too. [supports his view of courtesy]

(g) **Vladimir:** Together again at last! We'll have to celebrate this. But how? (he reflects.)

Get up till I embrace you. [pre-closing]

(h) **Estragon:** (irritably) Not now, Not now. [closing]

Going by the structure of the speech event one might say, the opening and the topic of the statement is the statement by Estragon.

(a) **Nothing to be done.** In (b) Vladimir supports the opening topic (a) by Estragon, but in (c) he shifts to act of criticism. Estragon in (d) very cleverly uses a rhetorical question to express his disapproval of Vladimir's criticism in (c). Vladimir realizes that Estragon has been irritated by his criticism in (c) and therefore shifts to the act of appeasing Estragon in (d). Estragon in return supports Vladimir's view with a short and curt **Me too** in (e). Vladimir in (g) continues appeasing and even tries to embrace him. Thus (g) is obviously a pre-closing to his speech event. Estragon has been irritated and therefore he abruptly closes the speech event with **Not now, not now** in (h).

Special Features Of Speech Events

1. The Question – Answer Technique

In *Waiting For Godot* a number of speech events are built on speech acts which are in the form of wh- questions; for example.

Pozzo: (clutching on to Lucky who stutters). What is it? Who is it? (Lucky falls drops every thing and brings down Pozzo with him. They lie helpless among the scattered baggage).

Estragon: Is it Godot?

Vladimir: At last! (He goes towards the heap). Reinforcements at last!

Pozzo: Help!

Estragon: Is it Godot?

Vladimir: We were beginning to weaken. Now we're sure to see the evening out.

Pozzo: Help!

Estragon: Do you hear him?

Vladimir: We are no longer alone, waiting for the night, waiting for Godot, waiting for waiting. All evening we have struggled, unassisted. Now it's over. It's already tomorrow.

Pozzo: Help!

Vladimir: Time flows again already. The sun will set, the moon will rise, and we away... from here.

Pozzo: Pity!

Vladimir: Poor Pozzo.

Estragon: I know it was him.

Vladimir: Who?

Estragon: Godot.

Vladimir: But it's not Godot.

Estragon: It's not Godot.

Vladimir: It's not Godot.

Estragon: Then who is it?

Vladimir: It's Pozzo.

Pozzo: Here! Here! Help me up!

Vladimir: He can't get up.

Estragon: Let's go.

Vladimir: We can't.

Estragon: Why not?

Vladimir: We're waiting for Godot.

Again we would notice that the speech event quoted above begins with a wh-question **what is it?** By Pozzo and is reinforced by **Estragon: Is it Godot?** And further Estragon repeats it by saying **Is it Godot? Do you hear him?** In this particular speech event these questions perform a very important function. The answers to these questions are not expohorically available.

None has seen Godot, not has heard Godot, none knows how he looks exactly. Therefore here these questions perform an important function in the speech event. In a normal speech event a normal question is followed by an answer but it is interesting that this speech event violates the normal technique of question answers for the development of a speech event. Most of the questions about Godot remain unanswered. For example:

Estragon: Is it Godot?

Vladimir: At last! Reinforcement at last!

By indulging in this technique Beckett wants to work on the subconscious level of the reader/audience. It may look 'absurd' that some of the questions remain unanswered but a deeper understanding analysis of such speech events could tell us that life in general has many events of which we have no knowledge and control.

2. Violation of the Structure of Speech Events

There is violation of the structure of speech events as mentioned by Saville-Troike (1982) and Hatch (1992).

There are several speech events in this play, which violate the structure appropriate to them. For example, 'After you' is always used as a social etiquette when one indicates another person to enter a building, a room etc. first. This is only a notion of social courtesy and respect to another person. It will negate the social etiquette if it is needed for something, which is negative.

Estragon: Let's hang ourselves immediately!

Vladimir: From a bough? (They go towards the tree.) I wouldn't trust it.

Estragon: We can always try.

Vladimir: Go ahead.

Estragon: After you.

Vladimir: No, no, you first.

Estragon: Why me?

Vladimir: You're lighter than me.

Estragon: Just so!

There are two violations of the structure of speech events here. **After you** is used for an act of hanging which is not part of social manners or etiquettes? Once a person uses **after you** it has to be followed by either **thank you** or the person spoken to performing the act. But Estragon asks **Why me?** By doing this both Estragon and Vladimir act as clowns in a circus. This leads to a farcical style and comic form peculiar to itself. "And it is this comic method which has made theatre of absurd more widely acceptable..." (Styan: 1981; 127)

The violation of the structure of the speech events is not only restricted to using a speech act which doesn't fit in the speech event as described in the example above, but the structure of speech event is also violated to create a new speech event which does not fit in social fabric of English speaking society. For example:

Vladimir: You must be happy, too, deep down, if you only knew it.

Estragon: Happy about what?

Vladimir: To be back with me again.

Estragon: Would you say so?

Vladimir: Say you are, even if it's not true.

Estragon: What am I to say?

Vladimir: Say, I am happy.

Estragon: I am happy.

Vladimir: So I am.

Estragon: So am I.

Vladimir: We are happy.

Estragon: We are happy. (Silence) What do we do now, now that we are happy?

Vladimir: Wait for Godot. (Estragon groans. Silence.) Things have changed since yesterday.

Estragon: And if he doesn't come?

Vladimir: (After a moment of bewilderment). We'll see when the time comes. (Pause) I was saying that things have changed here since yesterday.

Estragon: Everything oozes

Vladimir: Look at the tree.

This speech event begins with Vladimir's **You must be happy**, Estragon doesn't say yes and to Vladimir's statement **To be back with me again**, Estragon uses a rhetorical question **Would you say so?** thereby not accepting Vladimir's statement and Vladimir says **Say you are even if it is not true and like clowns both Estragon and Vladimir repeat **I am happy. So am I, We are happy.** Now they need to close the speech event and therefore Estragon mentions **What do we do now, that we are happy.** Vladimir replies **Wait for Godot** followed by an abrupt shift in the speech event. This creation of a new structure of speech event plays an important role in the development of the play. This speech event is useless and therefore reflects the purposelessness of life. First Estragon and Vladimir are not happy but through this artificial creation of the speech event they want to create a conscious happy situation which actually does not exist and what do they do in this conscious artificial happy situation, **Wait for Godot.** Therefore Beckett consciously and with a purpose has created such speech events.**

This creation of artificial speech event is sometimes related to use of a grammatical structure which is grammatically correct but may be uncommon. In the first speech event described, Vladimir says **Get up till I embrace you and Estragon replies **not now, not now.** There are two violations by Vladimir here, (a) Embracing is a non-verbal social act, one never invites or requests another person for an act of embracing, it is a natural spontaneous non-verbal act. (b) Assuming that in an artificial speech event one wanted to make a verbal request for embracing another person one would use an imperative sentence which is a command or an order but one would use a yes-no question and probably one may even frame a question in such a way so that the request is not turned down.**

Hatch (1992; 156) mentions that "one way to avoid the possibility that the invitation will be turned down is to preface it with a permission, request..." Therefore even in a hypothetical speech event Vladimir could have used "would you mind if I embrace you?" and Estragon would have no choice but to accept this request. By using an imperative structure for a non-verbal event Beckett has been successful to bring out the real character of

Vladimir and Estragon. Probably Laurel and Hardy would do this but a normal human being would not. The use of a verbal speech for a non-verbal act is a reflection of "absurdity". This indicates that a person like Vladimir is not sure of his relationship with Estragon. This almost amounts to a situation where one character asks another character "Can I shake my hand with you?" This can only lead to a humorous situation or the failing of verbal communication, as it is not related to the action following it.

Another example of the violation of the speech event comes at the end of both the acts. Act I ends with Estragon saying **Well, shall we go?** And Vladimir replies **yes, let's go.** But Beckett stage direction mentions that they do not move. Act II ends with Vladimir and Estragon swapping the question and answer. Any interrogative sentence beginning with **shall** is a suggestion. Quirk et al (1985; 230) mention that "the use of shall in such sentences is for making suggestions about shared activities." The use of "shall we" includes reference to the addressee. In this case the suggestions of the speaker in Act I and II is accepted by the addressee and as per the normal rules of the speech event one would expect both the characters to move but Beckett mentions that they do not move. This immobility on the part of Vladimir and Estragon is an indication of static situation in which the characters of *Waiting for Godot* have been entrapped. And therefore Godot is perhaps the new social order for which they are waiting.

3. Repetition of a Speech Event.

There is a speech event which is repeated six times in the play.

Estragon: Let's go.

Vladimir: We can't go.

Estragon: Why not?

Vladimir: We are waiting for Godot.

Estragon: Ah!

This exchange reflects Estragon's feelings of impatience and boredom while waiting for Godot. Beckett has very carefully repeated this exchange six times to reflect that Estragon and Vladimir want to get out of this situation but they are not able to do so. This is the dilemma of the modern man, particularly in the metropolis. The original French play *En Attendant Godot* was published in 1952. Bair (1978) mentions that "the first page of the French manuscript bears the date 9 Octobre 1948 and the last 29 Janvier 1949". These were the years of post war Europe; obviously Beckett must have been affected by the destruction during the Second World War and particularly by the occupation of France by Nazi German during this period. One of the reasons for the outbreak of II World war was industrialization of Germany and so after the II World war, several European countries particularly France were on the way to industrialization. Metropolitan cities were coming up, and people were moving from rural to urban areas. The old social order even in the West European countries was changing. Estragon and Vladimir are part of this social change. This was the period of transition. In the sixties we would have the cult of love babies, hippies, and eighties and nineties would be the period of drug addiction etc. Therefore the period from 1945 to 1960 was the period of transition from the old social order to a new social structure in the Western world. Estragon and Vladimir are bored and depressed with this social order. Godot is the new social order for which the whole society is waiting and therefore repeating the same speech event is a device that Beckett uses to reinforce the dilemma of the modern man.

There are a number of other speeches, which are repeated. For example:

Vladimir: They make a noise like wings.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: Like sand.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Vladimir: They make a noise like feathers.

Estragon: Like leaves

Vladimir: Like ashes.

Estragon: Like leaves.

Indian Poetry in English: Turn-of-the-Century Signposts (PART 4)



By DR. MURARI PRASAD
SANA A UNIVERSITY

Like Ezekiel in Bombay, Jayanta Mahapatra, too, seems to have nurtured and influenced a small band of new voices including Rabintra K. Swain, Prabhanjan K. Mishra and Niranjan Mohanty. Swain's *A Tapestry of Steps* (1999) has poems such as 'Need of Rain', 'The Music of rain', 'Last Night the rain', which contain beautiful flashes and unusual images, but sometimes grammatical liberties taken by the poet are awkward and obtrusive. Mishra and Mohanty too try to line up behind Mahapatra's stylistic manifesto with occasional success.

These small regional groups apart, there have been no schools, literary movements in Indian poetry in English. Its history is discontinuous and scattered with multiplicity of constituencies and voices. They do not constitute a tradition. It is healthy in one sense: the emergence of strong and original styles. Notable among a handful of poets who have the promise to make their mark in the upcoming years are Bibhu Padhi, Hoshang Merchant, Gerson da Cunha, Makarand Paranjape, Sanjukta Dasgupta and Vijay Nambisan. Padhi has published four anthologies of poems including *Painting the House* (1999). Influenced by modern American Poetry, Padhi uses spare language to evoke local Oriya ambience and, as Jayanta Mahapatra puts it, 'feelings that question his culture's and his own links with nature...'. In many of these poems he cogitates about philosophy, religion, pain and the 'truth of things, behind things'. In his forthcoming volume, tentatively titled *Meditations on Being*, each of the series of poems is based on a single Upanishadic *shloka*. Hoshang Merchant has nine books of poems to his credit. The dominant flavour of his verse is his candid and unabashed celebration of homosexual love. Besides, he can reside on different terrains with gay abandon. Gerson da Cunha's travel poems in *So Far* (2000) evoke the thrill of his diverse range of experiences in Uganda, Kenya, New York and Berlin. With these technically accomplished unostentatious poems Gerson da Cunha is among HarperCollins' contenders in the new-comer stakes. The mainstay of Makarand Paranjape's early poems is modern love with varied manifestations. In his latest collection of poems *Used Book* (2001), he has tried his hand at satirical poems. Paranjape is capable of well-made phrases, but his lines lack resonance and suggestiveness.

Sanjukta Dasgupta's latest volume *Dilemma* (2002) is her second book of poems. Her debut collection *Snapshots* (1996) was published by Writers Workshop, Calcutta. Sanjukta is one of

the notable new voices in the English-language Indian poetry. She has an interestingly individual sensibility, and she constructs her lines around an intricate filigree of moods and perceptions. For once the blurb, which speaks of the poet's engagement with "the micropolitics of daily experience", is exactly right. Besides, her sincere motivation for reclaiming women's experiences is another significant strand of her verse. In 'Shame' she writes:

Now enfolded, slowed, shackled in cloth

Lifelong imprisonment of shameful vulgar limbs

I hide and seek lifelong, Saree shackled woman

Crippled but with limbs intact Waits and waits and waits

For that midnight hour Of metamorphosis—

I am now stark dark Kali With flying tresses unbound

Writing free verse, as someone has said somewhere, is like playing tennis with the net down. Sanjukta's poems show her signing up for the ground rules of the game and notching up scores. Unfortunately, she hasn't gone on fast track, probably on account of wearing different hats— professional academic, short story writer, critic, prolific translator.

Finally, it is heartening to note that now so many poets on the English-language Indian poetry terrain do achieve publication. Penguin Books, Disha/Orient Longman, Yeti books—an English publishing house mainly for poetry—Rupa, Ravi Dayal, Indialog and many others are setting about the task with gusto alongside a range of little magazines, such as *Chandrabhaga* in its sophisticated and resuscitated avatar—one of the best sources for new poetry in India—edited by Jayanta Mahapatra, *The Little Magazine* edited by Antara Dev Sen, *International Gallerie* edited by Bina Sarkar Ellias, *Indian Literature* edited by K. Satchidanandan, and, of course, *The New Miscellany*, published by Writers workshop, Calcutta.

In the end, I should like to return to the point of worldliness and savvy commercialism in the quote from Jayanta Mahapatra at the head of this paper. It is true that poetry is not the staple of the high-profile publishers, grudging as they are in publishing poetry. Dom Moraes too shares this view: 'The bigger and more established publishers in India, if they touched poetry at all, seemed to do so under the duress; as if it would defile their delicate fingers, used to the feel of banknotes.' However, the available verse of recent vintage does not seem to be a shrinking patch against the novel. Perhaps aficionados feel, as Arthur N Sanderson has put it, that poetry alone can offer a window of relief from a stressful, information-soaked culture, 'a dazzling glimpse of snowy peaks above the murk of day to day existence'.

CONCLUDED

Estragon: Our relaxations

Vladimir: Our elongations

Estragon: Our relaxations

Vladimir: To warm us up.

Estragon: To calm us down.

Vladimir: Off we go.

particularly fruitful given the range of possible uses to which it could be put. The poetic and aesthetic aspects of device are perhaps the strongest witness to its value in Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*.

Conclusions

We find that the concepts of speech event and speech act are useful in understanding the development of discourse in drama. The question-answer technique, violation of the structure of speech events and repetition are a few devices of dramatic discourse discussed in this paper. Thus in one sense dramatic discourse is like the language used in day-to-day conversation. In another sense, it is different as it uses techniques that are different from the conversational discourse in normal life. However, it is clear that modern playwrights like Beckett has used the same techniques for dramatic discourse. How each playwright moulds these techniques gives him a distinct style of his own.

References
Bair, D. (1978).

Waugh helps Australia salvage draw

By Julian Linden

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Steve Waugh has scored a fighting half-century in his farewell test to help Australia save the fourth and final test with India and draw the series.

Waugh made 80 to finish his career in a blaze of glory while Simon Katich finished 77 not out as Australia recovered from an early batting collapse to reach 357 for six when the match ended at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

Set 443 to win, Australia briefly appeared to be in danger of losing the match after losing Justin Langer and Matthew Hayden prior to lunch then Ricky Ponting and Damien Martyn before tea.

But they eventually finished 86 short of their target with four wickets in hand after

Waugh, who received a standing ovation on his arrival at the crease and again when he walked off, came to the rescue.

The 38-year-old batted almost three hours, sharing a fifth-wicket partnership of 142 with Katich, to deny India their first series win in Australia and ensure himself a heroic farewell.

Waugh's half-century was the 50th of his career and took his final aggregate to 10,927 runs, second only to his former skipper Allan Border, at an average of 51.06.

He survived a few early scares after coming to the wicket when Martyn departed midway through the day but steadily grew in confidence, striking 15 boundaries before throwing his wicket away in a last desperate attempt to snatch a century.

With only five overs remaining and



Australia's captain Steve Waugh comes out to bat for the last time before he retires during the final day of the fourth test against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday. Waugh scored a fighting half-century in his farewell test to help Australia save the test and draw the series. REUTERS/David Gray

needing another 20 for a 33rd test hundred, Waugh's last innings came to an end when he was caught on the square leg boundary by man of the match Sachin Tendulkar off the bowling of Anil Kumble.

Australia lost Adam Gilchrist in the same over for four but Katich, whose first innings century helped Australia reach 474 in reply to India's mammoth 705-7, steered Australia safely through to the end.

Alarming angles

Waugh and Katich had come together before tea with Australia in trouble at 196-4 and leg spinner Kumble starting to turn the ball at alarming angles.

Kumble took 8-141 in Australia's first knock, the best return by a bowler in a test at the SCG for 106 years, and added the second innings scalps of Hayden, Martyn, Waugh and Gilchrist to give himself 12 for the match.

Hayden departed for 30 with the total

on 75 when he was caught by Rahul Dravid at slip while Martyn went for 40 after lunch when he was caught by substitute fielder Yuvraj Singh at short fine-leg.

Hayden's opening partner Langer, another first innings centurion, threw his wicket away in the morning session when he lofted Murali Kartik to Virender Sehwag at deep mid-off.

Ponting, who will succeed Waugh as Australia's next test skipper, went for 47 when he hit a return catch to Ifran Pathan, ending the series as the leading runscorer with 706 at an average of 100.86.

While Waugh's departing heroics were enough to save Australia from their first series loss at home in 11 years, he was powerless to stop the tourists from retaining the Border-Gavaskar trophy.

The series finished 1-1 after India won the second test in Adelaide and Australia won the third match in Melbourne. The first test was drawn.

Davenport desperate to go out at the top

By Ossian Shine

PERTH, Jan 6 (Reuters) - Former world number one Lindsay Davenport is in a race against the clock to prime herself for this month's Australian Open.

Having recovered from foot surgery — her second operation in 19 months — the American is determined to give a good showing in Melbourne after admitting she does not know how long she will continue playing.

"This is my 13th year so I am nearer the end than the beginning," she said in Perth at the Hopman Cup.

"You know, surgery twice in 19 months isn't easy. There is a lot of disappointment and regret that it happened to me and of course you wonder if you can come back.

"But I am still out here for a reason, I just don't want to leave the sport

having been injured all the time.

"I want one more good year. I really have no idea how long I will keep playing or any timetable — it (retirement) could be next month or in the next few years."

Davenport looked rusty in her Hopman Cup match, beating 142nd-ranked Barbora Strýcová 6-4 6-3.

"I had surgery around October 15th and didn't pick up a racket until December 10th or something like that," the world number five said. "The foot hasn't bothered me since then but I still feel I am many matches away from really feeling great."

A former Australian Open, U.S. Open and Wimbledon champion, the 27-year-old has her eyes firmly fixed on Melbourne Park for the first grand slam of the year on January 19th.

"I don't know what to expect, I can only hope I will be ready," she smiled ruefully.

Contest (1)

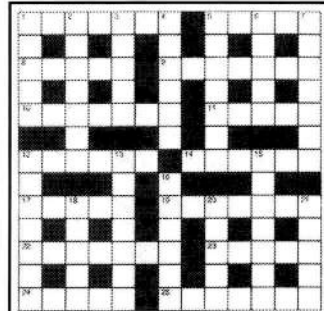
مسابقة رقم (1)

إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

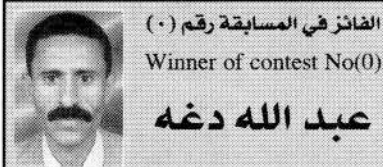
preperd by Al-Farouk institute of languages & computers

الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز اكسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وامريكا

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- | | |
|---|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Mischief (7) | 1 (Rainbow) fish (5) |
| 5 Game for 4 — TV game show (5) | 2 Watch closely (7) |
| 8 Water-hole in the desert (5) | 3 Swiss city (anagram of SABLE) (5) |
| 9 Line around the centre of the earth (7) | 4 Happenings (6) |
| 10 Tease unkindly (7) | 5 Wash clothes (7) |
| 11 Mountain song (5) | 6 Speak (5) |
| 12 You need to break eggs to make one! (6) | 7 — Festival: autumn celebration (7) |
| 14 Sudden fear (6) | 12 Tentacle sea creature (7) |
| 17 Name of a book, perhaps (5) | 13 Put to death (7) |
| 19 Essential letter element for a good diet (7) | 15 Vault, beam or parallel bars for this person (7) |
| 22 Flightless bird or a chocolate biscuit (7) | 16 Tree-lined street (6) |
| 23 A 22A might make a good one! (5) | 18 Slight colour (5) |
| 24 Strainer (5) | 20 Flavour (5) |
| 25 Chosen in a ballot (7) | 21 Without clothes (5) |



الفائز في المسابقة رقم (1)

Winner of contest No(1)

عبد الله دغه

جائزة هذه المسابقة هي دورة لغة انكليزية مقدمة من معهد الفاروق

The present of this contest is an English course presented by Al-Farouk Institute

الاسم : رقم البطاقة : التليفون :

تسلم الاجابات الى سكرتارية المعهد او ترسل عبر الفاكس في موعد اقصاه الأربعاء وسوف يتم نشر صورة الفائز او الفائزة مع الاسم في العدد القادم

Answers should be delivered to the institute or send by fax at least on Wednesday

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البريد الالكتروني : Email:alfarouk26@hotmail.com الموقع على الأنترنت : www.alfaroukinst.netfirms.com

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

<p>Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)</p> <p>Be careful how you handle situations at home. Someone may not be in agreement with the way you are doing things. You may have a chance to rearrange your living quarters.</p>	<p>Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)</p> <p>Things may not be as they appear, so dig deeper if you want to find out the whole truth. Someone may be trying to protect you from hurt feelings. Money matters can be improved with a few changes.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</p> <p>Make the effort to improve your finances today. Don't take someone else's word for what options you have. Find out for yourself.</p>
<p>Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)</p> <p>Relationship opportunities will be present. Go on a blind date if you are single or do something special with your current lover. Get in touch with someone from your past.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)</p> <p>Do something about the things that concern you so much. Stop talking and take action. You must use all your connections in order to make things better.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>You may have to break the tension today when it comes to your personal relationship. If you haven't been communicating, you may have a lot to explain. Be fair to both yourself and the people around you.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)</p> <p>Don't back away from the chance to move up in the world. Job opportunities are better than you think. You may have to look at your past to decide what you want to do in the future.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)</p> <p>Someone may listen to your ideas and offer empty promises. Someone is likely to put obstacles in your way, so be prepared to do whatever you must to deal with his or her actions.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)</p> <p>The extra effort you take will be noticed and should lead to rewards. Take care of any social situation with diplomacy. You will have the discipline to finish what you start.</p>
<p>Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)</p> <p>You may find yourself indecisive about personal matters. When in doubt, refrain from doing anything. Time is on your side, so stay calm.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)</p> <p>You'll have everything under control today, so get as much done as possible. Romance is likely to come your way if you are single. If you're not, plan something special with your lover. Travel, communication and research look good.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)</p> <p>You can turn your ideas into reality, even though it will take a bit of a financial risk. This could turn out to be a very romantic day if you are receptive as well as suggestive about your needs and feelings.</p>

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	25	24	25	25	24	24	24
Lo	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Aden	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	29	29	30	29	31	32	31
Lo	22	21	21	21	21	19	19

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

LOG ENTRY: 2704.01.04
WITH MY GALAXY POSITIONING SYSTEM BROKEN, I HAD TO RELY ON MY WITS ALONE TO FIND MY WAY BACK HOME.

MY FUEL WAS RUNNING LOW. LUCKILY, THE SENSORS HAD DETECTED A LARGE DEPOSIT OF UTOPIAN CRYSTALS ON A SMALL PLANET WHERE I COULD SET DOWN AND REFUEL.

THE PLANET WAS RULED BY A RUTHLESS DICTATOR WHO MADE THE MISTAKE OF SITTING ON TOP OF THE CRYSTAL FUEL TOWER I NEEDED.

HI, THERE! FILL 'ER UP..

..GASP.. WE'VE BEEN INVADED!

HE'S AFTER THE PEDESTAL OF POWER!!

THE PEOPLE WERE HAPPY AND GRATEFUL. ALTHOUGH I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THEIR LANGUAGE, IT WAS CLEAR THEY WANTED ME TO STAY AND RULE OVER THEM.

W-W-WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?

KILL HIM!!

INSTEAD, I INTRODUCED THEM TO THE SERENITY OF SELF-RULE. THEY THANKED ME BY GIVING ME ALL THE FUEL I NEEDED...

YOU'RE WELCOME. 'BYE!

ALLLLL!! HE'S TAKING OUR SOURCE OF LIFE!

...AND I LEFT THEM WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE WHILE I CONTINUED MY VOYAGE, SPREADING WISDOM AND PROSPERITY ALONG THE WAY.

LOG OUT.

FOOM

WWW.UCOMICS.COM

Scientists pin Mars Beagle hopes on mother ship

By JASON HOPPS

LONDON, Jan 6 (Reuters) - European scientists begin last ditch attempts on Wednesday to contact the missing Beagle 2 Mars probe that might have crashed during its Christmas Day touchdown.

The first fully European mission to the planet was designed to answer the question "Is there life on Mars?" but efforts to contact it have failed — in contrast to a U.S. probe that began sending back pictures of the planet's surface this week.

Scientists searching for the British-built Beagle said hopes were riding on its mother ship picking up a signal at around 1215 GMT on Wednesday when it passes directly above the landing site. "With the overpass we will have the first optimum opportunity for the Beagle 2 to communicate with the mothership, the Mars Express," said a spokesman for the Beagle 2 project.

"If we're going to get a result at all, it's going to be via this route, but there are other days coming up after tomorrow. This is just the first try," he added.

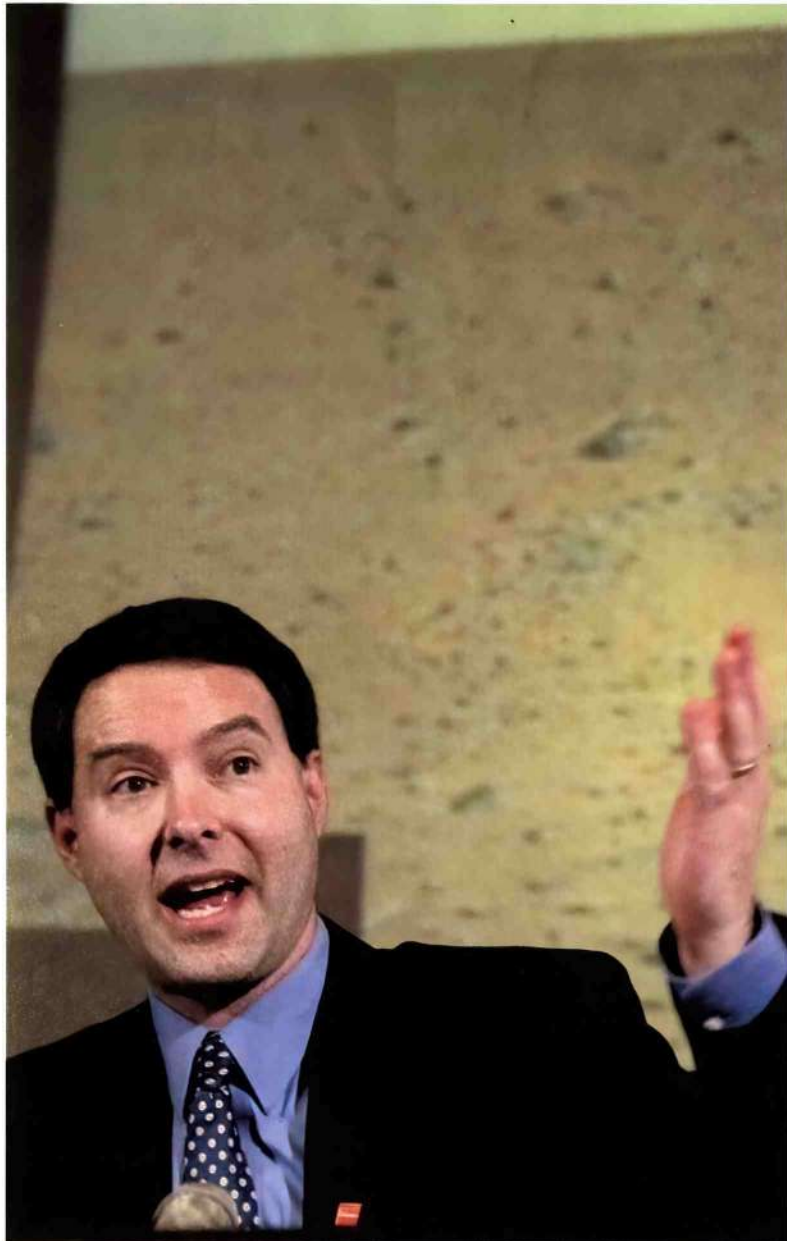
Earlier attempts by NASA's Mars Odyssey Orbiter and the Lovell Telescope in Britain have failed to detect Beagle 2, raising fears the 45-million-pound (\$82 million) probe crashed on landing. Mars Express is scheduled to pass directly over the landing site on January 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th for about five to eight minutes each time.

Other passes by Mars Express on January 12th and 14th would be potentially much longer, providing even better possibilities to talk to Beagle 2.

While Mars has a formidable record as a graveyard for space missions, NASA successfully landed a golf-cart sized rover on the planet at the weekend.

NASA's "Spirit" was the fourth probe to successfully land on Mars, about 100 million km (63 million miles) from Earth.

Beagle 2 is packed with state-of-the-art instruments to scrape, bore and



Dr. Jim Bell of Cornell University, payload element lead for the PanCam aboard the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit, describes the first color panoramic image released by the rover during. The image of the surface of the planet is projected behind Bell. REUTERS

retrieve samples from the surface of Mars, seeking signs whether the planet has ever sustained life.

It has an estimated maximum operational life of 180 days before the dust

and extremes of temperature on Mars are expected to put it out of action. "We haven't in any shape or form given up on Beagle 2," mission head Colin Pillinger said.



This is a detail view of the smooth surfaces of angular and rounded rocks seen in an image taken on Mars which may be the result of wind-polishing debris. REUTERS



This image shows marks in the Martian soil (upper right) made by the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit's airbags during their final deflation and retraction. The picture was taken by the panoramic camera on the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit and released the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California January 6, 2004. REUTERS/NASA/JPL/Cornell University/Handout REUTERS

Astronauts hunt for possible air leak on station

By BROWARD LISTON

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Jan 6 (Reuters) - Astronauts aboard the International Space Station scoured the facility with ultrasound equipment but failed to find a leak that could be causing a slow loss of air pressure, NASA said on Tuesday.

Ground controllers in Houston and Moscow have determined the station has been losing pressure since Dec. 22 at what NASA described as "a rather slow rate."

Both NASA and Russian space officials said it posed no danger to the crew.

The two astronauts aboard, British-born NASA astronaut Michael Foale and Russian Alexander Kaleri, were only told about the leak on Monday and immediately began an inspection of valves and hatches aboard the station, which turned up nothing.

On Tuesday, NASA had them break out an ultrasound leak detector for a survey of the interior of the 200-tonne

spacecraft, which proved equally fruitless.

Next, NASA will have Foale and Kaleri try closing hatches between the Russian and U.S. segments to see if the leak can be isolated that way, NASA spokesman Pat Ryan said.

"The situation has become significant enough that a thorough investigation is under way that will continue over the next days and, perhaps, weeks," Ryan said.

Konstantin Kreidenko from the Russian space agency Rosaviakosmos

said experts were checking various theories to establish the source of the pressure drop but singled out two most probable reasons.

"There could be two versions — either there are some problems with measuring equipment which show pressure drop or there is a small leak on board of the International Space Station," Kreidenko told Russia's First Channel television.

NASA reported the current pressure was only about 0.5 pounds per square inch below that at sea level on Earth,

and the rate of pressure loss was less than .038 pounds per square inch a day.

NASA cautioned that the cause might be something other than a leak, such as a faulty oxygen generator that has worked only intermittently during recent weeks.

Foale and Kaleri rocketed into orbit from Kazakhstan in October and are to return there in April on a Russian capsule, the only means of travel to the station while U.S. shuttles are grounded in the wake of the Columbia disaster.

Apple rolls out cheaper iPod

By DUNCAN MARTELL

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Apple Computer Inc. on Tuesday said it would introduce a smaller and cheaper version of its popular iPod music player next month to challenge rivals in the market for flash-memory-based digital devices.

In a presentation at MacWorld in San Francisco, Apple (AAPL.O: Quote, Profile, Research) Chief Executive Steve Jobs said that Apple had shipped 730,000 iPod units in the most recent quarter, giving it the market-leading position among digital music players.

Apple said it had sold over 2 million iPod units since the launch of the popular digital music player, which has won a following for its huge storage capacity and sleek design.



The iPod has also received a boost from Apple's online music store, iTunes, which the company said has sold more than 30 million songs — an increase of 5 million tracks from the

sales numbers announced by the company less than a month ago.

"This thing is on fire," Jobs said of the iPod.

The new "iPod mini" will be priced

at \$249 — \$50 cheaper than the current entry-level iPod.

The device, smaller than most cell phones, will offer 4 gigabytes of storage — enough to hold about 1,000 songs — and will be sold in five colors, Jobs said.

Analysts had widely expected Apple to introduce a cheaper iPod to head off competition from cheaper, flash-memory based music players, especially for a younger consumers.

In his presentation, Jobs said that the company would phase out its entry-level 10-gigabyte iPod and offer a 15-gigabyte model instead for the same price of \$299.

The prices on the 20-gigabyte iPod and the top-of-the-line 40-gigabyte model, which is able to hold about 10,000 songs, remained at \$399 and \$499 respectively.

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الداعري
لتأجير وشراء
الأخشاب للخرسانة
المسلحة

العنوان:
شارع ١٦ المتفرع من شارع
هاثل، تلفون ٧١١٠٩٢٧٣،
٩٦٧ - ٢٠٤٦٧٠

صنعا - الجمهورية اليمنية
صنعا، ت: ٧١١٠٩٢٧٣

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صنعا، ت: ٧١١٠٩٢٧٣

Opticals
مختصون في العدسات
اللاصقة

أخصائيو عيون
شارع علي عبدالغني، صنعا،
ت: ٧٢٧٣٧٠

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St.Tel: 7960199

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عبدالنبي

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Sana'a Tel: 272976

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حياطة
فيلاط قصر
النيل

للرجال والنساء
For Man And Women

المركز الرئيسي صنعا، قاع
العليفي شارع بيروت، ت: ٢٨٨٧٧٧

فرع حدة - أمام عمارة الغراسي، ت:
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Head Center Sana'a (Ga'a
Al-Ofufi) Berut St. Tel No.
285877-P.O Box: 19056
HaddahBranch- Sana'a
Haddah St. In front of Al-
Gharasy Building- Tel:
261818

Head Center Sana'a (Ga'a
Al-Ofufi) Berut St. Tel No.
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مزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت 2/286861) فيكتور 73810416

الأدوية المزورة
احذروا الأدوية المزورة
الموجودة في الصيدليات
أخي الصيدلاني،
المريض أمانة في عنقك فلا تجلب له
الأدوية المزورة.

The Children Draw their Dreams

The outset of Al-Saeed cultural activities for 2004

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture inaugurated activities of Al-Saeed Cultural Forum for the year 2004 with a splendid morning festival and a cultural program attracted the attention. Not only a new day but an exceptional one indeed as well as a cultural program which commences exceptionally at Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture, this year.

This exceptional activity comes beautiful and bombastic, flavored with love and coffee flavor whose odor infest the lanes and alleyways of Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital for the year 2004.

The Morning of January 4, 2004 witnessed the opening of Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture hall was the venue in which the events of the ceremony were conducted. It was attended this year by the cultural elite, in the forefront of whom was the Judge Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajjri, the Governor of Taiz, Alhaj Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Consultative Council member Mr. Mohsen Al-Yousefi, Mr. Abdulhameed Alhadi and Mr. Saleh Obad Al-Khowlani as well as members of the local and executive authorities in the Governorate.

Then the governor Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajjri delivered a speech expressing his pleasure for attending the gathering grouping the experienced elderly people



The Panel (L-R) Mr. Mohammed al-Sofi, Mr. Saleh Obad Al-Khowlani, Mr. Abdulhameed Alhadi, Mr. Ahmad Abdullah Al-Hajjri, Alhaj Ali Mohammed Saeed, and Mr. Mohsen Al-Yousefi



Governor Al-Hajjri opens annual activities of the Foundation

proud of the foundation which works for the prosperity of the Capital, Culture and Tourism and that it is great to celebrate in the two capitals Taiz, the Capital of Culture and Tourism and Sana'a the Arab Cultural Capital for the year 2004. At last the governor thanked Mr. Faisal Saeed Farie for his continued activities and that he has proved to be the hub of many activities, affirming that he was the proper man at the proper place.

After that a speech was delivered by

their Dreams' was the first step in this respect.

He also called upon all establishments of the public and private sectors namely, the cultural ones to join efforts towards bringing into view the civilized humane image of our homeland, that thinkers and innovators should take part effectively.

Mr. Faisal Saeed Farie said in his address that this wonderful and exciting ceremony opens windows on the horizon of dreams which come true by the declaration of Sana'a as a cultural capital for the year 2004. Sana'a originally merits such a title for it was by and large the cradle of the Arabs and that the foundation is distinguished in its contributions of which is holding the event titled "The Children Drawing their Dreams"

When asked what is the reason behind the children's festival?

He answered that it is an opportunity to witness the children express themselves through colors so as to have a contact with their language expressed as such and so as to know their dreams, their aspirations, what they like and what they dislike as well as how we can approach them.

To What extent is the reaction of the children, did they express themselves?

The reaction was unexpected, for the children enthusiastically expressed themselves through their drawings in a way that made us feel proud. In fact this event helps to consolidate the necessity to treat children as full entities for they shall never react except if they are treated with sincerity and confidence as well as getting rid of the traditional hurdles which made them abstain from divulging their deepest feelings. During our tour of the chil-

dren drawings exhibition, we stood in front of a drawing that attracted our attention. The student who drew it is named Nisreen from Arwa School. We asked her to explain to us what does this drawing stand for? She answered that there was the Palestinian flag above the city of

Jerusalem and an injured dove flying there above in connotation of the unestablished peace and the Palestinian children confronting the Israeli brutal occupation.

We also met with Mr. Abdulhameed Alhadi who told Yemen Times that he was impressed to have found effective

participation by the disabled children and that after all the results are impressive.

On the whole, it seems that the purpose behind such an event was served and the children were able to express themselves through drawing their dreams on paper flamboyantly.



Mr. Imad al-Saqaf with Governor Al-Hajjri, reviewing Nisreen's drawing

with the younger aspirants of a better future, at the beginning of the new year that coincides with the occasion of the declaration of Sana'a as the Arab Cultural Capital for the Year 2004.

He went on to say that the Old city of Sana'a represents a deep cultural vestige that reflects the extent to which our ancestors excelled and how our civilization spread out of its borders and was emulated by others. That the experienced older elite who occupy posts at official and social levels are the mentors for our young population towards a brighter future.

The governor indicated that he is

Alhaj Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Consultative Council Member who welcomed those present and congratulated his excellency the president of the Republic on the occasion of declaring Sana'a the cultural Arab Capital for the Year 2004, affirming that this event requires joining of efforts towards raising cultural aspects to the level of such an event. Regarding Al-Saeed Cultural Forum, there will be many activities to come aiming at adding a qualitative flair to the cultural panorama so that others can follow suit. He went on to say that the festival of "The Children Drawing



Group picture of the foundation leadership, visitors and talented children

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