

Over oil deal scandal

Parliament confronts government

By MOAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni parliament has mounted its objections to the government over the oil deal scandal. The MPs demanded Monday, that Premier Abdulqader Bajamal should be summoned before the parliament, to explain his governments lingering over calling off the oil deal, as recommended by the house of representatives last June.

Some MPs have even started collecting signatures to support a vote on

a motion of no confidence in the government, which has been accused of corruption on different fronts. Bajamal was expected to appear Wednesday before parliament to explain the reasons for not fulfilling the parliament's recommendations. He said in a message sent to parliament last Monday, that his government is facing some difficulties in abolishing the oil contract with two companies who bought 15% of the government portion in the oil field 53 in Hadramaut, as the parliament recommended that the contract should be called off without any

financial obligation on the state towards the contracted companies. The message pointed out that the government is trying to calm the problem.

The ministry of oil previously signed the contract in which it sold 60% of the oil in field No. 53 at \$13 million per year, while its annual revenue reached \$20 million. At the time it denied that the deal was against the law and said that it was in favor of Yemen. But this was not convincing to the parliament which said the deal would have caused Yemen to lose YR 37 billion, had it been implemented.



Ba Jammal

World Bank country manager admits:

WB support for Yemen could decline

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Robert Hindle, the World Bank's Country Manager based in Sanaa said that Yemen is demanded to do much more in its economic reforms. He emphasized that the World Bank could not continue providing the same level of funding and assistance, if the country did not implement the necessary reform measures needed and agreed upon.

He said that he had already informed the authorities clearly that support for Yemen might shrink if the country does not speed up its reforms and apply the steps that would help enhance the current rate of economic growth.

"... we think the government needs to do much more than it has in terms of economic reform. We have certainly said to the government that in the medium term, they cannot expect the same level of support in the absence of



Robert Hindle

reforms that they would get with reformation," he said.

Over many years, Yemen was informed of the need to apply strict and necessary to help revive the economy. If applied properly, the World Bank believes that the reforms would help bring more accountability, more investments and job opportunities, more transparency, and would result in less corruption and inefficiency.

See complete interview on page 9

US combats child labor in Yemen with \$8 million

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United States ambassador Thomas Krajleski announced that his country has allocated \$8 million for combating child labor in Yemen. A press release issued by the US embassy in Sana'a said that the "US Department of Labor will spend \$8 million on a four-year joint campaign to combat child labor in Yemen and Lebanon."

The statement said that the project entitled "Alternatives to Combat Child Labor Through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa region" is a part of a regional strategy to dramatically reduce the levels of exploitative child labor in 14 nations.

"The project seeks to reduce the level of exploitative child labor in Yemen and Lebanon by providing education, skills

training and entrepreneurial opportunities," the press release said. The project is estimated to target 3,000 Yemeni children, with a special focus on girls. The targeted groups will be children working in the agricultural sector in Hajja and Ibb and in the fishing industry in Abyan.

The number of children working in Yemen is estimated to be over 400,000. Most of these children suffer from different sorts of abuse and harassment, including sexual.

The US granted Yemen \$290 million during the last three years, out of which \$160 million was allocated to the Coast Guard authority and other security purposes.

Yemeni newspapers protest Al-Khaiwani imprisonment

Yemen's opposition newspapers decided Tuesday to cease publication for a

week to protest the imprisonment of an opposition journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani.

A statement by the opposition Weekly Al-Wahdawi, organ of the Nasserite Organization, said the strike was requested by Yemeni journalists to express solidarity with Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, who was sentenced to a year in prison and whose Al-Shoura newspaper was closed for six months.

"The attempt to silence the opinion of others is also an attempt against us all and the arrest of our colleague journalist is aimed at us as well." The statement said.

"As such all opposition newspapers and publications will not be issued for a whole week," it added.

The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate had urged the minister of human rights to intervene immediately to secure Al-Khaiwani's release.

In a letter addressed to the minister, the syndicate denounced the "aggression against Al-Khaiwani" which it said "is aimed at intimidating journalists in general."

Al-Khaiwani was convicted of writings that supported the rebellion of anti-US. Cleric Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, who was killed in a military offensive last week, and of slandering President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Erratum

In the last issue of Yemen Times (No 772), it was mentioned in front-page news story "Rebellion terminated" that battles in Sa'ada resulted in over 20,000 deaths. However, we would like to indicate that the mentioned figure includes the killed or wounded. We apologize to our readership for this unintended mistake.

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Yemeni Journalists Syndicate calls for release of journalists in Iraq

The Journalists Syndicate while following up kidnappings of many professionals, including the kidnapping of French journalists and two Italian ladies working in humanitarian services for the Iraqi people is really amazed that the hostage-takers are claiming that it is part of a legal struggle and approved by the Islamic Shariah.

The Journalists Syndicate - as a lawful organization concerned with the human beings rights, and acquainted with all the doctrines referred to by all the Islamic ideologies, and the people's wise men - disagrees with the kidnapers on such acts and deeds that damage the image of Islam in the eyes of other religions, peoples, nations, and cultures. The syndicate calls for justice and fundamental human rights, and calls on the

kidnappers to quickly release the journalist hostages and the two Italian lady activists plus the third Iraqi lady. The syndicate calls kidnappers to resort to law and reason as directed by the scholars and wise men who observe the Islamic Shariah, and advocate the peaceful coexistence between religions, cultures, nations. The Syndicate repeatedly, advocates speeding up the release of the kidnapped French journalists, the Italian ladies and all other non-military civilian workers, regardless of their nationalities. They urge this and the cessation of all such acts that harm the struggle of the Iraqi people in removing the occupying force from its land, and encourage the use of all legal means for nations to defend themselves, their land, their dignity and their future.

Local authority on the consultative table

The State Consultative Council, in its meeting held in Sana'a last Sunday 12th September, admitted recommendations to facilitate marriage and reduce its cost. In addition, it discussed the report of the local authority evaluating the performance of local councils in eight governorates, and its connection with the implementing apparatus at the local and the central levels. The report focused on checking adherence to, and the application of, the Local Authority's Law rulings and the implementation of the training & Qualifying programs for local council leaders and members.

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Modern technology exhibition in Hodeida

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
HODEIDA BUREAU

The Public Yemeni Corporation of telecommunication in collaboration with Yemen Mobile Company is organizing an exhibition of modern technology at the Yemeni Economic Corporation in Hodeida from Sep, 11-19 2004. Mohammad Saleh Shamlan, the governor of Hodeida, will open the

exhibition.

Many Yemeni companies will participate in the exhibition, such as Sabafon, Spacetel Yemen, Shammakh Co., Abu Imad for Technology, Hodeida University represented by the Faculty of Computer Science, and the Technical Center.

A number of prize draws are going to take place and 15 computers will be available for use to the visitors.

HOOD demands lift of Al-Jazeera ban

The temporary Iraqi government appointed by the occupation forces has ordered the continuing closure of the "Algazirah" channel bureau in Baghdad, following the previous closing which was denounced by all the Rights and Journalism organizations operating in defense of human rights, opinions and freedom of expression.

"HOOD" organization which has previously denounced the temporary closure is again denouncing the procedure of closing for a further indefinite duration. The temporary Iraqi government's

behavior is in conformity with the Arab psyche, brought up in curbing and dictatorship, and being unsatisfied by the disclosure of any information or news of its most aggressive behaviors towards human rights. Despite the temporary government's claims that it tinders a typical democracy so directly after the ruins of a totalitarian ruling failure, it remains under the occupying American leadership, which claims to be liberating Iraq, who accompanies them in administering Iraq's affairs today.

Therefore, "HOOD" reminds this temporary government of the typical democratic convention, it announces day and night, in which all the freedoms are to be preserved, on top of all, the right to obtain information. HOOD urges its release, and the enlightenment of public opinion by it, in hope, that its utterances are obliging to lift the closure and censorship of the "Algazirah" channel bureau in Baghdad, and to guarantee its participation in media activity.

Above provided by the Coordinator, Muhammad Naji Allaw, the Advocate.

Newly-born infant abducted

TAIZ BUREAU

The delivery department at Al-Thawra General Hospital in Taiz witnessed the abduction of a newly born baby, from its bed, on Sunday 12th September.

It is the first time such a tragic incident has occurred at the hospital. It was just a few minutes after the birth (before the baby had even tasted the milk of its mother) when a female abductor seized the chance and stole the baby away, causing confusion and chaos in the hospital. Security authorities are still investigating the incident.

Workshop on comprehensive education

The Swedish Child Care Organization "Radda Barnen", in collaboration with the Social Fund for Development, has organized a course this month in the governorates of Ibb and Dhamar on the concept of comprehensive education.

The three-day course is going to host 30 teachers of grades 1-3.

Dr. Walid Al-Bashir, director of the program at the Radda Barnen, said the organization is taking aid from Jordanian child care experts to deal

with children with learning difficulties.

Two intensive awareness courses are to be held in September and October in Sana'a, tackling the diagnosis and concept of learning difficulties.

The first course targets 20 elementary class teachers from 20 districts, whereas the second targets 30 administrative staff in the same schools.

Female shoppers targeted by women pick-pockets

Recently there has been an increased number of complaints about pick-pocket thieves who target women who go shopping at the major commercial centers such as Suq Arafat, Abu al-Dhahab, and al-Mahyoob. Thefts are carried out by specialized female gangs, in the areas mentioned. Many women and girls have complained that they have lost their hand bags in that area after being momentarily distracted. Many of the

victims were carrying their valuables such as jewelry, money and some other personal necessities in their bags. It has been noticed that many of the victims do not report the matter to security but accept the disappointment and frustration for the loss sustained. Therefore, the concerned authorities are required to increase the presence of policewomen in the commercial centers to protect female shoppers from pocket-picking gangs.

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI-
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Awareness Workshop on the dangers of child labor

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI-
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An awareness workshop on the dangers of child labor in the fields of tinsmith, mechanical and painting workshops, took place in Aden last Sunday 12th September. The workshop was organized by the Child Rights Protection and Care society in collaboration with Swedish Radda Barnen, in an aim to highlight some of the harms resulting from premature labor and anticipated injuries sustained by children. The workshop also addressed the

government's efforts to demolish this phenomenon which has become a threat to the lives and future of children. The Head of the Child Rights Protection and Care society in Aden, Fatemah Yislem, clarified that the workshop aimed at addressing child employees, employers, and families, with the dangers surrounding children's health. She also elaborated that this dangerous phenomenon is not customary in Yemen, but, is connected to the difficult economic situation of families and due to an overall lack of awareness.

Japanese aid for women's development

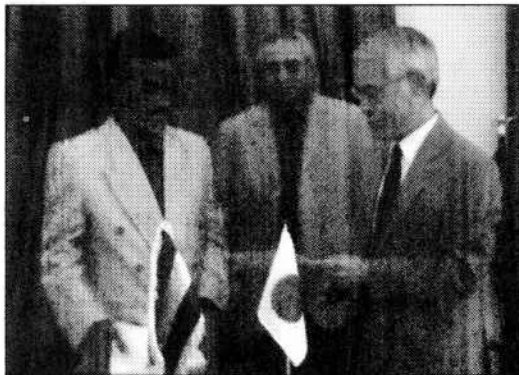
The Government of Japan has decided to send a substantial aid package amounting to US\$ 64,271 to the Al-Mostaqbal Community Development Organization, to construct the Women's Capacity Development Center in the Al-Beidha Governorate. The center will provide women from Al-Beidha with a better atmosphere in which to attend illiteracy classes and to have vocational training that will help them acquire important life skills.

A press release from the Japanese Embassy in Sana'a on Sept 12 mentioned under the Japanese scheme of "Grant Assistance for the Grassroots Human Security Project", will support the efforts to improve the welfare of the women in the Al-Beidha Governorate.

The Japanese scheme supports small-scale community-based projects in basic human needs, such as health care, education and public welfare in developing countries, including Yemen.

The agreement was signed in Sana'a by Mr. Abdo Saleh Al-Gashami, General Secretary of the Al-Mostaqbal Community Development Organization and Mr. Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Yemen.

During the current Japanese fiscal year, (April 2004-March 2005), seven



Japanese ambassador Mr. Yuichi Ishii and Mr. Al-Gashami sign agreement agree

projects including this one, have been so far financed in Yemen, totaling US\$ 518,016.

Human Rights Minister condemns kidnapping of Italians

Minister of Human Rights Amat Al-Alim Al-Suswa expressed Yemen's condemnation of the kidnapping of two Italian women in Iraq during her meeting with Italian Deputy Foreign Minister, Margaret Boniver. Al-Suswa said: "That damages the peaceful tolerant principles of Islam based on equality, justice, freedom, fraternity, and prevalence of global human values."

She considered the kidnapping of the two Italians as a dangerous trend that targets workers on humanitarian missions serving the Iraqi people.

"This does not serve the Iraqi cause as much as it widens the scope of terrorism and violence, and consequently damages the interests of the land and people of Iraq," added the Minister.

The Italian Deputy Foreign Minister expressed appreciation of Yemen, and recognized the strong mutual relations between the two countries. She said that the Italian government counts on public and official stances that condemn the kidnapping of the two Italian hostages.

At another meeting between Al-Suswa, the Italian diplomat and

women's NGO leaders in Yemen, Al-Suswa affirmed that Yemen appeals to all Iraqi parties, humanitarian organizations, clerics and social figures to work for the release of the two Italian hostages, so that they can go back to their country and families.

"This is important for security and stability in Iraq instead of terrorism, and violence," she said.

On their part, Yemeni women leaders denounced the kidnapping, and reiterated Yemen's stance, which calls for releasing them.

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Russian Ambassador: Yemen on the front line of combating terror

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

After a series of terrorist acts and bombings in many areas of Russia, especially the juvenile school incident (in the North part of Russia) that resulted in the death of hundreds of innocent children. For the purpose of seeking truth about the incident, Yemen Times forwarded some questions to the Russian Ambassador, Alexander Zacicbkine in Sana'a and received the following answers:

Q: A series of terrorist acts took place, of which include the bombings of the underground rail-road, the destruction of two civil planes, and the kidnapping of the school hostages in North Russia. What is your evaluation about the increase of violence waves in the country?

A: This question has been clearly answered by the Russian President Vladimir Putin in his words to the citi-

zens after the school incident, describing these terrorist acts as a challenge for Russia and its nation. The other bombings and assassinations are based on a plan aiming at weakening Russia, the will of the population and implanting enmity among the multi-religious and ethnical Russian society.

Q: How can these challenges be countered?

A: These harms can be countered only by the nation turning towards the leadership and solving the political concerns in protecting the state, reinforcing its unity and developing the civil society. Intensive attention has to be paid to social and economic issues, and accomplishing the entire program for improving the administration of the state as well as reconstructing the security and judicial systems to be more effective.

Q: Do you think that the Russian leadership should modify its policy towards Chechnya and hold direct talks with the Chechnya opposition

to ensure stability in the region?

A: I know the political strategy adopted by the Russian leadership towards Chechnya is correct and its conduct in this way aims at normalizing all aspects of life for the population through applying the steps of constitutional systems and purposeful procedures.

Regarding the conversations with the Chechnya opposition, the two leaderships will hold conversation with representatives of political currents, different social layers and influential figures but they cannot converse with terrorists who try to attain their objectives by killing innocent children and citizens so as to support their claims.

Q: Do you think that the series of terrorist attacks will lead to shaking stability between nationalisms, religions, Muslims and Christians in Russia, and what about your future relations with the Arab World.

A: During his speech to the public, President Vladimir Putin emphasized on spreading awareness among public

and unifying their queues and it is clear to every one that all Russians belong to different nationalisms and religions but live side by side throughout the centuries in community spirit. Terrorists are only considered as a minority in the state. I exerted a great effort for the sake of improving cooperation between the Soviet Union formerly and Russia currently and the Arab world, even though many Arab countries partake in the bombing and killing acts in Russia. Those terrorists can not break the Arab-Russian friendship.

Q: How do you evaluate Yemen's stance towards the bloody incidences in Russia?

A: Many countries in the world experience terrorist hazards but Russia and Yemen are on the front line in combating international terror. Russia highly appreciates the condolences sent by his Excellency President Saleh to his counterpart Vladimir Putin on the catastrophe of Paisalan city and this gives us a profile of Yemeni and Russian relations.



Alexander Zacicbkine



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Fire exchange ends one's life

TAIZ BUREAU

Fire exchange between Taha Ali and his sons, on one side, and Abdu Sa'eed Moqbil on the other, took place in Sabir Mountain in Taiz on Friday 9th September. The bloody clash between the two parties resulted in the death of a 40-year-old Taha Ali with two bullets lodged in his head. Fire was opened over a land dispute between the two sides. It is noteworthy that rises in the price of land in the city of Taiz and its suburbs, including Sabir, has led to an increase in land ownership disputes. Such cases are exacerbated by the absence of quick judicial settlements.

Notice

Let it be known that Mohammed Abdullah Ahmed, aged 20, was killed on his arrival from abroad over a land dispute between his father and tribesmen from Mareb. His father was killed too over the same piece of land located on Sana'a-Mareb Road. This notice is without responsibility of the Yemen Times.

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Children suffer everywhere



By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ym_almayasi@yahoo.com

Children have always been susceptible to being victims of deteriorations in economic and political situations, as well as bloodshedding conflicts. Over the last few years however, children have been put under increased pressure due to several issues.

Although international organizations

are working for the sake of protecting children, they can not force most countries to sign several agreements concerned with children. Furthermore, horrific and scandalous violations are still being committed against children, such as child abuse and child trafficking by gangs in poor countries.

Besides this, child workers are still subjected to miserable conditions by their bosses, often for payment which is not enough to maintain their most basic needs. These children, aside from receiving such inhumane treatment, are often at risk from domestic violence within their homes, owing either

to the disintegration of their family, or the pressures of their scant income.

Problems related children's rights are increasing daily. Another incident showing the suffering of children is the one that took place last week in the Russian school, which claimed the lives of 300, who were caught up in the clashes between abductors and security forces, most of whom were undoubtedly innocent. These tragic incidents against child rights will not come to an end until there is a world policy to protect children from political conflict.

Women's National Committee

Merging women's issues into the Millennium Goals

By Fahmia AL-Fotih
For the Yemen Times

The Women's National Committee (WNC) in collaboration with Oxfam organized on Monday 7th September a meeting to merge women's issues within the Millennium Goals for development and the poverty alleviation strategy.

The members of WNC from all branches in different governorates participated in the meeting.

Rasheeda AL-Hamdani, the head of WNC, in statement to the Yemen Times said, "This the first meeting that gathers almost all the members of WNC from various provinces. Oxfam is supporting this meeting. The meeting aims at raising awareness among our members and coordinators in all the governorates about gender, poverty

alleviation and the mechanisms that WNC should prepare to merge women issues within the next set of plans."

She further added, "Our members are divided into 5 working groups. Each group will discuss a dimension. Then those groups will then prepare the needs of women and gender issues. Our aim in WNC is to raise the awareness about such vital issues in all the governorates through our branches members and coordinators."

Awareness workshop on of PACL

On Monday 13th September a special awareness workshop on Private Associations and Corporations Law (PACL) was inaugurated by Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs. He stressed that the PACL enactment was due to joint efforts of the government and civil society organizations, and that awareness of the law is a very important matter.

The workshop covers 12 associa-



tions and organizations that arrange voluntary and humanitarian services.

It is note-worthy that many associations do not abide by the PACL, issued in 2001, which embraces 88 articles distributed among 8 chapters. The executive by-law of the PACL was issued by the Cabinet decision No. 129 for the year 2004. The by-law comprises 139 articles in three chapters.



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- ٣- أن تكون لديهم خبرة كافية في مجال التسويق
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فعلى الراغبين في التقدم للوظيفة إرسال سيرتهم الذاتية مع أرقام هواتفهم إلى العنوان/ ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء، مع كتابة تقديم لوظيفة مسوق على الظرف.

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Berlin bomb victims seek delayed Libya compensation

BERLIN, Sept 14 (Reuters) - German lawyers representing more than 160 victims of a Berlin nightclub bombing in 1986 urged Libya on Tuesday to explain why millions of dollars in agreed compensation had not been paid.

Libya signed a deal on September 3 to pay \$35 million to the non-U.S. victims of the blast at the La Belle disco, a popular spot with U.S. soldiers in then West Berlin.

Under the terms of the deal, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's charity foundation was supposed to pay an initial \$15 million installment by September 8, a second installment of \$15 million by December 1 and a final \$5 million by March 1, 2005.

However, the first payment has not yet arrived.

"We presume it is a bureaucratic delay," said Ulrich von Jeinsen, one of the principal negotiators for the victims, adding he had just sent an email to ask about the state of the first payment.

Hans-Joachim Ehrig, another principal negotiator, confirmed the compensation had not been trans-

ferred and said his clients were far from happy.

"We have approached the Gaddafi foundation to request an explanation for the delay," he said.

A German court ruled in 2001 that the Libyan secret service was behind the bombing which killed two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman and injured more than 200 people, although Libya has stopped short of accepting criminal responsibility.

Libya has taken significant steps to win over western countries and end three decades of international isolation.

Gaddafi announced last December he was renouncing weapons of mass destruction.

Libya has already agreed to pay \$2.7 billion to families of victims of the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing, for which a Libyan secret agent was convicted. It has also pledged \$170 million for the 1989 bombing of a French airliner over Niger.

Payouts to U.S. victims of the La Belle bombing and their families are the subject of separate legal action in the United States.

Iraqi President Yawar says polls should go ahead

BRUSSELS, Sept 14 (Reuters) - Iraqi elections should go ahead as planned in January despite mounting violence unless the United Nations says it is not feasible, interim President Ghazi al-Yawar said on Tuesday.

"It is a challenge to have the elections on time," Yawar acknowledged after talks with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on a day when another bomb in central Baghdad killed at least 47 people.

"Unless the U.N. says it is impossible to hold it, we're going to hold it at that time," Yawar said.

The NATO chief said the 26-member alliance would try to make a quick decision on providing military training for the new Iraqi security forces following the return of a fact-finding mission to Baghdad this month.

Yawar did not specify what type of training Iraq sought but insisted that more foreign military assistance was necessary in the run-up to the elections.

"We want further help from NATO...to enhance our security forces, especially going towards elections in January. We want a safe environment for Iraqis to cast their votes without



Iraq's interim President Ghazi al-Yawar (L) and NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer (R) address a joint news conference at the Alliance headquarters in Brussels September 14.

being afraid of anybody," he said. NATO ambassadors have ruled out a direct collective role for the alliance in peacekeeping because of deep differences between the U.S.-led coalition

and European critics of the Iraq war such as France and Germany.

Even the decision to send a training mission took weeks of wrangling in July and early August, with Paris and

Berlin reluctant to allow any NATO presence in Iraq.

However, de Hoop Scheffer said the allies were now considering greater involvement in training Iraqi officers. NATO ambassadors are due to discuss options to expand training at a meeting on Wednesday but no immediate decision is expected.

"NATO will speedily implement," de Hoop Scheffer said. "It is urgent that Iraqis take security into their own hands."

U.S. NATO ambassador Nicholas Burns urged NATO allies to make a quick decision to boost the small existing training mission in Baghdad.

"It is now NATO's obligation to expand that mission significantly in coming weeks and months. The U.S. is confident that NATO will do so," Burns said in a statement.

Yawar is touring several European countries to seek debt relief and support for civilian reconstruction and military stabilisation following the U.S. handover to an interim Iraqi government on June 28.

He was due to meet European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana later but cancelled a planned meeting with European Parliament leaders in Strasbourg, France.

Arab League chief says Iraq prediction comes true

CAIRO, Sept 14 (Reuters) - Arab League chief Amr Moussa said on Tuesday that a sharp rise in violence in Iraq showed that "the gates of Hell" have opened, reviving a much-quoted phrase he made before the U.S.-led invasion of the Arab country.

Moussa predicted the gates of Hell would open almost two years ago, after the Bush administration started to threaten an invasion of Iraq, saying Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Several commentators at the time dismissed his remark as hyperbole and speculated that he was referring to the possibility that other Arab leaders would fall with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"The gates of Hell are open in Iraq, where the situation is becoming more complicated and troubled," he told the twice-yearly meeting of Arab for-



Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara reviews his papers before the start of the Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Cairo September 14.

eign ministers in Cairo, the same venue at which he made his original prediction in 2002.

Arab foreign ministers said they shared Moussa's concern about the situation in Iraq, where another car bomb killed at least 47 people in Baghdad on Tuesday. At least 110 people were killed in another bloody day on Sunday in Iraq.

Arab diplomats said the Iraqi delegation at the meeting had offered a draft resolution in which the ministers would recognise the new Iraqi national assembly and say they are ready to open diplomatic relations immediately.

"There is agreement to declare support for the assembly as a step towards achieving full sovereignty, while some states are asking for the paragraph on diplomatic relations to be removed," one diplomat said.

Austria says not policy to oppose Turkey-EU talks

VIENNA, Sept 14 (Reuters) - Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel said on Tuesday his finance minister was not voicing government policy when he spoke out last week against the EU possibly starting membership talks with Turkey.

"Minister (Karl-Heinz) Grasser's statement against the start of EU membership negotiations with Turkey is not the official position of the Austrian government," Schuessel told a news conference.

Schuessel reiterated that his government wanted to wait for a report from the EU Commission due on Oct. 6 before deciding whether the bloc should start membership talks with Ankara.

Vice Chancellor Hubert Gorbach from Joerg Haider's anti-immigration Freedom Party said the EU should remain open to the possibility

of offering Turkey some kind of partnership deal instead of membership once the Commission report is out.

"We have to then look at the possibility, not just of membership talks, but also negotiations on alternatives, alternative partnerships or cooperation," Gorbach said in a joint news conference with the chancellor.

The EU executive will publish a report on Oct. 6 on Turkey's progress in rights and economic reforms. That report will form the basis for EU leaders at a December summit to decide whether and when to open accession talks.

Austria's centre-right government coalition has long been reserved about Ankara's bid, although Schuessel, whose conservative People's Party dominates the two-party coalition, has insisted in public that no decision can be made before the Commission report.

Iraq group threatens to kill Jordanian hostage-TV

DUBAI, Sept 14 (Reuters) - An Iraqi insurgent group has threatened to kill a Jordanian driver it has taken hostage unless his employer agrees to stop operating in Iraq. Al Jazeera reported on Tuesday.

"They said in a videotape that they are giving the company of the driver, who admitted delivering fuel to the American army, 48 hours to announce it will stop work in Iraq or they will kill him," the channel said.

Images from the video showed three heavily armed men standing around the hostage, whose name appeared as Khalifa al-Breizat in details of his passport also in the tape.

The hostage-takers called themselves the "Lions of Monotheism Brigade", a previously unheard of group.

Anti-Western militants have seized scores of foreign hostages in Iraq since April, escalating an insurgency against the U.S.-backed authorities.

Many of the hostages, who are often truck-drivers, have been released but over 20 have been killed.

ElBaradei says unclear if Iran nuke plans peaceful

VIENNA, Sept 14 (Reuters) - It is unclear if Iran's nuclear ambitions are entirely peaceful, but there is still no firm evidence that Tehran is secretly developing atomic weapons as Washington asserts, the U.N. nuclear watchdog said on Tuesday.

"Have we seen any proof of a weapons programme (in Iran)? Have we seen undeclared (uranium) enrichment? ... Obviously until today there is none of that," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei told reporters before entering a closed-door session of the IAEA board of governors.

"But are we in a position to say that everything is peaceful? Obviously we are not at this stage," he said, summing up a two-year IAEA investigation of Tehran's atomic programme.

Although ElBaradei's inspectors have uncovered many potentially arms-related activities in Iran, it has found no "smoking gun" to back U.S. charges of a covert bomb programme.

One of the main items on the board's agenda this week is a resolution on Iran's nuclear programme drafted by Germany, France and Britain calling for the IAEA board to make a "final determination" about Iran in November.

Washington hopes this will lead to a U.N. Security Council report and possibly economic sanctions, while Iran hopes it will bring an acquittal and an end to the U.N. inspection process.

ElBaradei hopes the resolution will prod not only Iran but other countries to improve cooperation with the IAEA.

"It is important to acknowledge progress and say that we would like to see accelerated cooperation by Iran (and) by the countries that have been involved," he said in a clear reference to Pakistan, which provided much of Tehran's previously secret uranium enrichment technology.

IRAN READY FOR NOVEMBER SHOWDOWN

ElBaradei said there was no guarantee he will be able to complete his investigation by November. But the Iranians made it clear that they would like to see an end to his probe of their nuclear programme, which they say is entirely peaceful.

Iran's chief delegate at this week's IAEA meeting, Hossein Mousavian, told Reuters that Tehran wanted to bring the standoff over its nuclear programme to a head in November.

"We have nothing against serious dia-

logue aimed at providing assurances that Iran's nuclear programme will never, never be diverted to military purposes," Mousavian said in an interview.

Mousavian was confident Iran would be cleared of the U.S. charges, which carry with them the threat of U.N. sanctions.

Washington is pressing the Europeans to include some kind of clear "trigger mechanism" to send Iran to the Security Council.

While the Europeans resist the idea of an automatic trigger that would lock them into a specific course of action, they have accepted a U.S. proposal to include an Oct. 31 deadline for Iran to dispel doubts about its nuclear programme, diplomats said.

Iran has been negotiating with France, Britain and Germany since October 2003, when Tehran promised to suspend its uranium enrichment programme in exchange for a wide range of "carrots", including non-military nuclear and other technology and a guarantee that it could keep a peaceful atomic programme.

But Iran never fully suspended the programme, and Mousavian took a defiant public stance against the European trio on Monday, saying Tehran would begin enriching uranium very soon.



Iran's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegates Zamani Nia (L), Hussein Mousavian (C) and Pirooz Hosseini (R) talk before an IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna September 13. The U.N. nuclear watchdog meets to consider a European draft resolution on Iran's atomic program, after diplomats and intelligence officials said Tehran was already working to build an atom bomb.

New Afghan governor pledges to disarm militia

HERAT, Afghanistan, Sept 14 (Reuters) - The new governor of Afghanistan's Herat province pledged on Tuesday to disarm factional fighters, as attackers shot dead a militiaman loyal to his ousted predecessor after a weekend of political violence.

The militiaman was killed when two men in a four-wheel-drive vehicle fired on his car with AK-47 assault rifles in the city of Herat, Herat intelligence chief Juma Adil told Reuters.

Another man in the car was wounded, he said, adding that the attackers escaped.

The western city near the Iranian border was the scene of unrest at the weekend after U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai sacked powerful Herat governor Ismail Khan, part of his pledge ahead of Oct. 9 presidential polls to rein in regional warlords.

Up to seven Khan supporters were killed in clashes with U.S. and Afghan troops on Sunday, after stone-throwing protesters burned and looted several U.N. and aid agency buildings. A curfew was imposed and calm returned after Khan appealed for an end to the violence.

The governor sent by Karzai to replace Khan, former ambassador to Ukraine Sayed Mohammad Khairkwa, said disarming unauthorised militia forces would be a top priority.

"The issue of disarmament is at the top of my agenda for, without it, security cannot be ensured," he told



The western Afghan city of Herat was calm Monday following bloody clashes between supporters of the powerful ousted governor and U.S. and Afghan forces sent to keep the peace. REUTERS

Reuters. "Without security you cannot do anything — the reconstruction of the province and the region cannot happen without it."

He said he would relax restrictions on civil rights imposed by Khan, who particularly curbed women's freedoms.

"I have announced to my brothers

and sisters that I will provide the means for them to express their views. They can express themselves freely."

The government says it aims to disarm 27,000 militiamen nationwide ahead of the elections and Khan has maintained one of the largest militia forces.

Afghans have cited the existence of

such private armies and fears that they might intimidate voters as their biggest concern about the elections, aid groups say.

With only 14,000 militiamen disarmed since the process began last year, independent observers consider the government's target highly optimistic.

UN pushes Ethiopia, Eritrea to end peace deadlock

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 14 (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council pressed Ethiopia and Eritrea on Tuesday to end their deadlock and resume efforts to put a two-year border war behind them.

A resolution adopted unanimously by the 15-nation council expressed concern over both Ethiopia's ongoing rejection of "significant parts" of the border marked out in 2002 by an international commission and Eritrea's continuing refusal to work with U.N. diplomats to move the peace process forward.

"Lasting peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as in the region, cannot be achieved without the full demarcation of the border between the parties," the council said.

The northeast African neighbors agreed in a December 2000 peace deal to let an independent commission set

out a new border between them, and to respect its findings, which were issued in April 2002.

But the process of marking out the new boundary on the ground broke down after Ethiopia objected to the commission's conclusion that the western town of Badme was in Eritrean territory. The border war, which killed 70,000 people, began in May 1998 when Ethiopia accused Eritrea of invading Badme.

The council resolution also extended for another six months the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the region, which patrols a 15-mile-(25-km)-wide buffer zone set up along the 600-mile (1,000 km) frontier separating the two countries.

The mission, launched in July 2000, currently numbers 3,875 military personnel and will cost \$216 million this year.

Tactics, system decided HK election result-analysts

HONG KONG, Sept 14 (Reuters) - Chinese officials lauded the Beijing camp's majority in Hong Kong's election as a vote for prosperity, but the city's leading liberal said on Tuesday China should not doubt the popular desire for democracy.

The success of pro-Beijing candidates in retaining 34 seats in the 60-member Legislative Council while the democracy forces took 25, up from 22, was a victory for tactics rather than policies, analysts said.

"People want universal suffrage. Never have any doubt about that," Martin Lee, former chairman of the Democratic Party, told Reuters in an interview.

"We have lost, but the votes haven't gone to the other side. They have gone to other democrats and that's not a bad thing at all. It is a very healthy thing for the whole cause," Lee said.

Chen Zuo'er, a senior Chinese official in charge of Hong Kong affairs, told the Wen Wei Po daily the results showed the city's people wanted to "protect stability, develop its economy and improve livelihood".

Pro-democracy forces had pushed for greater political freedom in the former British colony during the campaign, spurred on by popular anger over Beijing's decision to delay a full democratic vote to choose Hong Kong's leaders until at least 2012.

But that popular support failed to win them the coveted majority in the chamber.

Under Hong Kong's Byzantine electoral system, the democracy camp won a commanding 60 percent of the vote in the 30 seats that are directly elected.

The other half of the chamber is returned by small professional, largely pro-Beijing groups, which ensures that the legislature remains firmly in Beijing's grip.

Whatever the numbers, the new legislature would still exert little influence over the cabinet run by Beijing-backed Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa. Tung sees its attempts at checks as an irritant, analysts say, and Beijing is likely to ignore the chamber.

James Tien, head of the pro-business, pro-Beijing Liberal Party that secured 10 seats on Sunday, said the new legis-

lature would be no threat to Tung since the democrats fell short of a majority that would have allowed them to block government policies.

"If it had won a majority, it would be a huge problem for governance and policy-making. But it secured only 25, and the pro-Beijing camp has got more than 30 seats, so it will be easier (on Tung)," said Tien.

Tactics

Tactics also played a part. Before the polls, newspapers reported how organisations affiliated with the pro-Beijing Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB) had helped supporters to register as voters — in some cases even without their knowledge.

"Unlike the democrats who like to boast and bang their drums, the DAB is so low profile. When it mobilises its people and resources, it is so strong. It even knows where all its voters live," said independent commentator Lau Yui-siu.

In the freewheeling city of 7 million, nearly 62 percent of voters chose the democracy camp as a whole, up from 60 percent in 2000. Pro-Beijing and pro-government candidates mustered 37 percent, up from 34 percent.

"Sixty percent is high by any standard. If there were a referendum, it would have passed," said commentator Lo Chi-kin.

For years now the popular vote in Hong Kong has been split 60/40 percent between democracy and pro-Beijing forces. This was reflected in the results for the 30 directly elected seats, 18 of which went to the democrats and 12 to pro-Beijing politicians.

Political analysts said disappointment at the democrats' performance had been due in part to overblown expectations.

"It is logical that the democrats took only 25 seats. It is only a surprise for people who had expected more," said Cheung Bing-leung, public administration professor at City University.

He and other analysts said the democrats had underestimated the DAB, which has staunch support among a working class less concerned with ideals such as democracy than with jobs.

South Africa public sector still threatens strike

CAPE TOWN, Sept 14 (Reuters) - South Africa's government said on Tuesday unions representing up to a million public sector workers have rejected its latest offer designed to avert a public sector strike starting on Thursday.

Last week unions announced an indefinite strike starting on Sept. 16, but Richard Levin, director-general in the government's department of public service & administration, said on Tuesday they had given notice only for a one-day strike.

Thursday's mass action would be the biggest civil service strike since 1999, embarrassing the government on the day the new pan-African parliament opens with a lavish ceremony near Johannesburg.

"Government walked that extra mile to accommodate the unions and to avert strike action. Regrettably our union partners don't share that approach,"

Public Service & Administration Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi told a news conference.

"We're continuing our discussions, we're still determined to try and find an agreement," she added. Government and union officials will meet later in the day.

The government's "Mandate Committee", which includes Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and directs the government's position in public sector pay negotiations, was also due to meet on Tuesday.

Inflation target

Unions rejected the government's latest offer which includes a 6 percent salary increase for 2004 — at the top of the government's 3-6 percent inflation target. The budget forecasts the average rise in the targeted CPI inflation index this year will be 4.8 percent.

The government is also offering an

additional 1 percent performance-related increase, which it says 85 percent of staff are likely to get and which would be repeated in the following two years in addition to a rise pegged to inflation.

Unions have demanded an across-the-board 7 percent rise for 2004 and want to keep the door open to above-inflation rises in the remaining two years of a three-year agreement.

Levin said the entire package offered to unions was worth 28 billion rand (\$4.3 billion) over three years — equivalent to a 9 percent average yearly increase in the public wage bill.

The deal budgeted for extending medical aid benefits to another 350,000 civil servants and a state housing subsidy to 720,000 employees who did not currently receive assistance.

Fraser-Moleketi said when the government offered its latest package adjusting a range of non-wage benefits in line with union requests, unions had

rejected it and made more demands.

The revised offer allowed for negotiations to reopen in the second and third years of the deal, although the state would keep the right to implement it if those talks deadlocked.

Fraser-Moleketi said the 28 billion rand package was as high as the government could go, but stressed the state would not unilaterally implement the offer.

"If the insistence is on narrowly looking at wage increases year-on-year we would have to look at the overall package and the benefits offered," she said.

The umbrella Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), which is backing the strike action, is a partner of the ruling African National Congress, which won a third landslide victory in general elections in April, the third since democratic polls ended apartheid white rule a decade ago.

Relatives say civilians killed in Pakistan clashes

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan, Sept 14 (Reuters) - At least four civilians were killed and 15 wounded in clashes between Pakistani troops and al Qaeda-linked militants, relatives said on Tuesday, and an army convoy came under attack by Islamic fighters.

Imran Khan Shabikhel told Reuters his relatives came under fire on Monday afternoon while trying to escape from a town in the troubled South Waziristan tribal area bordering Afghanistan, where sporadic clashes are erupting between troops and militants.

"Yesterday, we left Makeen and came under fire while crossing a dry ravine," he said. "The fire came from the ground and the air," said Shabikhel, a student who lives in Makeen, about 50 km (30 miles) north of South Waziristan's main town of Wana.

Wana is located about 400 km (250 miles) southwest of the capital, Islamabad.

His relative, Mohammad Fazal, was

being treated in hospital in Dera Ismail Khan, 130 km (80 miles) southeast of Wana, for leg wounds caused by shrapnel in the same incident.

He said he was in a group of about 30 people, including women and children, who were fleeing the region due to fears of fighting when government forces opened fire.

"The injured and the dead lay there for some time. We asked the security forces to allow us to bury the dead and then they allowed us to go," he said.

Shabikhel said four of his relatives were killed and about 15 people were wounded in the Monday afternoon incident.

"People are very afraid of fighting there," he said, referring to residents of Makeen and nearby areas, which have seen heavy clashes between the Pakistani army and al Qaeda-linked militants and their local tribal supporters.

The Pakistani military was unavailable for immediate comment on the

civilian casualties, but has said repeatedly that it has specifically targeted militants during heavy clashes in South Waziristan in the past week.

A security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one soldier was killed and four were wounded when a military convoy of 34 vehicles came under fire from militants in Malik Khan Serai, 35 km (22 miles) east of Wana, on Tuesday.

He said three vehicles in the convoy were damaged and air support was called in. Militant losses were unknown.

In a separate clash in Makeen, the military shelled and demolished the house of cleric Maulvi Mohammad Shafeeq Mahsud, where al Qaeda-linked militants were suspected of hiding.

Reuters has spoken to several villagers in various parts of South Waziristan who say many civilians have been killed and wounded in fighting in recent days and thousands have

fled their homes.

Most of the casualties could not be independently confirmed.

Witnesses said Mahsud tribesmen were evacuating women and children to main towns, but returning to guard their homes.

Officials say hundreds of foreign militants, including Chechens, Uzbeks and Arabs, are hiding in a region inhabited by Pashtun tribesmen, many of whom sympathise with al Qaeda and have fought against security forces to protect them.

Pakistan's military says at least 50 militants, most of them foreigners, were killed when Pakistani jet fighters and helicopter gunships bombed a suspected terrorist training camp in the region on Thursday.

Another 10 fighters died in clashes on Thursday in one of the bloodiest assaults on al Qaeda-linked militants since Pakistan sent tens of thousands of troops into lawless tribal areas last year.



Democratic Party chairman Yeung Sum (back) and former chairman Martin Lee wave as they thank their supporters in Hong Kong September 14. Chinese officials lauded the comfortable majority of the Beijing camp in Hong Kong's legislative election as a vote for prosperity, but the city's leading liberal said on Tuesday China should not doubt the popular desire for democracy. REUTERS/

U.S. Senate panel questions Bush's CIA pick



U.S. Congressman Porter Goss (R-Fl) holds a copy of the 9-11 Commission report during his Director of Central Intelligence confirmation hearing in front of the U.S. Senate Select Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill, Sept. 14. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, Sept 14 (Reuters) - The top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee questioned on Tuesday whether President George W. Bush's choice to head the CIA was too partisan to be able to restore credibility to U.S. intelligence services.

Bush nominated Republican Rep. Porter Goss to succeed former CIA director George Tenet who resigned in July just prior to the release of the Sept. 11 Commission report that found "deep institutional failings" in the U.S. intelligence agencies related to the 2001 attacks and the Iraq war.

"The documented intelligence failures prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11th and leading up to the war in Iraq have left the intelligence community's credibility bruised and its reputation tarnished," Sen. John Rockefeller, a West Virginia Democrat, said in his prepared opening statement for a hearing on the Goss nomination.

"The community's objectivity, independence and competency have been called into question," he said.

The hearing on the nomination of Goss, who until recently was chairman of the House of Representatives'

Intelligence Committee, offered Democrats an election-year platform to criticize the Republican administration on national security issues.

The next director of the Central Intelligence Agency would be the most important ever confirmed by the Senate, given the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the global fight against terrorist organizations — "The stakes are simply enormous," Rockefeller said.

Intelligence lapses prior to the Sept. 11 attacks and the government's response with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are key campaign issues in this year's tight presidential race between Bush and Democratic Sen. John Kerry.

PARTISAN CONCERNS

"Congressman Goss, having reviewed your record closely, I have a number of concerns about whether your past partisan actions and statements will allow you to be the type of non-partisan, independent and objective national intelligence advisor our country needs," Rockefeller said.

He accused Goss of making statements in the past year "that are highly partisan and display a willingness on your part to use intelligence issues as a

political broadsword against members of the Democratic Party."

Goss of Florida was expected to win Senate confirmation to the CIA post because Republicans control Congress and Democrats — after making their points — are expected to approve a Capitol Hill colleague.

The CIA and other intelligence agencies were criticized for not drawing the right conclusions to uncover the Sept. 11, 2001, plot, and leaping to too many conclusions in making prewar estimates that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, given that no large stockpiles have been found.

The nomination of Goss, who was a CIA officer in the 1960s, was mostly welcomed at the CIA, where employees had worried that someone with little understanding of the intelligence field might get the job.

"He is a friend of many of us in the business. He was a hard, no-nonsense, overseer. At the end of the day, the agency needs to have someone in place who has the confidence of the president," said James Pavitt, former CIA deputy director for operations, who retired in August.

Putin's reforms threaten fragile democracy-liberals

MOSCOW, Sept 14 (Reuters) - President Vladimir Putin's shake-up of Russian electoral law will tighten his control over the world's largest country but risks undermining its brittle post-Soviet democracy, analysts and liberals said on Tuesday.

Putin's proposed new look for Russian politics raised eyebrows in Washington, which pledged to take up with Moscow concerns over the erosion of democracy.

Within 24 hours, the Kremlin leader offered a sweetener to Western investors, by endorsing a plan to ease restrictions on the ownership of gas giant Gazprom.

Putin's political reforms would do away with elections by popular vote for governors in Russia's 89 regions. Candidates would instead be selected by the president and approved by regional assemblies.

Also eliminated would be individual constituencies to parliament, seats often won by opposition parties, to be elected in future solely on the basis of country-wide party lists.

Critics say the proposals are fresh proof Putin, who has muzzled independent media and turned parliament and government into rubber stamps of Kremlin policy, is rolling back democracy.

"Will these changes strengthen reforms in the country? I believe they will weaken our country," Vladimir

Ryzhkov, a rare independent member of parliament's lower house told reporters.

"Instead of electing authoritative governors, the president proposes the appointment of 89 puppets and ... putting parliament into the hands of puppet parties with no trust among voters."

Putin had justified the changes by invoking the Beslan school siege and the campaign to fight terror as a U.S. ally.

But U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told Reuters in Washington: "In effect this is pulling back (on) some of the democratic reforms, as seen by the international community, that have occurred in the past."

The Kremlin leader's subsequent backing for a plan to abolish restrictions on foreign ownership of shares in Gazprom heartened the stock market.

"These are carrot and stick tactics," said Yevgeny Volk of the Heritage Foundation. "It fits Putin's model that there can be a rather liberal economy with a tough political regime."

NO CONSOLIDATION, SAY NEWSPAPERS

Newspaper analysts, more critical but less influential than television, dismissed any notion the changes would unite society after this month's Beslan drama. More than 300 hostages died, half of them children, after Chechen rebels seized the school.

The daily Vedomosti dismissed any

link to the attack.

"The changes do not solve the problems of terrorism," the daily quoted an expert close to the Kremlin as saying. "The authorities are simply using a sort of window of opportunity to boost control and there is nothing unusual in that."

Stanislav Belkovsky, head of the Institute of National Strategy, said the moves would be no more successful than previous Kremlin reforms to consolidate power.

"Our current system of power is very much like a Russia-wide organised crime gang," he wrote in Vedomosti.

"The main aim of such gangs is to amass money on specific territories and guarantee the safety of those providing the money. Of course, even gangs need stability. But stability in their own way ... when leaders remain in place for decades."

Soon after coming to power in 2000, Putin dismantled many reforms undertaken by his predecessor Boris Yeltsin, eliminating governors' powers, tightening legislation to reduce the number of parties and establishing firm control over the electronic media.

Regional leaders broadly back the Kremlin and would stand to remain in power if loyal to the president. Parliament is dominated by Putin supporters, with liberals all but eliminated.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) talks to the country's Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov during their meeting in Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, September 14. Putin moved to tighten Kremlin control on Russia's regions and ordered a sweeping review of the national electoral system in the wake of the bloody school siege in Russia's South Ossetia region. REUTERS

Hurricane Ivan triggers U.S. Gulf evacuations

MIAMI, Sept 14 (Reuters) - Hurricane Ivan roared into the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday, spurring evacuations along the U.S. coast and shutting down some oil production after ripping off roofs and downing trees and power lines when it grazed western Cuba.

There were no reported casualties on the island from the giant storm, which killed at least 68 people on a weeklong rampage through the Caribbean that has sown destruction in Grenada, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Ivan threatened a wide area from the sugary beaches of the Florida Panhandle west through the coasts of Alabama and Mississippi to the flood-prone, historic jazz city New Orleans, where officials told residents to get out.

"As a measure of precaution, we are recommending voluntary evacuation," New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said. "I'm encouraging all citizens to get prepared."

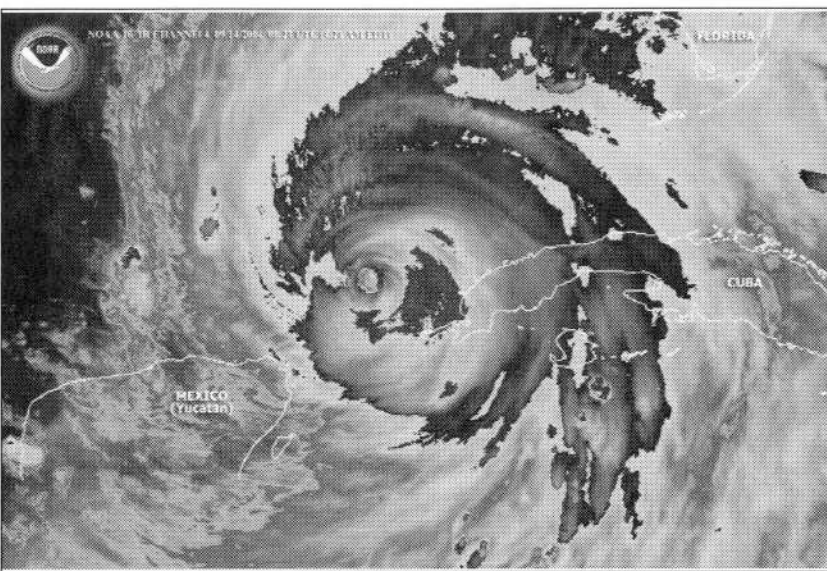
The New Orleans area has a population of about 1 million.

Florida authorities ordered or encouraged about 543,000 people to evacuate mobile homes and flood-prone coastal areas in at least 10 counties in the western Panhandle.

Forecasters said the giant hurricane, one of the most powerful Atlantic storms in history, should weaken slightly before thundering into the Gulf coast late on Wednesday or early on Thursday.

Oil companies plucked thousands of workers from offshore rigs and shut down some production in the Gulf of Mexico, home of about a quarter of U.S. oil and gas output. Ivan was not expected to directly hit the bulk of output but the storm's menacing presence made traders nervous and helped push up world oil prices.

Across the Gulf coast, people boarded up homes and made plans to flee. Ivan threatened to become the third hurricane strike in Florida in a



An infrared single channel image of Hurricane Ivan shows the hurricane over the Gulf of Mexico at 0500EDT (0900GMT) September 14. Hurricane Ivan was taking aim at the U.S. Gulf Coast on Tuesday morning, with sustained winds weakening to near 140 miles per hour (225 kmh), according to the latest forecast and advisory from the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. At 11 a.m. EDT (1500 GMT) Tuesday, the center of Hurricane Ivan was located near latitude 23.4 north latitude and 86.2 west longitude, about 435 miles (700 km) south/southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River. REUTERS

month, following Charley and Frances.

"It's round three. It's evacuation day," said Craig Fugate, director of Florida Division of Emergency Management. "We ought to have this drill down pretty good."

At 8 a.m. EDT (1200 GMT), the eye of Ivan was about 115 miles (185 km) northwest of the western tip of Cuba at latitude 23.1 north and longitude 86.1 west. It was moving north-northwest near 9 mph (15 kph), the U.S. hurricane center said.

That put the storm about 450 miles (725 km) southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River.

CUBA ESCAPES WORST OF IVAN

On Saturday, Ivan's top sustained winds were reported at 165 mph (265 kph) and the hurricane center declared it the sixth-strongest Atlantic storm on record. Its top

winds dropped slightly, to 155 mph (250 kph), on Tuesday, lowering it to a Category 4 storm from Category 5 on the 1-5 Saffir-Simpson intensity scale.

Cuba, which ordered the evacuation of 1.3 million of its 11 million people, appeared to have escaped the

worst. The storm's eye narrowly missed landfall as it passed on Monday night through the Yucatan Channel between Cuba and Mexico, though the inner wall of powerful winds passed over the sparsely populated Guanahacabibes peninsula, a wildlife park.

Hurricane winds tore off roofs in coastal communities battered by high seas, and knocked down hundreds of trees and power line posts, civil defense officials said.

Vicious winds and pounding seas hit the tobacco-growing province of Pinar del Rio, which produces the best leaves for Cuba's prime cigars. But planting had not begun and damage to curing sheds appeared limited. "Nothing fell down here. We had no damage to our homes or tobacco storage houses. Thank God. We were so worried, but happily the eye of the storm kept to the channel," said Carlos, son of Cuba's best-known tobacco planter Alejandro Robaina.

Ivan had killed 37 people in Grenada, 19 in Jamaica, three in Haiti, four in Venezuela, four in the Dominican Republic and one in Tobago.

On Sunday, it swiped the Cayman Islands, a British colony and offshore financial center of 45,000 people, where it uprooted trees, damaged buildings and sent seawater surging inland. No casualties were reported.



Colombian Indians protest against war abuses

BOGOTA, Colombia, Sept 14 (Reuters) - About 40,000 Indians from southwest Colombia marched on Tuesday to protest against abuse of their communities by forces fighting the country's 40-year-old war.

The demonstration followed an action last week in which hundreds of Paez Indians, armed only with decorated sticks, pressured Marxist guerrillas into releasing two kidnapped community leaders in the jungle region of Caqueta.

"We want to reject all the violations of human right that we have suffered at the hands of the actors in the conflict," said Luis Evelio Andrade, president of the Indigenous

Organization of Colombia.

Colombia's Indians are often caught in the middle of the country's guerrilla war, and both Marxist rebels and far-right paramilitary outlaws target them for intimidation and forced recruitment. About 100 members of Indian communities had been killed this year, mainly by paramilitaries, an Indian leader said in August.

The protesters started gathering in Cauca province on Monday. The formal part of the demonstration on Tuesday is a march of about 43 miles (70 km) from the town of Santander de Quilichao to the city of Cali, where a rally is planned for Thursday.

تهانينا

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهدبها الأخ العزيز

حافظ سعيد طه

السقاف

بمناسبة زفافه العيمون

تمنين له حياة زوجية سعيدة

المهنئون:

بسام أحمد السقاف، بسام جميل السقاف، نصري ابوبكر السقاف وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models, either. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator. The children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mix with bad company.
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951-1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR OPINION

Call for emergency action before it is too late:

Save Yemen's remaining press freedom!

It is amazing how quickly and drastically the margin of freedom accorded to the press in Yemen has contracted in recent weeks. With the sudden and unexpected verdict against Al-Shoura opposition newspaper and its editor Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani, civil society in Yemen was outraged and disappointed.

Questions concerning how this could occur, are still being asked, with no convincing answers.

Among those questions asked are:

- How could a country that claims to support human rights and freedom of expression launch such a ruthless campaign against a person for his writings?
- Why does a country that claims to have law and order, allow almost all laws and judicial proceedings to be broken and bypassed, one after another, to incarcerate a writer and shut down a newspaper, without even giving the right to appeal?
- Why has President Saleh claimed that he would lift the imprisonment sentence and a few months later allowed the imprisonment of an intellectual civilian because of his newspaper's stance and opinion?
- Doesn't the government feel ashamed or embarrassed by the conditions of this unlawful arrest and prosecution at a time when it was praising itself for being an emerging democracy that supports freedom of the press, as it stated in the recent conference in January, and the emerging democracies forum in 1999?
- Why is the international community, specifically European countries and the USA, not doing enough to stop this clear and undisputed violation of the freedom of the press, to prevent further action to other journalists who now have their fingers crossed in fear that they may be next in line?

Do donor countries and international organizations really understand what is at stake here? Did they hear about the humiliation that opposition parties and intellectuals went through when they had the electricity, water, and communication lines cut off from the building they were supposed to hold a meeting in? Do they know that a small demonstration to protest the arrest of Al-Khaiwani and closure of Al-Shoura was in fact prevented by the authorities?

This is not only about freedom of expression. It is an evolving national concern that these developments threaten the whole democratic process in Yemen.

Opposition newspapers are now unifying in their stance in support of the imprisoned journalist and starting a strike to express their defiance of such action.

But are they alone? I hope not. Every passive spectator to the negative developments in Yemen now, will later regret not moving to protect his/her rights, because it marks the beginning of a massive erosion of civil liberties. Something that we didn't imagine would happen any time soon?

What we are facing is an extreme challenge, to defy the outdated and backward mentality that wishes us to regress to a state of dictatorship and oppression. This we resist and will never accept. But if we are alone, we will soon find ourselves in jail.

We need to bring international pressure to halt such actions which contradict the very basic rights and liberties of human beings. It also conflicts with promises of the government in the recent past.

We need support to save the situation.

It is urgent, is any one hearing?

If there is anyone there, please help save Yemen from destroying what is left of freedom of expression. Save us from a future with no freedom or human rights!

Help us free Al-Khaiwani today, or else we may as well kiss our remaining freedom of the press goodbye!

The Editor

Geneva: Too little, too late for the victims of Darfur

BY JACOB KELLENBERGER*

There are two stark realities about the conflict in Darfur, western Sudan. There have been massive violations of international humanitarian law, in particular attacks on civilians, and help has arrived too late, and been insufficient. Despite its significant impact on hundreds of thousands of people.

Both realities need to be tackled urgently by the government of Sudan and the armed opposition groups. The international committee of the Red Cross can only achieve better protection for the civilian population of Darfur by insisting that all parties to the conflict fully respect the rules and norms of international humanitarian law.

The international committee of the Red Cross, or ICRC, working with the Sudanese Red Crescent and other Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, has steadily built up its response to the crisis, even in remote areas. Making particular use of its ability to cross conflict lines and to travel to all parts of Darfur. The core of the ICRC operation is assistance to 300,000 displaced people and medical activities that include rehabilitating hospitals, providing back-up ICRC staff and delivering medical equipment.

All of this is making a real difference to the people of Darfur. But it is not enough. Political action is needed if the

cycle of violence and displacement is to be broken. The Sudanese authorities, armed opposition groups, the United Nations and regional origination must decide what form that political action should take.

Six months ago there was denial by the Sudanese authorities about conditions in Darfur. There was a largely invisible, "tribal-based conflict," according to Khartoum, which was taking place against a background of peace efforts in the historic 'north-south' conflict in Sudan. Humanitarian needs, it was argued, were being overstated by external propagandists. All that has changed.

Darfur has become a huge humanitarian operation, and is now the largest worldwide of the international committee of the Red Cross.

The impact of the war on the population has been devastating. It is impossible to say accurately how many people have died. Figures for how many people have been forced to leave their homes and are also unreliable; but there are probably more than a million. Destruction of means of livelihood means that many people will continue to depend on outside help to survive, and for those who fled their homes and for those who remained in their villages, health and sanitary conditions are very poor and continue to take human toll every day.

The war as such, but in particular the reckless way it has been waged, has caused immense and unnecessary suf-

fering. Darfur's people are used to surviving in harsh conditions, but the excessively violent nature of the conflict has left many of them in abject misery, facing humiliation, ill-treatment, sickness and death.

The most basic rules of war have been violated, and continue to be. Little distinction has been made between civilians and combatants. The war has particularly hit the most vulnerable sections of the civilian population: women, children, the old and the sick. Acts terrorizing the population have been common, and rape is pervasive. The violations of international law and must stop. Respect for the rules of international humanitarian law, which aim to protect civilians, is essential if further displacements are to be prevented. It is equally a basic precondition for the safe return of displaced people to their homes.

The primary responsibility for this lives with the Sudanese government. It has a clear duty to protect its own people. To date it has either failed or been unable to do so. The international community on the other hand has an obligation under international law to ensure respect for the humanitarian law in all circumstances. Governments must recognize that humanitarian action is no substitute for political action to protect the civilian population.

** Jacob Kallenberger, president of the international committees of the Red Cross.*

Palestine: the bleeding wound

BY RAMZI AL-ABSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The resignation of the Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qura'e, indicates the weakness of Arabs and the impossibility of reaching a convincing and fair solution to the Palestinian issue. That's Qura'e's reaction to the Israeli aggression which swept every part of the Holy lands, every child, every adult, every tree and every stone. The latest testament to inhuman Israeli crimes is the situation of detainees which is getting worse and worse everyday. In spite of the various treaties and international agreements, the Israeli proceedings against the Palestinian detainees - who have been

on hunger strike appealing to the international community for humane treatment - in its prisons don't seem to have an end.

More than 8000 Palestinian detainees including children and women, receive different kinds of torture and oppressive treatment. They face death in Israeli prisons; diseases have spread amongst them consequently affecting more than 130 without having any medicine or being hospitalized. Waleed Amr, who died of pain, set a good example of that. They find it difficult to eat or drink. Therefore, they are holding a hunger strike in an attempt to try to send a message to the whole world. What's more, the International Committee for Red Cross has received samples of the outdated

medicines distributed to the detainees by the Israeli Prisons Administration.

On the other hand, 13 international organizations called on Israel to implement the 4th Geneva Treaty that stresses treating the detainees as war hostages. They're also reminding Israel of other international agreements on human rights. Many demonstrations have taken place all over the Palestinian land in which not only Muslims but Christians protested the miserable inhumane conditions of the detainees. Protest, condemnation, appeal and showing concern of the devoted voices of human rights are futile attempts to convince Israel to treat prisoners in a humane manner. Whoever has a heart surely sympathizes with them.

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

When death is okay

This observer read recently in Slate Magazine (A Microsoft web publication) that some 10,000 Iraqis have lost their lives in Baghdad alone since the Americans entered the city a year and a half ago, both from insurgent and criminal acts. This number could easily double if all the cities of Iraq are included if not tripled. This large number of people comprises of mostly innocent people, most of whom are not even involved in any "insurgency" acts, and are victims of both insurgent acts as well as American bombardment or reprisal attacks. Such a great loss of human lives can never provide the right grounds for any Iraqi population approval of the American misadventure in Iraq. Nor does it lend any weight to the often stated aims of the American neo-con leadership that their intentions in Iraq are to liberate the Iraqis or to carry on the war on terror, thus making the world safer. The assertions of the present White House Administration that their occupation of Iraq was necessary to remove the Iraqi WMD threat against the United States, later modified to continuing the war on terror, etc., have been proven as misleading deceptions. Yet the icons of the neo-con establishment continue to blare out the same boring rhetoric to the American electorate, believing that the American people can easily be gullied into not holding their leaders accountable for lying to them so persistently. The atmosphere of the Republican Convention in New York and the continuing diatribes of Dick Cheney and co, with their warlike mongering seem to display a confidence that the American people can indeed continuously be deceived that their present leadership is the only one that knows what is best for them. Never mind that they have yet to see from this leadership any real genuine progress towards achieving a world free of terror. Never mind that the awesome cost of their adventures in human lives in both Iraq and Afghanistan are bleeding the lives out of these two countries. Almost daily, the observer cannot help but note the scores of deaths that are sprawled out in the different urban centers of Iraq, by American ordnance and by ill targeted insurgency attacks, that have taken far more innocent lives than would lend credence to the honest intentions of the forces that are directing these insurgents. Yet, the Bush Administration continues to suggest to us that this is all right and necessary for the sake of Iraqi freedom and almost make it out to look like a blessing to Iraq. As for Afghanistan, the story has a different tragic flair. The failure of the US to complete its stated aims of avenging the 9/11 victims and restoring the face of American might seems to indicate that the White House and the neo-con clique are talking to the world in one way and proceeding on a whole different course from their supposedly genuine intentions. Unfortunately, thanks to a double-think and newspeak venue, the neo-con establishment and its powerful media infiltration have managed to distort the reality of the situations in both Afghanistan and Iraq, especially to the American people. Not only that, they have actually insisted on conveying to the American people that this is the only path for America to take, without regard to the consequences on the people actually forced to suffer from all this and without regard to the heavy cost borne by the American taxpayers. In fact, the Vice President of the United States is actually unabashed at stating that any thought of having their opponent ticket elected to the White House is tantamount to having terror attacks of the caliber of 9/11 become a fact of life for the American people.

Of course, this is unethical campaigning by any standards, and only goes to show that these people have no mores whatsoever. Moreover, to rely on fearsome threats connotes a desire to rely on institutional political scare tactics to put down adversaries as being not worthy of sharing any sense of national security concerns as the ruling establishment and should be considered as even dangerous to live with, let alone reside in the White House. As if all the mess that the Bush Administration has brought to the world should not be taken into consideration by the American electorate, since the opponents have hidden dangers that the American people are bound to face if they elect them to office. This in itself is really dangerous and plays on the misconceptions generated by a hard and well financed propaganda campaign to twist the perceptive capacity of the American electorate in truly analyzing and assessing the performance of their leaders. Never mind that 9/11 actually occurred in the midst of the Bush Administration, with obvious evidence that there were sufficient indicators to stimulate the Administration to take the appropriate actions for preventing the tragedy. Yet to suggest to the American people that another Administration will bring about a repeat of 9/11 is somewhat absurd. In other words, it is all right for the Bush Administration to have allowed 9/11 to occur, but the American people should never allow another Administration to bring about any calamity that is otherwise acceptable of the Bush Administration. No matter what happens in the United States or elsewhere, even if the Bush Administration is fully responsible for the consequential demise resulting thereof, the American people should accept it with heartfelt assurance that it is in their national interest and security. So what if thousands of Iraqis have died needlessly, since America's President once lied to the whole world that Saddam is out to destroy the American way of life? So what if the President continues to tie a tragic war in Iraq with a failing war on terror, without any score points on it achieved to date by its leading advocate. On the contrary, terror has been given a chance to grow and spread, thanks to an Administration that sees absolutely little regard for human life and places its own political life and that of the cronies that surround it above all moral and humanitarian considerations.

Letters to the Editor

Stop USA/Israel bashing Haifi!
Maybe Mr. Hassan Al-Haifi can take a little time off from his USA/Israel bashing to read the below statement - and remind your readers that Islam is a tolerant religion.
"An Arabic language website has posted images of what it says are the executions of 12 Nepalese citizens taken hostage in Iraq.
Ten days ago, a militant Islamic group kidnapped at least 12 Nepalese workers in Iraq.
The website carried a statement from the militant group, Army of Ansar al-Sunna, which said that the men were being punished for helping America".
What would be the consequences for the world if a Christian militant group were to kidnap and execute 12 Muslims after demanding, for example, a church in Sana'a (or Saudi, or Iran, or Libya...) so that the Christian minority had a place to worship?
I am SURE that Mr. Hassan Al-Haifi would have a LOT to say about that.
Mike A.

Fighting against myths
I'ts always applauded when journalists write against myths. There are so many myths worth to be written against like "The myth of Theodorakis and some of his saying", "The myth of the 72 Arabic virgins, awaiting male suicides in heaven", "The myth of a sworn enmity being not solvable", "The myth to

Letters to the Editor

Achieve peace by disintegrating the adversary parts of two parties which both love one and the same small territory to live on", "The myth that enlightenment would always spare some parts of the globe, even in the long run" etc..
By reading your recent article about myths in Yemen, I've also found a very young myth, the demythologizing of which would probably mean a big political step forward in your region. Perhaps it would even lead to a unity that would be a light unto the other nations.
Could you perhaps help demythologize the - I fear among Jewish people rather wide spread - myth that only a state with a hexagonal star as an emblem and the name of Israel can be a home of the Jewish people?
Dieter Conrad
Conrad-Maisborn@t-online.de

Saudis should rethink their policies
Having read the article about the decision of the Iraqi government to ban al-Jazeera from reporting in Iraq and the action taken by the so-called American democracy against it, I feel that the real focus should not be al-Jazeera, but in my opinion, the Saudis are to blame for the problems we underwent after 9/11.
As we know, 15 out of 19 persons who committed the 9/11 terrorist attack, were Saudis. In my opinion, the radical way of thinking of the terrorists is attributable to the radical educational system of Saudi Arabia, which used religion extensively.
Billions of dollars obtained from oil were used to harness radical beliefs and caused the destabilization of various parts of the world such as Afghanistan, Chechnya, Somalia, Iraq, the Philippines, and Yemen, etc.
It is now the right time for Saudi Arabia to right the wrong actions it has taken in causing radicalism and extremist ideas to emerge throughout the world. It should stop its means of destabilizing countries such as Yemen, which suffered tremendously from such actions.
I wish to join hands with others to free the simple Saudi citizen from the extra radical religious preaching and education. Saudi women should be allowed to drive cars and beheading acts should be stopped.
Mohammed A. Ghaleb
ghaleb2003@yahoo.com

Stopping oil = Bush's end
I am an American citizen, who is furious that Bush went to war against Iraq, and that so many people have been killed or wounded, and that so much of your country has been destroyed.
I would like to ask that all those who oppose Bush's occupation NOT to kill any more. If you want Bush out, it's very easy. Just stop the flow of oil. How you do this is up to you. One idea that comes to mind - raise the price on a barrel of oil to \$100 USD. Or cut production in half. A combined effort by Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iran, and other global oil producers would bring Bush and his cabal begging. Unity and resolve, not bloodshed will win the day!
I am convinced that: Stop The Oil = No More Bush.
I pray for peace and tranquility for all people. We must find a way to get along, stop Bush's murderous war machine, and do this without killing. Incidentally, do you wonder who is next on Bush's hit list?
Harold S Kramer
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YEMEN TIMES
Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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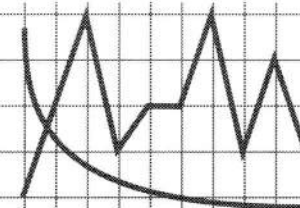
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YT Business



Robert Hindle, WB Country Manager gives his perspective before leaving Yemen

World Bank demands more reforms

Robert Hindle, The World Bank's Country Manager based in Yemen, will be finishing his stay in the country at the end of this month. The World Bank not only takes on the role of providing money for development projects but also offers advice and analysis for countries to make progress in development. Hindle has been working closely with the Yemeni government concerning numerous areas of development, especially in economic reform, for nearly three years.

Hindle, who has been working with The World Bank for 30 years, will fill the post as head of The Integrity Unit at The World Bank's headquarters in Washington, D.C. The department focuses on eliminating the mishandling of funds that are handed over by The World Bank.

Hindle spoke with Peter Willems about progress that has been made in Yemen during his stay and areas that he believes need more work in the future.

Q - What progress has been made on economic reform in Yemen during your stay?

A - My observation of the past three years is that the government has made genuine progress in some areas, but to be honest, not enough in the interest of the people in Yemen. The government has been successful in managing the security situation, and the security situation is important. There needs to be security and peace for economic development to happen.

The second thing is the government has succeeded in continuing to improve its democratic responsiveness. Everyone agrees that the elections were reasonably well managed. The government did a good job of registering people. Obviously, there are always things that can be done better, but it was certainly positive.

On the economic reform side, however, their accomplishments have been more modest. There are some good things. I think Yemen warrants genuine compliments for how it has been proceeding with regard to educational reform. That has been reflected in what the international community has done in terms of providing grants to help the government. Once again, a lot needs to be done, but there has been genuine progress.

The government can take genuine satisfaction in the functioning of the social fund, which is delivering lots of benefits to the people of Yemen. I think the government can take some satisfaction in at least articulating its strategy for poverty alleviation in terms of the poverty reduction strategy, which is actually quite good.

Q - What are some areas you think need more attention?

A - One of the dilemmas is that despite having a good strategy, not everything has been carefully implemented. One of the things worth particular attention has been continued difficulties in the health sector. There is some evidence that the country may be facing a deteriorating health situation, primarily in terms of infant and maternal mortality rates. It is not clear, but the overall delivery system is still not reaching all the people, particularly those in the rural areas. Many Yemenis have said that there are clinics available, but there might not be a staff or proper facilities. So, one of the things to focus on in the near term is better health care.

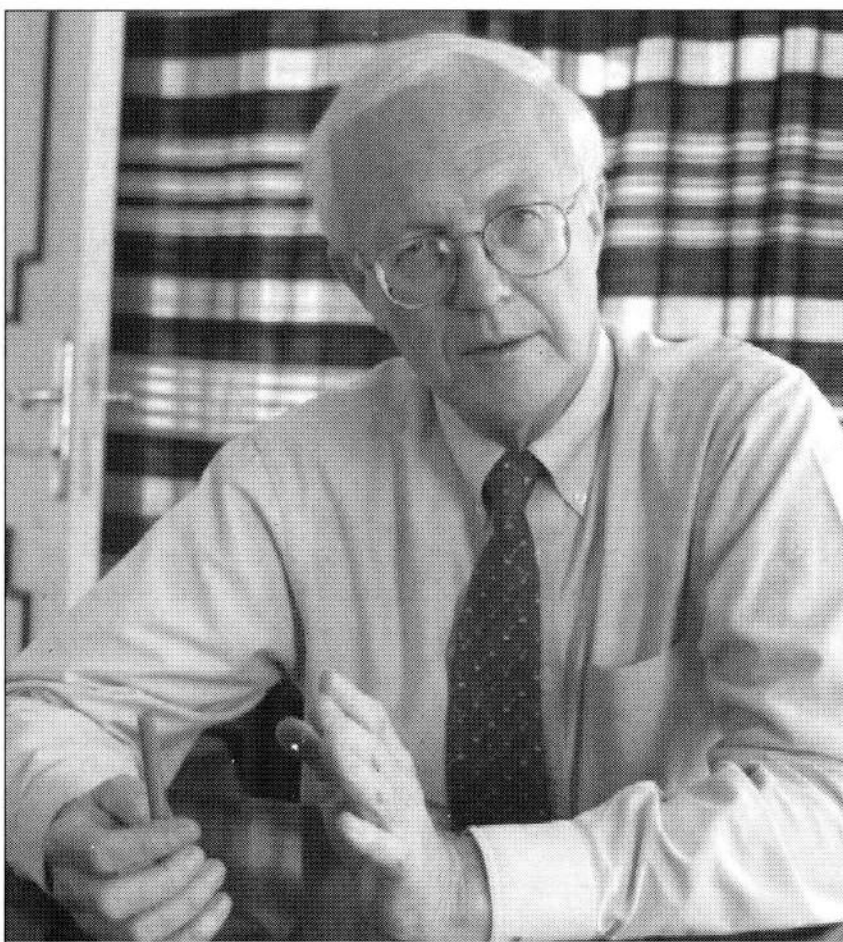
A second area where some progress has been made, but not enough, is recognising the seriousness of the water crisis. All of us from the outside really do see this as a crisis. It is not absolutely certain that all Yemenis see this as a crisis. Managing water better so that in fact Sana'a does not have to be abandoned in the medium term because there is insufficient water is something the country needs to deal with. Our view is that it is already a crisis.

The third thing which the society really needs to come to terms with is the use of qat. I understand the social and cultural elements of it, but understanding them does not mean that we and Yemenis should ignore the pervasive negative impact of qat chewing. Some of the negative effects, for example, are family income, the water supply, health problems and how qat chewing often serves as a divisive element in many families, not bring families together but separating them.

We are also very concerned about the medium-term economic stability of the country because we do not believe the present high price of oil will continue. Given the fact that we know that oil production is going down and the government depends on oil royalties for 85% of its budget, we are very concerned to have the government take decisions now on finding alternative ways to fund the budget.

There is a real need for improved courts, the judicial system, which implies also having professionally trained police who can help in the legal system. There is much to be done in terms of civil service reform. That is obviously difficult because part of the problem is low salaries. Another part of the problem is that the government needs - over time - to put in place an ethical code on how civil servants should work and how the civil service system operates.

Q - Are there some areas you



Robert Hindle, Country Manager of The World Bank based in Yemen (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

believe need to be dealt with immediately?

A - There are some issues that should be dealt with that will determine what Yemen looks like 20 years from now. One is education, and as I said they are doing well on that. The second is water management, and they are not doing very well on that. And, three, it is what I call reform of the public service. While there are some positive signs, it is not moving quickly enough. If I could say the three things I would love to see happen as quickly as possible to make sure that this is a successful country, those are the three.

Education is critical to help bring down the population growth rate because what is happening now is that the economy is not growing fast enough to compensate the population growth rate, so people don't feel better off. Education is directly related to that.

What makes great economies is education, particularly making sure everyone is educated. The next thing that makes a great economy is openness to the world, to make sure your economy is integrated with the rest of the world. The third thing that makes a real difference is an effective public administration.

Water is linked not only to over-extraction because of qat, but if you

to feel confident working in Yemen. Part of that has to do with good courts and the legal system. Part of it has to do with making sure business people are not hassled for bribes and all of those things.

One sector that can be very profitable is tourism. Yemen should be doing more to attract investment in tourism. If one looks at what the Omanis have done in terms of bringing people in to Salalah and Muscat, there is no reason Yemen cannot do the same thing. What they have done is make sure people who invest in hotels can do it very easily without too many problems. One of the largest and best hotels in Muscat is run by a Yemeni who chose to invest in Muscat rather than in Yemen. That needs to change.

One of the virtues of tourism as well is that it creates huge numbers of jobs. That is something Yemen desperately needs. Plus, businesses related to tourism will pay more taxes and people will pay more taxes so it begins to replace the oil revenue that supports the budget.

Recognizing the water crisis, there are lots of places in the Tihama where there is sufficient water to produce high quality vegetables and fruits for the regional market. If you go to Dubai and enter a supermarket, you will see tomatoes and onions that have come from Australia. That is crazy because Yemen can produce the same thing. It requires people to invest, to establish the marketing chain, to make sure the quality is there, when the supermarket orders a crate of vegetables it is delivered on time and so forth. This country has the best agricultural environment in the Gulf region.

Another sector that has a lot of potential is fish. What is needed is improving the way the fish are handled and treated, and there is no reason why Yemen can not deliver fish, not only to the Gulf, but also to Europe. For example, a way to make money is to put fresh tuna on a charter plane and have the tuna delivered overnight to Frankfurt. That is where the money is, and it is a real opportunity.

Non-oil mining is another area, which includes in part stones. You look around Yemen and you see not only has it got the quality of the stones, but also the workmanship. You then ask yourself, 'Why is the world buying Italian marble and granite at the cost of Italian labor and Yemen is not exporting these things?' Once again it is a case of attracting investors and exploiting what is a natural opportunity.

One of the services that Yemen can develop is the port of Aden and the port of Hodeidah. There is no reason at

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.7900	184.9900
Sterling Pound	332.4300	332.7900
Euro	226.5700	226.8200
Saudi Rial	49.2700	49.3300
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.8300	627.5100
UAE Dirhem	50.3100	50.3600
Egyptian Pound	29.6000	29.6300
Bahraini Dinar	490.1500	490.6800
Qatari Rial	50.7600	50.8100
Jordanian Dinar	260.6300	260.9200
Omani Rial	479.9900	480.5100
Swiss Franc	147.0200	147.1800
Swedish Crown	24.9300	24.9500
Japanese Yen	1.6814	1.6833

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

all why Yemen cannot be making more money on the basis of those two ports. Once again, think about what Dubai has done in terms of its port facility. That is less convenient than Aden and Hodeidah because of location. Aden is physically a much better port than Dubai. Dubai has succeeded in putting in an efficient, well-run port, which means that people come in and build processing and transshipment facilities that create all sorts of jobs. Aden should do the same thing, and they can do it.

The big picture is in the replacement of oil and Aden is going to be one of the immediate places where you can get growth. For instance, if you put in place tomorrow effective port management and integrate the container terminal and the port of Aden under one management, you will within a year get many more ships. Being the successful transit hub creates a lot of jobs. Also within a year people will be saying that they want to set up a business in the free zone. The infrastructure in Aden is set up very well. You will create jobs, more people will move to Aden, and ultimately it will be the city growing providing jobs, providing a tax base for the government, and so forth.

During my three years of being here, it has been the case that Aden is now coming up. If you look at the investments being made in city services, it is in fact a place which is going in the right direction.

Q - There are rumors that The World Bank threatened the Yemeni government to end offering funds or pulling out of Yemen. Is this true?

A - First, not only do we not intentionally threaten governments, but I personally never threaten governments. It is not a good way of doing business, and we do not do it. We are going to present to our board of directors in two weeks a \$65 million loan to Yemen for basic education. It is fair to say, though, that we think the government needs to do much more than it has in terms of economic reform. We have certainly said to the government that in the medium term, they cannot expect the same level of support in the absence of reforms that they would get with reformation. I don't call that a threat. I call that a statement of the realities of the world. For us around the world, we reward countries that reform. We don't punish countries that don't reform, but they do get less money.

In human resources development indicators,

Yemen advances three degrees

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
mkmaly@yahoo.com

Deputy premier, the Minister of Planning & International Cooperation Ahmed Soufan has expected that the Yemeni economy would realize a good growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product and the rate of growth for this year is to be between 3.5-4%, due to improvement of oil

prices in world markets.

In a recent inauguration ceremony of an international report on human resources development, held at the ministry of planning, with participation of the UN Development Program for the year 2004, Mr Soufan has said Yemen was still categorized among countries of low human development as it occupies the place 149 from among 177 countries in 2002, but Mr Soufan affirmed that there was an improvement in indicators of human development in Yemen as it advanced three degrees in comparison with the year 2002,

asserting that Yemen entertains appreciation of donor international organisations. He says the international report on human development for 2004 comes within a framework of a yearly series on an issues receiving world attention. This year it defined the topic of "Cultural Freedom in our Diversified World" to be complementary of what had been selected of issues that had been previously dealt with in the international series.

The minister has also emphasized the significance of looking more seriously at political and economic

reforms taking place in the Arab world due to what the world is witnessing of developments and changes in the new world order, especially after the events of September and invasion of Iraq. He has also said success of those reforms would not be achieved unless they come from inside and not imposed externally.

On his part, the foreign minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi said in his address that the report of human development this year had acquired a special importance particularly for associating culture with human development, clarifying that Yemen had communi-

ties in many countries where our Yemeni culture goes, in quest of either living or education. It is regrettable, he added, those communities face difficulties in incorporation, dialogue and understanding with other cultures.

Resident representative of the UNDP in Yemen has said he international report on human development acquires special importance, particularly in Yemen, as it is the only parliamentary state in the Arab peninsula and due to its commitment to an agenda towards the realization of human development. Human devel-

opment, she added, requires improvement of health condition, education and provision of enough standards for dignified living and political freedom for all citizens, in addition to obligation towards the achievement of goals of the millennium human development prepared by the international community until 2015.

He report on human development for the year 2004 has included a directory on human poverty that combines between proportion of people living under threshold of knowledge and health and participation in governance.

Educational reform



BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The miserable state of education in Yemen calls for emergency measures. The following are suggestions to many crucial problems that the officials of education should address if they are intent on educational reform.

Unless there is a will on the part of those responsible for education, the situation will go from bad to worse. We expect to see real-life results and not just theories put forward by officials after leaving convention halls. Education is the responsibility of official, the student and his family. The following points are what we propose:

Reform of curricula

Syllabi and books, instead of being a source of information, often create difficulties for students and teachers alike.

When designing syllabi the committees responsible ought to take into account the circumstances of students living in primitive areas. We suggest that the Ministry of Education look in to the matter, by setting up committees in all governorates in order to design sophisticated appropriate syllabi. Aid

from educational consultants from Arab and foreign countries has to be considered.

Provision of teachers

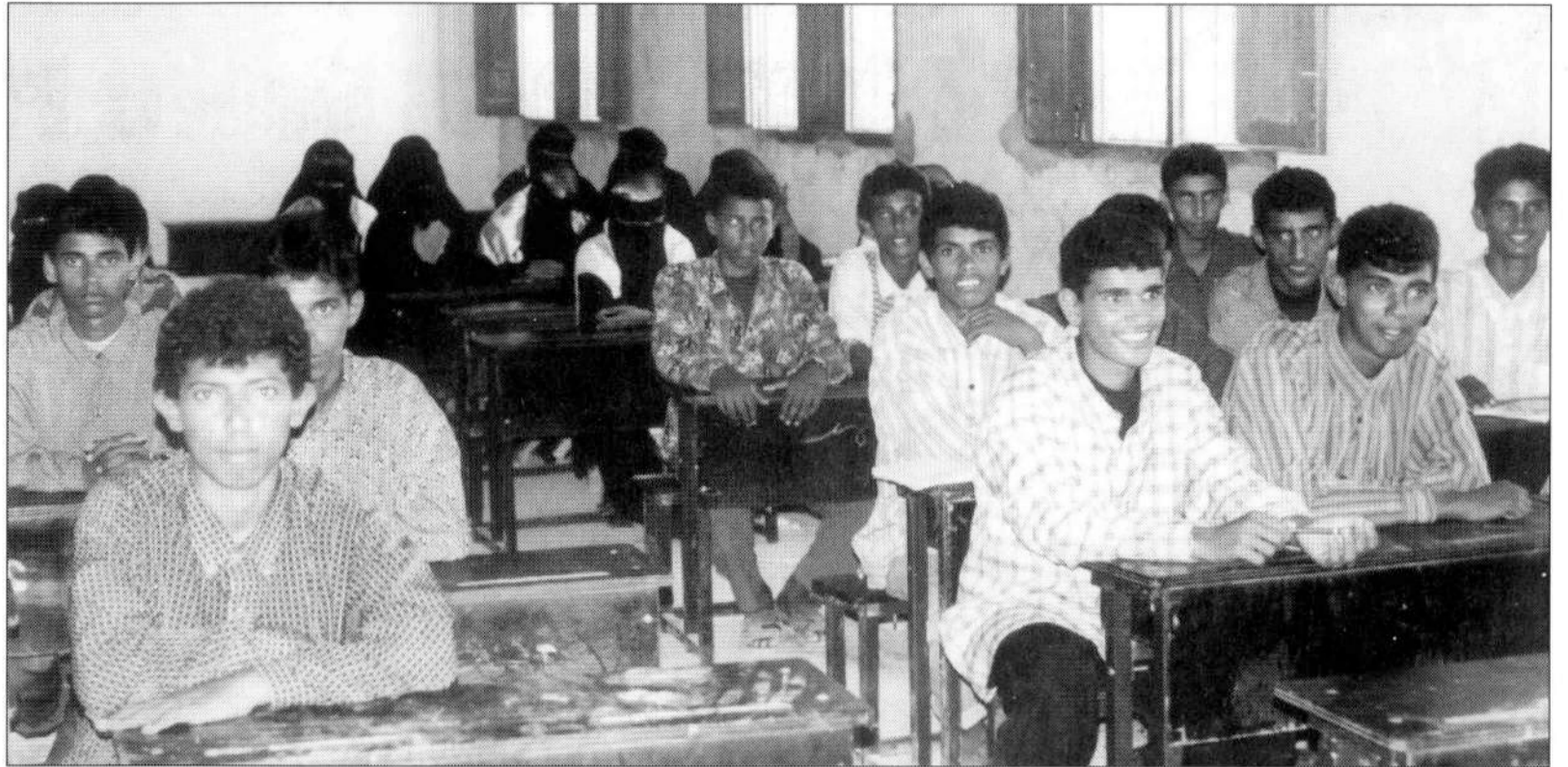
Most schools in rural areas suffer from a lack of teachers, and pupils in lower grades miss out on some subjects due to this problem. For example, during the school year, some students neither study mathematics nor physics and are expected to sit exams in these subjects at the end of the year. This problem gives rise to widespread cheating. We do not encourage the cheating phenomenon but understand that students resort to it as a compensation for the lack of teachers and books.

Qualifying teachers

Training courses should be held for the purpose of training inexperienced teachers. The story of a teacher who taught students that the sun is a planet and not a star is clear-cut evidence of this necessity. A question appeared in an exam in one of the Yemeni schools asking "Is the sun a planet or star?" One of the students answered that it is a star, since his father had told him so. The teacher however, believing the sun to be a planet, marked the answer wrong. Such examples can be found in numerous schools.

Administration

If the administration is wise, every-



The Students in the class

thing will go well but the fact remains that many highly qualified teachers hold administrative positions, and there are a great number who are not capable of handling both positions at once

Family and Society

Observing the student, motivating him and modifying his behavior starts within his own family. A parents council has also its role in contributing to

the quality of education by following up the concerned authorities and bringing effective input.

Equipment

In rural areas, there are no buildings

for students to study, who sit under trees and in some sunny spots. Is it possible for them to learn in these circumstances? Visual and audio aids are rarely seen in most primary and secondary schools.

Excessive Dowries

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Excessive dowries is a phenomenon growing worse in our society everyday, and it is spreading unbelievably! It is an issue from which many of the youths are suffering. If we ask ourselves who is to blame for seeking, enhancing, and synchronizing such a phenomenon, we will of course say openly (and regretfully) that fathers are the main people who look at marriage from the perspective of "who will pay more?" The girl has become a commodity, sold and purchased, like any anything else on the market, without feeling for her emotions or her well-being as a human! She is treated with cruelty and disgraced.

They look at her as if she is a dependant who has to be got rid of, compared against a dowry which could satisfy her family. It is believed from this phenomenon that there is no social and religious awareness of the father, who also has no mercy towards the youths striving to get married.

In many cases, we find the laws, phenomenon and costs of the marriage party are very high, and borne by the groom. He has either to perform what is required from him or to withdraw from the marriage. Truly, many youths are avoiding marriage because of several reasons, most significant of which is the high-priced dowries which have become a heavy burden on them!

The youth intending to get married, may save the value of his bride, but may not be able to afford the rest of the money required to complete his marriage celebration in a best manner - such as the customs and phenomenon imposed on us like carrying out

the party in magnificent out-of-door party halls, and the dinner feast.

Another causes of such high-priced dowries is as a result of some rich people, who pay extortionate amounts to the fathers of brides, implicitly setting an unpleasant trend. Consequently, we find that many people ask for similarly high amounts to get their daughters married off, believing that such a thing preserves their daughters' dignity! To add insult to injury, some of the fathers are not able to keep pace with the requirements of the marriage party, thus, they off load the full burden onto the groom, with no mercy or sympathy for him.

Therefore we, as civilized youths, ought to raise the awareness of our fathers, and direct them towards a better understanding of the correct attitude towards marriage dowries. All fathers must look towards their daughter's best interests in choosing for her a suitable husband, not by demanding huge amounts of money to buy her! As well, we ought to raise the awareness among people so as to abandon such terrible customs and practices which merely cause poverty and waste money.

We have to balance matters and try to do according to the prophet's saying, "we have to raise awareness in ourselves of religion first, and then in cultural and social awareness".

Secondly, rich men have to be conscious of Almighty God in their dealings, as their excesses and exaggerations create social discrimination among people, and on top of it all, it is forbidden. Meanwhile, if fathers find the groom is a suitable for their daughter, they should not overburden him, even if he is capable of shouldering such heavy burden. Cooperation

should be given due consideration to facilitate the marital affairs, not to cause difficulties as this is leading to misdemeanors among youths who may sometimes resort to wrongful ways such as illegal marriage, for example.

This is the easier way for two people to get married to each other, by eloping and marrying away from their families! In so doing, they escape from the phenomenon of the huge amounts which ought to be paid by the young man.

Sometimes, wrongful deeds might take place among the youths, which may lead to loss of the girl and the young man simultaneously. Thus, disaster occurs as a result of the abuse of fathers to their sons and daughters who want to get married. We must understand matters well from the very beginning, and look upon the youths status with more mercy and humanity.

A legal marriage according to the light of Almighty God's instructions is better than the harmful results damaging to the family, youths and the society as a whole, resulting from any alternative. We must not look at marriage from only one corner represented by money, but, we have to look at it from several perspectives noting various considerations.

Perhaps the most important of which is psychological and emotional stability, in addition to several other factors which determine whether the marriage will be successful. Money is not the only factor - marriage partners should be well-selected, mutual accepted, and sincere to expressions of well meaning.

If we had known it, we would not have had reached to the situation we are living in.

Cultural Days of Mareb Govte reflect depth of Mareb's culture

BY HASSON AL-ZAYEDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

During last Saturday and Sunday, Sana'a has witnessed the event of the Mareb Governorate's cultural days. The events were inaugurated by the Minister of Culture & Tourism, Khaled al-Rowaishan. The events included a plastic art exhibition, children's culture in Mareb prepared by a number of Mareb artists, and an exhibi-

tion of popular dresses and handy crafts, as well as an exhibition of photographic pictures which represented the civilization and cultural heritage of the Mareb Governorate. These events presented a culture rather distinct and different from other governorates.

Additionally, the poetic recitations reflected prevailing tribal poems on position, love and art which the Minister of Culture intends to publish in a collection of poems by those

poets who participated in the events in question.

Mubkhooth bin Lehtum, and Muhammad al-Haddad also delivered a lecture on Sheba and its cultural and political role in Yemeni civilization, in addition to an artistic party entertained by the popular dancing band of Mareb.

Thus, the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Khaled al-Rowaishan, has honored a group of those Mareb men who participated in these events.

Continued from back page

Japanese Chura arrives in Sana'a

The dance in Part 2, "Autumn of rich harvest, feast of symbiosis" expresses the joy and vitality of island life under the hot sun in Okinawa and the lively "sturdiness" and "toughness" of fishing villages which depend on the ocean for life and food. It also illustrates farm life with the unique farming implements of East Asia such as the hoe, sickle and pallet, and choreographed to express the joy of harvest.

Okinawa is an island located in the southern part of Japan. This island is considered a treasure chest of traditional Japanese culture. "Chura" was the first dancing troupe of its kind in Okinawa, and is featured by its composition of exclusively professional female dancers.

This is the second participation of the Japanese Embassy in the activities of "Sana'a 2004 the Arab Cultural Capital." Their first involvement was arranging the "Japanese Films Days" in July 2004 at the same center.

Through these activities, the Embassy of Japan hopes as many Yemeni people as possible will appreciate the culture and life of Japanese people and accordingly mutual understanding between Yemen and Japan will be further promoted.

Historically speaking, as an international cross-port of the cultures of mainland Japan, China, Korea, and South-East Asia, Okinawa has developed her own unique culture. Through communication with other cultures, Okinawa has cultivated her original "Ryukyustyle" culture which is composed of folklore, fine arts, and opera to name a few. Classic dance, a symbol of Okinawa dance, invites viewers to a world of sophistication and elegant styles of beauty combined with classic aromatic traditions.



Yemeni dancers participating in the reception ceremony

And you can also find other dances such as the "Eiisaa Dance" which is a vigorous modern dance incorporating rituals and folklores, and "Creative dances" which depict local life and are accompanied by

extravagant songs and "shamisen" (a three-stringed guitarlike instrument).

In Okinawa, women were, and are, responsible for rituals. It is claimed that women can attune themselves to the Creator and her-his Elixir, when expressing joyful sensations in dances and songs. By this process, people can be bestowed with a prosperous worldly life and good offspring. This is called "Onari-Shin Shinkou No Kokoro" (Piety towards Creator), which is sort of pacifism, to respect Nature and Mercy.

"Chura" (The Okinawa Song and Dance Theater) is composed only of ladies, and has performed successfully not only in Japan, but in many parts of the world. Recently they have toured: South-Korea in November 2000 (on the occasion of Japan Week by Embassy of Japan), Greece in 2001, 7 Asian countries and 4 north European countries in 2002, US and Canada in 2003. These tours of "Chura" have contributed to cultural interaction, and highly valued mutual understanding.



A traditional Okinawa dance performed on the stage

Population growth and its effects on the environment



BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The population growth in Yemen, in the main towns in particular, has led to an increase in food consumption and urban development, and in addition it has caused a growth in annual hard material waste. These matters constitute environmental burdens as a result of which, they become a topic that must be addressed by environmental officials.

Despite the efforts that are made to dispose of and treat the hard material waste, enough is not currently being done, as the garbage accumulation in the streets of many towns, proves. The Population and the Development Booklet (issued by the Center of Population Studies of Sana'a University) indicates that the collection and disposal of garbage in appropriate circumstances only accounts for 60% of the hard residues produced daily from the main towns.

The studies also showed that the scarcity and inaccessibility of garbage dumps, the shortage of waste treatment plants, and the lack-adaisical methods of disposal exacerbate the current predicament.

There are only 14 dumping grounds in the Republic which means that some large towns share one site, as what is taking place in the al-Azraqain dump, where the garbage of the Sana'a Governorate and Amran are thrown.

This dump, which has been in use since 1970, is forming an environmental disaster as a result of the



quantity of garbage accumulated in its relatively small area of 345440m², as is the case with the joint dump of Aden and Lahej.

Hard materials residues of all sorts, as well as dangerous industrial waste from hospitals and factories, are disposed in a casual manner: waste that is buried is not well compacted, and the conditions of safe disposal are rarely followed. Each layer has to be compacted separately, so as to ensure there are no gaps or holes, which might enable the reproduction of microorganisms that creates harmful flammable gasses.

The locations of the dumps have

to be carefully chosen too: they have to be far removed from agricultural lands and underground and surface water sources, and they have to be on a thick rocky ground so that the residue does not penetrate the ground causing pollution to underground life. Certain sites then, should be relocated, and once filled, a site should be closed.

In conclusion the garbage problem in Yemeni towns requires immediate though. Upon choosing the means of disposal, the negative and positive environmental ramifications have to be given similar attention. Recycling and reuse of waste is an option which ought to be

considered for example.

This method is adopted in most of the World's countries, as it is considered an enormous resource. In Yemen some disorganized recycling measures are being taken, for example, there are some workshops that reuse a portion of the plastic waste or metals by reshaping them into simple tools in preference to exportation.

The quantity of exported metals reached 14746 tons for all metals for 2003, and 104 tons of iron scrap for 2002, and the reuse of the cartons and packaging has helped to generate the yearly income of YR 145926000.

Study finds more sent to hospitals with Flu

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Influenza is sending more people to the hospital in the United States each year and the flu season appears to be getting longer, a government study said on Tuesday.

The increased hospital admissions are partly due to an aging population that is more susceptible to the annual malady, the report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The study looked at hospital records from 1979 to 2001.

"Currently, we estimate that more than 200,000 respiratory and circulatory hospitalizations are associated with influenza each year in the United States ... and the numbers of these hospitalizations have increased substantially over the last two decades due in part to the aging of the population," said the report.

William Thompson, the report's chief author, said "we're also seeing

that the influenza season is lasting longer ... going from a period of about eight weeks in length to 12 weeks in length."

The study did not examine why the season is getting longer, but a spokeswoman for the agency said the CDC was currently exploring that question.

The U.S. flu season generally runs from late fall to late winter. In general, vaccinations are recommended for those 50 and older, children 6 months to 23 months, all pregnant women and anyone over 6 months with heart, lung and other chronic diseases or weakened immunities.

The study found that the highest rates of influenza-related hospitalizations was among persons age 85 and older, while children younger than 5 had rates similar to those found among those 50 through 64.

Those least affected were aged 5 to 49.

High risk breast cancer needs MRI detection : Study

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Women with a high genetic risk for breast cancer run a better chance of having it detected with magnetic resonance imaging than with mammography and other methods, researchers said on Tuesday.

The kind of breast cancer involved is caused by mutations of the genes BRCA1 and BRCA2, believed responsible for 5 percent to 10 percent of all breast cancer cases. Women with the mutations have a significantly higher risk of breast cancer.

Researchers at Canada's Toronto-Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Center said they studied 236 women with the mutations aged 25 to 65 who underwent annual screenings from 1997 to 2003 using all methods.

They found that 17 cancers in the group were detected by MRI compared to eight by mammography, seven by ultrasound and two by semi-annual clinical breast examinations.

"Our results support the position that MRI-based screening is likely to become the cornerstone of breast can-

cer surveillance for BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers, but it is necessary to demonstrate that this surveillance tool lowers breast cancer mortality before it can be recommended for general use," the report added.

The study was published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association which also carried an editorial by two researchers at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

The findings combined with another recent study "strongly suggest that women with (these) mutations should be offered such screening," the commentary said.

But it said women and their doctors should be aware that the results of such screening "may be substantially less than described if different imaging protocols are followed or if experienced radiologists and suitable technology, including the capability to perform magnetic resonance-guided biopsies, are not available."

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Yemeni Press, A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Main headlines

- While he vows to avenge al-Houthi killing, Tribal efforts continue to convince Razami surrender himself
- Sits-in calling for stopping the war in Sa'ada
- Liberation Party visited presidential palace, did not meet the president
- Imprisonment of Al-Khaiwani, closure of al-Shoura newspaper, assassination of freedom in Yemen
- Yemeni FM: Arrangements to revive Iraqi-Yemeni committee, a welcome of Yemeni private sector contribution in reconstruction
- Iraqi ambassador to Yemen
- President Saleh affirms Yemenis support for the efforts aimed at ending occupation and establishment of stability in Iraq
- FM Qirbi to visit Saudi Arabia
- Yemen expresses solidarity with Russia regarding victims of Bisan School
- Khaiwani imprisonment and closure of al-Shoura, terror against journalists
- Iraqi government demands for amounts of money believed to be smuggled to Yemen
- Observers rule out an Arab country involvement in the attack on C0le
- Houthi killed and insurgency ended for good
- Al-Hattar visited Britain to reconcile between Islamic movements and the British government
- Yemeni political parties condemn Israeli threats and praise the Syrian leadership
- The parliament summons a number of ministers for questioning
- Government approves an international agreement on fighting corruption
- More than 4437 investment opportunity in Yemeni islands
- To discuss development of relations between the two countries, the Chinese foreign minister arrives in Sana'a
- International medical expertise to determine al-Houthi fate
- Increasing demand for the release of Al-Shoura newspaper editor
- The United States allows a priest to study at al-Eman University
- Al-Buhra sect describes al-Houthi as rebellion against the homeland
- Minister Soufan: Yemen was initiator in reforming religious education before the Sept.11 events

22 May weekly, issued by the General People's Congress, 9 Sept. 2004.

Main headlines

- In the popular festival for inaugurating the revolution days celebrations, the president: The wheel of history would not turn back
- GPC's parliamentary bloc warns some leaders of the YSP against involving their party in stances against the revolution
- The president did not meet a delegation representing the Liberation Party to discuss a scheme for establishment of Islamic caliphate

The newspaper's political editor says in his article that it is wrong to say that those who practice corruption are only some officials from members of the General People's Congress who do not respect the public posts because there are leading members and prominent cadres affiliate of JMP organisations are present in most of the state establishments and practice corruption. The constitution and law guarantee that state positions are neutral and political pluralism permits assuming such posts by members from other political parties.

There is no exaggeration in saying that there is a horrible record on corruption of the JMP and those who are influential in the parties. Those influential persons are used to talk day and night about corruption while they are themselves the corrupt in their behaviour and practices. The opposition is no doubt a support for the authority and means sense of responsibility and obligation in respecting the law. He is mistaken whoever think that opposition means opposition of everything or falsification of facts or violation of the constitution and the law.

Al-Shumou weekly, 11 Sept. 2004.

Main headlines

- A Yemeni security delegation for America to receive around 20 detainees from Guantanamo
- Old Sana'a city threatened to fall into the hands of armed militias of the so-called iMuslim Youthi

Nasserite organization: Some parties have violated the constitution

The newspaper says in its editorial that the insurgency has fallen and the biggest conspiracy against the country was defeated and the homeland stayed safe and sound. We have been waging on the armed forces to defeat the conspiracy out of our belief in credibility and truthfulness of the issue they undertake.

The battle against the Mran rebellion was not of an ordinary character of rebellion operations the region has ever witnessed but rather surpassed the limits of that rebellion and boundaries of data of any insurgency that happened in any country. This is especially after the conspiracy papers have been revealed to find ourselves before a secessionist conspiracy aimed at partitioning the country into three small states.

Al-Umma weekly, 9 Sept. 2004.

Main headlines

- In the case of illegal appointments,
- The court obliges the Sana'a University presidency to reply to the lawsuit
- Resentment for the halt of work in the Mansoura corniche
- Lawyers Union and Arab Islamic Cultural Forum demand the immediate release of kidnapped French journalists
- Journalists without borders organization asks president Saleh to help release of al-Khiwani

The political editor of the newspaper says in his article on the revolution anniversary the masses of our people are celebrating this year the anniversary of September revolution in 1962 while the homeland is facing an ordeal of the war in Sa'ada and its consequences. It has been the revolution that inspired the Yemenis ideas of liberation from despotism and backwardness and heralded the positive change at all levels.

The revolution was not a plant coming from emptiness but rather came from the core of dreams and ambitions of the Yemeni people as a whole. The

revolution was not intended to be against the Zaidi sect or other religious sects in the country, as some try to claim or impose their convictions and vision governed by their interests, privileges, influence and totalitarian ideology. The new generations of the revolution are looking forward to freedom, democracy, development, political pluralism and participation in building the Yemeni homeland.

Al-Sahwa weekly, 9 Sept. 2004.

Main headlines

- First conference of local councils concluded,
- Rejection of centralism, despotism, and demand for full authorities
- Its losses over \$ 100 mullion,
- Government brokerage behind buying the Free Zone
- Amid local and international denunciation, the JMP demands accountability of al-Khiwani kidnapers
- A parliamentarian report on health conditions in three governorates.
- Eighty thousand cases of malaria
- Islah bloc at the parliament rejects Hadramout budget
- Breakthrough of the crisis between al-Jawf tribes and authorities after handing over the detained officer

On its thirtieth foundation anniversary of Al-Sahwa newspaper, columnist Zaid al-Shami says in an article the press has become a forum undertaking the process of enlightenment and education and takes part in resisting injustice and fighting corruption, the press managed to impose for itself a fourth estate due to the influence and effect it effects on the public opinion and on the political decision.

In Yemen, the press has been playing a prominent role since the forties of the last century through which the revolutionaries have expressed their ideas and reforming views. The number of newspapers have increased although a permission for publishing a newspaper is a matter so difficult until the Yemeni unity came and carried with it a big system of changes, among them the freedom of the press that we hope it would continue as the press offers a service to the society and the



political system that it criticizes. The publication of al-Sahwa newspaper was a dream waited for by many people because it has added a new platform away from official hegemony.

Al-Wassat newspaper, 8 Sept. 2004.

Main headlines

- Hadramout parliamentary bloc threaten to boycott parliament
- In continuation of corruption, damages of shipment go to influential persons
- Liberation party asks the president to abolish the presidential system
- Hamoud al-Hashimi writes an article saying the poverty is considered

one of the gross violations of human rights and one phenomenon of economic backwardness and one of outstanding challenges facing developing societies.

Most studies distinguish between two types of poverty. The first type is the temporary poverty and generally results from causes attributed to the nature of the existing political and economic system in that of discarding the principle of employing those holding scientific qualifications and of those possessing technical professions or as a result of deficit in the general budget of the state and its incapability of providing necessary financial resources for their employment.

The second type of poverty is the chronic one which the more spread in the developing societies, among them

the Yemeni society. This type of poverty is the outcome of the individual structure or that of the society like the illiteracy, deterioration of education standard, non-acquisition of a profession or even the bad condition of health. The individuals suffering from a chronic poverty have no abilities to obtain a job yielding for them a suitable income and even in case of getting a job; they remain in a state of chronic poverty because the income they could get from that job would be less than the income defined in the poverty line. All that has affected the society in general and the woman in particular. Generally, the woman in Yemen is the most poor and the least authority and independence despite of her bearing of many responsibilities and represents half of the society.

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Hungary's annus refuses to hand back medal

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Disgraced Hungarian hammer thrower Adrian Annus said on Tuesday he will not return his Olympic gold medal and vowed to fight for it in court.

"I will keep the medal... any information contrary to that has not come from me," Annus said in a statement to state news agency MTI.

Annus won the hammer throw in Athens but was disqualified after he did not meet an International Olympic Committee (news - web sites) (IOC (news - web sites)) deadline before the Games ended to submit another urine sample. Japan's Koji Murofushi was awarded the gold medal.

The 31-year-old was dope tested twice during the Athens Games, including after his victory on August 22.

Both tests were negative but the IOC called for another out-of-competition test because of suspicions that he may have used a contraption to dupe testers.

The IOC said during the Games that "an analysis of the two urine samples provided during the period of the Games showed evidence of belonging to two different athletes, indicating possible tampering."

Annus told MTI that reports his two urine samples at the Games being from two different people are false.

Sources close to Annus said he changes his mind about the fate of the medal almost daily and on some days says he will return it since he considers himself the Olympic champion and the



medal has no bearing on that belief. Annus could not be reached for comment and did not respond to several telephone messages. His lawyer said the athlete would make a statement on Wednesday.

Michael Jordan morale boost for U.S. ryder cup team

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Michigan (Reuters) - U.S. Ryder Cup captain Hal Sutton enlisted the help of basketball great Michael Jordan to boost his team's morale for this week's match with a pep talk.

The Americans have been criticized in the past for lacking inspiration in their biennial match against the Europeans who hold the trophy after winning at the Belfry in 2002.

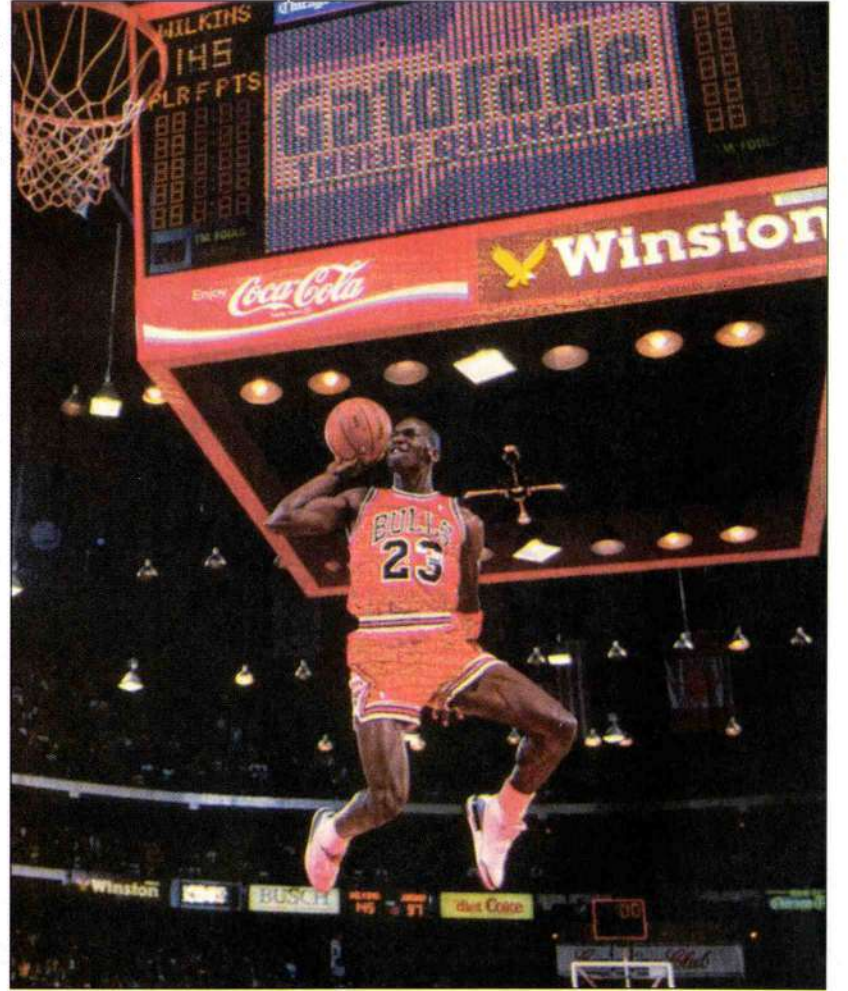
Sutton asked former Chicago Bulls guard Jordan, arguably the best basketball player of all time, to meet his players at dinner Monday evening.

"Michael Jordan is one of the greatest American sportsman of all time, if not the greatest. He got up and spoke a few words," Sutton told a news conference Tuesday.

"He's passionate about golf as most of you all know but he's also passionate about the Ryder Cup."

"He talked about how special he felt it was and I couldn't help but think how every guy in that room had to feel special that he thought they were special."

Jordan is a fanatical golf follower and has given advice to Tiger Woods on how to handle pressure at the top of his sport.



Tiger Woods Feels the Pressure at Oakland Hills

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Michigan (Reuters) - Tiger Woods accepts he is under pressure to perform at this week's Ryder Cup.

Woods, deposed as world number one by Vijay Singh two weeks ago, has failed to make an impact in the biennial team competition with five wins and eight losses in 15 matches.

"Hopefully this year will be a different story," the 28-year-old American told a news conference at Oakland Hills on Tuesday.

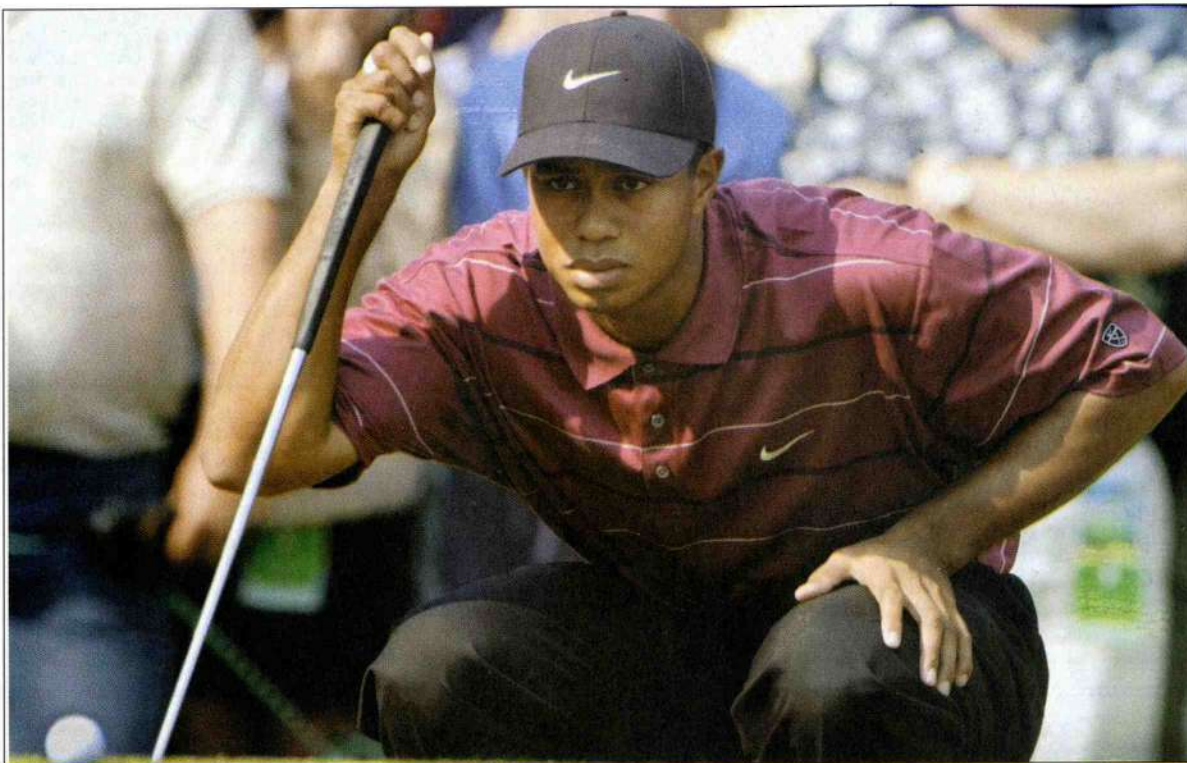
"You know how competitive I am. I go out there with the same attitude and that's to win, period. I don't go into any tournament thinking that it would be great to lose."

"I will be going out there to win as many points as I can for the team."

"That's what I've done, or tried to do, since my first Ryder Cup in '97 at Valderrama."

U.S. team captain Hal Sutton is expecting big things from Woods this week, and has urged his leading player to produce his best form at Oakland Hills.

"That's not any different than the



rest of the captains have said," Woods said. "I've qualified as number one in points every time I've been on (the U.S. team)."

"I've gone out there and played my best each and every time. I've shot 64 and lost and I've also played poorly and lost. All I know is I've tried my best. What can you do?"

"Any person who gets put out there is only in charge of one point. It is a team effort and hopefully we can all do our part."

YOUNGEST PLAYER

Woods, the youngest player on the U.S. team for the fourth successive time, has always expected his European opponents to have extra motivation when they played against him.

"That's the way it's been since my first Ryder Cup," he said. "I knew that, and I've known it all along. That has not changed."

"That's been there from the very first week. At my first Ryder Cup, I was ranked number one in the world at the time."

Woods has been criticized in the past for lacking team commitment at Ryder Cups, but he believed this was more a reflection of his personal style.

"I'm certainly not one for big speeches, I think the captain is doing that enough," he said. "But I'm more than happy to pull guys aside and go ahead and talk to them a little bit."

"I basically go over to the side eyeball to eyeball and tell them. That's what I've done in the past."

"Some of the guys who are new to this I've already spoken to a few times this week about what they can expect, what they might go through."

"It's kind of funny. Even though I'm a veteran of Ryder Cup play, I'm still the youngest guy on the team."

"You don't want to step on anyone's toes, on guys who have been there a long time, such as Davis (Love), Hal as a captain, Phil (Mickelson). You still want to do the right things."

The 35th Ryder Cup starts on Friday.

Texas Rangers Reliever Charged with Assaulting Fan

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - A Texas Rangers relief pitcher was arrested and charged with assault after flinging a chair into the stands and injuring a woman during a baseball game in Oakland, California, officials said on Tuesday.

Franklin Francisco, 25, was charged with aggravated battery after police said he threw a folding chair at a heckler in the stadium where his team was playing the Oakland Athletics on Monday. He was not pitching at the time.

"He was arrested after the game last night and he was booked in our jail and released shortly thereafter," Oakland deputy police chief Peter Dunbar told Reuters.

"There was a heckler who happens to be the husband of the victim. He was heckling at the Rangers bullpen and they took exception," Dunbar said. The heckler "ducked and it hit his wife next to him."

The woman was taken to a local hospital and treated for a cut to her nose.

Video of the incident showed several Texas players confronting fans, with the woman emerging with a bloody nose and blood spilling onto her Athletics

sweatshirt.

Texas Rangers owner Thomas Hicks, whose team trails division-leading Oakland by six games in the American League West, issued an apology for the conduct of Texas players involved in the incident.

"Their behavior, especially the injury to a fan, was unacceptable. Even in a difficult or abusive environment, players should never be provoked into such actions," he said.

"I have been in contact with the (Major League Baseball) Commissioner's office to determine the next appropriate steps."

The unusual incident caused a 19-minute delay in the game that ended with the Athletics winning 7-6 in 10 innings.

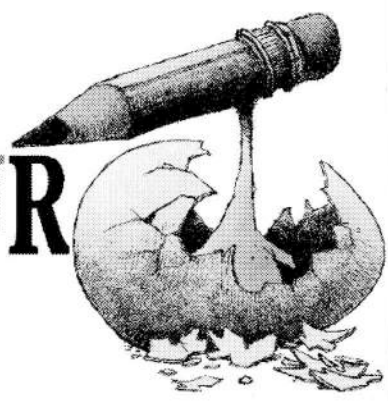
Francisco, a native of the Dominican Republic who pitched in the Major Leagues for the first time in May, has gotten off to a strong debut with a 5-1 record and 3.22 earned run average. He was named American League rookie of the month for August.

He could face a considerable suspension from the game because of his performance off the mound

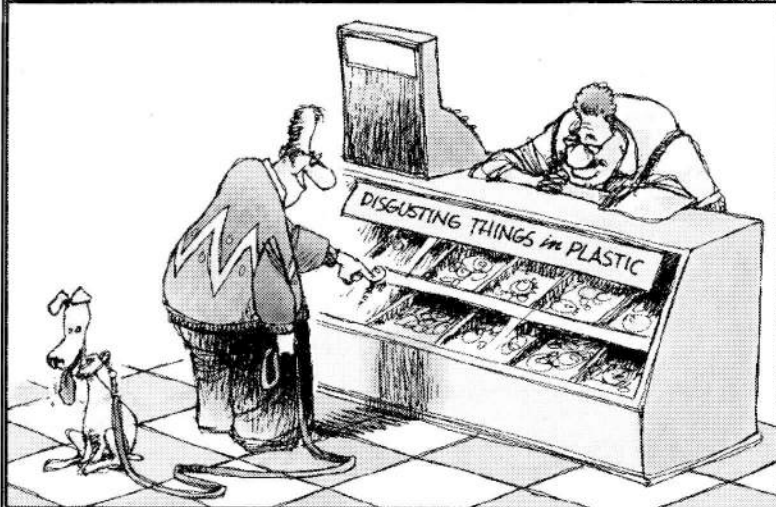
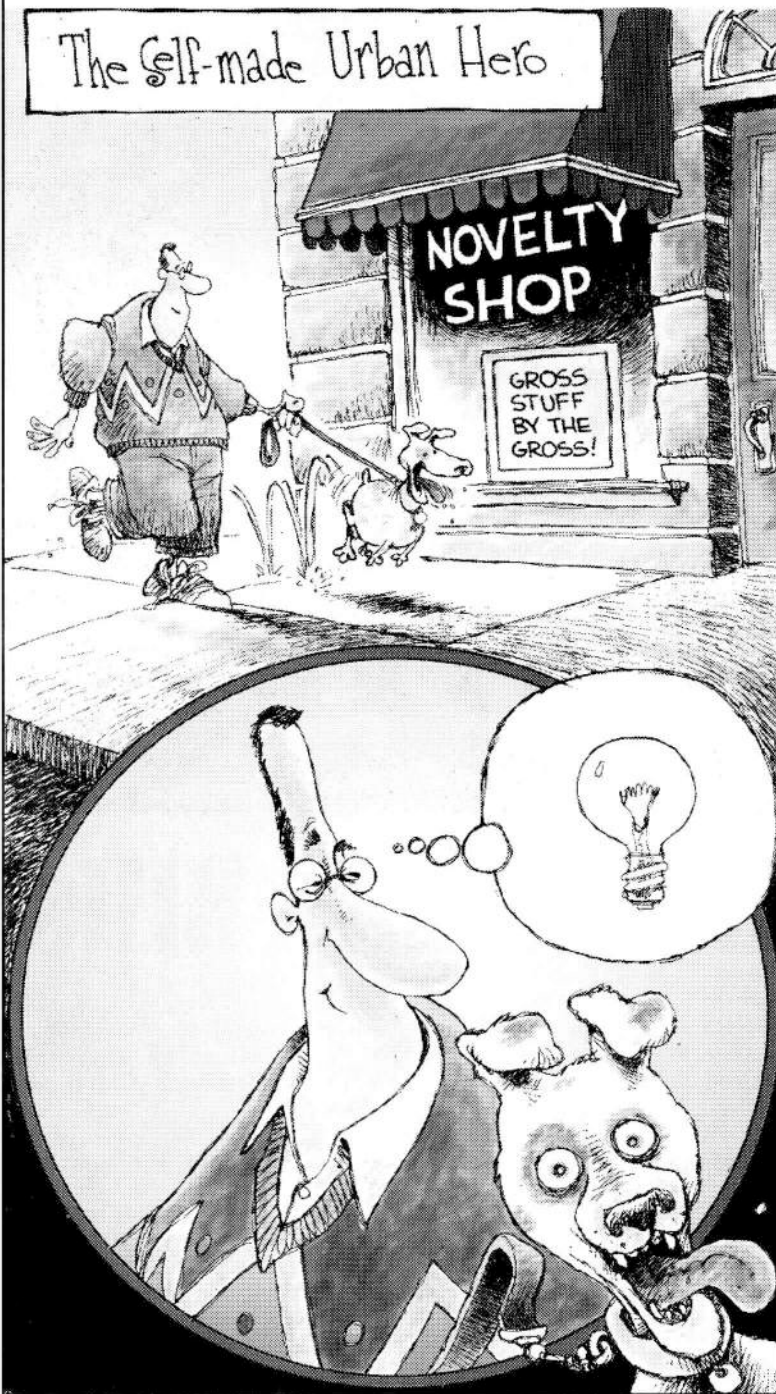


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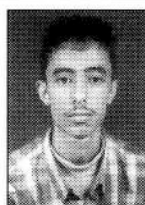
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Synonyms

- 1- Exited → W.....
- 2- Wild → A.....
- 3- Clever → T.....
- 4- Not happy → A.....
- 5- Bad Result → N.....
- 6- Disease → I.....

الاسم:
المدنية:
رقم التليفون:

أقطع كوبون المسابقة وارسله عبر الفاكس مع بياناتك كاملة . (معهد الفاروق صنعاء - تليفاكس 213711 شارع هائل المدخل الفرعي مقابل مجوهرات الجابري) * آخر موعد لاستلام الاجابات هو يوم الثلاثاء من كل اسبوع

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

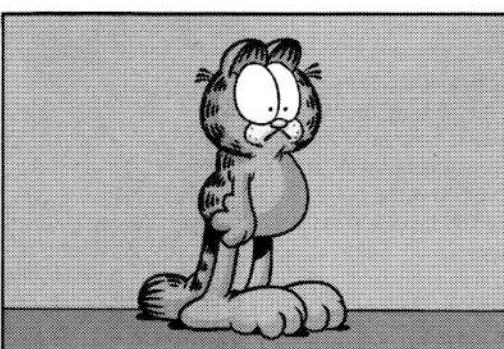
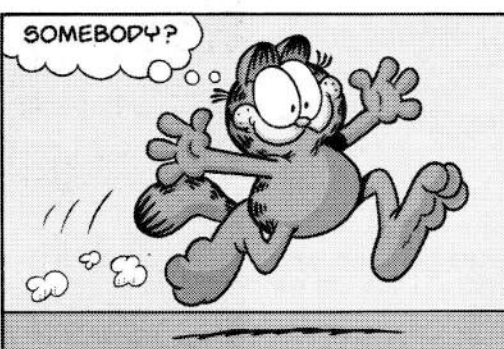
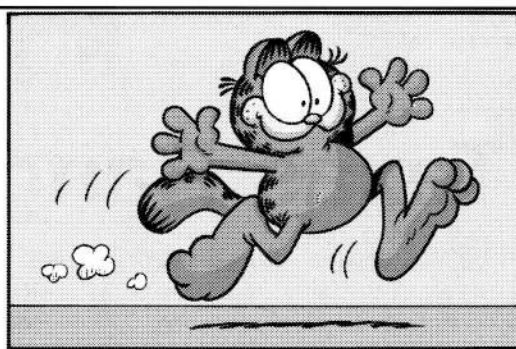
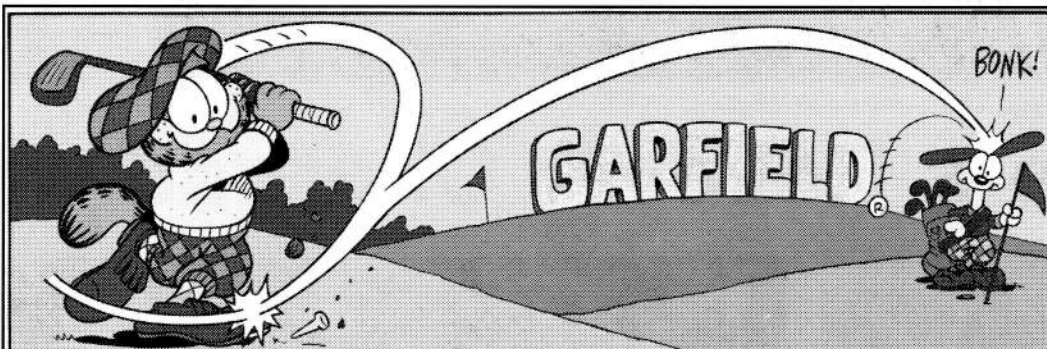


BY Eugenia

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**
You may be hot under the collar if you don't have an outlet for your passion. Concentrate on giving compliments and being as affectionate as you can.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**
Go after your goals and don't let anyone hold you back. Do whatever is necessary to get ahead. Be authoritative and you will discover that people will bend to your needs.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**
Nothing will stop you from getting what you want today. This is the perfect day for any sort of image update or makeover. Love is in the air.
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 21)**
Don't expect help and you won't be disappointed. This is not the day to trust or share secrets. Keep your game plan to yourself.
- Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**
Look around you — help is available and your options are opening up. Someone you meet today will influence your future. Love and romance are in a high cycle.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**
Take a look at your present position and if it doesn't live up to your expectations, consider how you can change your direction. It's never too late to follow a dream.
- Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**
You will be full of energy and ready to do something exciting, creative and very different from your usual routine. You will attract love if you are single and, if you aren't, you can bring your present relationship to a whole new level.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
Tend to all those tedious matters that you have left undone. Check into matters that will allow you to drum up extra work. Money can be made if you are quick to take action.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
You will be in an adventurous mood. You will discover something that you didn't know existed, which will lead to new friends and a new pastime.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
Be careful who you trust. Someone may try to take advantage of you. Keep your ideas to yourself regarding a business venture and expect to experience some problems with a personal partner.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
Get up early and get ready to make this a spectacular day. Love, friendship and partnerships are in a high cycle. Take initiative.
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**
You will find yourself involved in family issues today. Your ability to deal with such matters will bring added respect. Do your best to make the changes required in your personal life..

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a								Aden							
Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	29	28	28	29	29	29	28	Hi	39	37	38	38	38	38	38
Lo	12	12	11	9	9	11	11	Lo	29	29	29	29	28	27	26



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Yemenia Holidays
الجمهورية اليمنية

Japanese Chura arrives in Sana'a

By SHAKER MOHAMMED & RAMZI AL-ABSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Japanese ambassador to Sana'a had on Tuesday given a reception party at his residence to Okinawa Song and Dance Theater, Chura, who are taking part in festivals in the frame of Sana'a as the 2004 Arab Cultural Capital.

The reception party was attended by Mohammed Mubarak Athban, chairman of the Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Society, a number of Culture Ministry's staff, and media personnel.

The party started with a show performed by the Yemeni Popular Band



Chura members dressed in traditional Japanese costumes and displaying a wonderful dance show

The performances will take place at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th September 2004, at the Cultural Center in Sana'a.

The performance includes two parts. Part 1 "Spring of Joy, Feast of Peace" which expresses spring, with lustrous kimonos and flowered head dresses, with designs of flowing red and ocean blue to symbolize Okinawa.

Continued on page 10

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that was highly appreciated by the audience.

Then the ambassador delivered a speech welcoming the visiting theater, pointing out the strong Yemeni-Japanese ties.

The director of the theater talked about the history of the theater saying they would perform on the Sept

15 and 16 at the Cultural Center.

The Traditional dancing troupe from Okinawa, Japan has come under the auspices of the Embassy of Japan in Sana'a in coordination with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and will present a number of Japanese songs, and dance shows.

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