

## Final hearing in Omar's assassination case

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sana'a Appeal Court resumed the trial of the murderer of the socialist leader Jarallah Omar last Monday, after a 3-month halt. The court decided to run the final hearing next Saturday.

Ali Ahmad Jarallah was convicted, and sentenced to the death penalty, in September 2003 for killing Jarallah Omar, the assistant general-secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). Another five members of his associates received sentences ranging between 3 to 10 years in jail, while another six of those accused were acquitted.

During the hearing the YSP advocates accused the prosecution of not working on the case in a serious manner and not completing the investigation into the case, or unraveling the real perpetrators behind the assassination. The lawyers for the defense insisted that some pages from the report documenting investigation carried out by intelligence agents were

turned off by the prosecutor. The court judge, Mohammed al-Akwa, ordered the prosecution to show the missing pages, even adjourning the hearing for ten minutes to allow the prosecution to do that. However, the prosecutor said that parts of the file had been taken due to "legal reasons" which he did not disclose. For their part, the defendants denied any knowledge of seized materials shown by the prosecution, claiming to be seeing them for the first time.

The murderer, Ali Jarallah, confessed that he entered the hall where Islah was running its conference (and in which Omar was murdered), with two pistols but he said he did not know if they were the ones shown by the prosecution. He said he used only one pistol, and did not have chance to use the other in killing his other targeted politicians.

The judge gave the prosecution a chance to present the missing pages of the report next Saturday, when the defense lawyers will also present their final defense, before the case is adjourned until the session issuing the



Ali Ahmed Jarallah

final verdict.

Repeatedly, the YSP demanded that investigations into the case should be re-opened and that all the names mentioned during the interrogation of the

assassin, including Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani, rector of al-Eman University and head of the Islah's consultative council, should be interrogated.

## The Arab League opposes the UN threat of sanctions on Sudan

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Arab League condemned the United Nations Security Council's resolution that threatened possible oil sanctions if the Sudanese government does not take action to bring to an end the crisis in Darfur.

The Arab League warned that potential sanctions would not promote stability in the western Sudanese region, and urged all parties to become involved in negotiations and sign a peace agreement.

"Imposing sanctions will not help resolve the crisis or encourage the parties to try to end it. In fact, it will have the

opposite effect," said Hossam Zaki, spokesman for the Arab League.

Zaki added that it is "important that the international community give the parties enough time to implement their obligations, and work towards getting the sides to resolve the crisis instead engaging in confrontation."

The Sudanese government agreed to follow the US-sponsored resolution drafted by the UN Security Council, but called the UN decision "unfair."

Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, Sudan's Parliamentary Speaker, warned that other countries should not intervene in Sudan's affairs.

"If Iraq opened for the West one gate to hell, we will open seven such gates," said Al-Tahir. "We will not surrender this country to anybody."

The resolution, which was passed by the Security Council earlier this week, said that the Sudanese government had not done enough to bring security to the people in Darfur. It also called on UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, to put together a commission to investigate human rights abuses and the possibility of genocide carried out in the area.

"We act today because the government of Sudan has failed to fully comply with the previous resolution adopted July 30th"

said US Ambassador John Danforth, "The crisis in Darfur is uniquely grave. It is the largest humanitarian disaster in the world."

The resolution drafted last month put pressure on the Sudanese government to disarm the Janjaweed militias within 30 days.

The current resolution was passed after peace talks, that lasted three weeks between the Sudanese government and Darfur rebels, ended without success last Friday.

The resolution was passed 11 to 0, with China, Russia, Algeria and Pakistan abstaining from the vote.

Continued on page 6

## More international pressure to release journalist

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

International pressure on the Yemeni authorities to release journalist and editor of al-Shoura, Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani, is mounting by the day. A letter of protest, issued by the New York Based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), was sent to President Saleh and other copies were sent to the White House and to several international institutions concerned with freedom of the press.

In the letter, the CPJ expressed its concern over the imprisonment, which

it viewed as "retaliation for his [al-Khaiwani's] newspapers' published work" which constitutes "a flagrant violation of internationally recognized norms for freedom of expression."

The well-known international organization emphasized that Journalists "should never be imprisoned for what they write, even if their work offends authorities."

The CPJ also reminded the President that in June this year, he announced that he "would seek to end the penalty of imprisonment for press offenses, which would be a major step forward for press freedom in Yemen."

The letter concluded with a plea to the President to fulfill his promise in prohibiting the imprisonment of journalists for writing-related cases, and to do everything in his power to ensure that al-Khaiwani is immediately released from prison and that the charges against him are dropped.

Continued on page 6

## Threat of terror growing worldwide

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

When the war on terror began, after the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., on September 11th 2001, US President George Bush said that he planned to defeat terror groups and make the world a safer place.

But three years later, some believe that success in the war on terror has been limited while the threat of terror around the world has risen.

In the last few weeks there have been organized terrorist attacks ranging from Southeast Asia to the Middle East. Late last month, bombs exploded on two Russian airplanes that killed 90 passengers while the bombing at a security firm that provides safety for Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai killed ten in Kabul.

Continued on page 6

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## Conclusion of scientific symposium on terrorism

Participants in the scientific symposium on terrorism and sea-piracy affirmed that it is important to double the national and worldwide efforts to combat terrorism. They suggested increasing overall coordination and cooperation to dry up sources of terrorist funding by monitoring the flow of finances and determining its sources, seizing, freezing and confiscating suspicious assets. The participants made forty-eight recommendations, including recommending the necessity of composing fair measures to distinguish between charitable societies, which ren-

der assistance to the needy, and those which are financing terrorist operations. They also called on Arab media, with all its channels and different means, to effectively participate in showing the normal Arab personality - which sticks to noble humanitarian ethics and ideals - and to recount the real image of Islam.

At the conclusion of the symposium on Wednesday 15th September, the participants also called for restricting religious sermons to be delivered by men of knowledge, and to not give opportunity to half-educated extremists, or religious bigots.

## Study on independence of courts

By Saleh Akboor  
Aden Bureau

A workshop on the independence of primary courts in Aden, Abyan, and Lahj was concluded on Monday 20th September. The workshop was organized by the Establishment for Supporting Civil Democracy Tendency (ESCDT) in coordination with the Ministry of Justice and the British Embassy in Yemen.

The workshop was concerned with the transparency of administration, proceedings and implementation of the primary courts' independence.

Abdulmajeed al-Fahd, Chairman of ESCDT, pointed out that "the workshop is considered an inauguration of the establishments training program

for the year 2004. The program is intended to reinforce transparency and independence in courts in Yemen."

"The program aims to train 10,000 judges and assistants in 245 primary and appellate courts in Yemen, some of them are of the supervisors of the judicial system and Ministry of Justice."

"The program includes two stages; there will be 12 workshops in different governorates and 245 training meetings for the primary courts in the provinces as well as some evaluation meetings. The program will plan for field visits too." He added.

He mentioned that the workshop studied the significance of facilitating judicial services for citizens especially women and marginalized social groups.

## Societys immunization against destructive ideas

A symposium to immunize society against destructive ideas and reinforce the principles and values of the Yemeni Revolution, was organized by the Endowment and Guidance Office on Tuesday September 14th, at Al-Sa'eed Forum in the city of Taiz.

The symposium was attended by the secretary of Taiz Gov. Abdu Mohammed Hassan, director general of the Endowment and Guidance office, Dr. Ahmed Al-Ulofi, Taiz security commander, and a number of clerics

and preachers.

"The symposium was held under the auspices of the Minister of

Endowment and Guidance Hamoud Obad, and Taiz governor Ahmed Al-Hajri on the occasion of Yemeni Revolution's festival," said Abdu Hassan.

More than 200 participants took part in the symposium.

The symposium aimed at demonstrating the Islamic stance on extremism, instilling the national conscience in Yemeni youths and deepening their understanding of the basis of the Yemeni revolution.

Hassan did not forget to thank the Al-Sa'eed Cultural Establishment for their cooperation in organizing the activity.

## Businessmen exchange opinions and experiences

TAIZ BUREAU

The Parliament Member, the Regional Manager of Hail Sa'eed Group in Sana'a, and the Delegation of the General Union for the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, paid a visit to the Yemeni Company for Industry and Trade. Mr. Abdullah Abduljabbar Hail Sa'eed received the delegation and walked with them through the produc-

tion departments giving an explanation of the productive processes and the subtle systems to maintain quality throughout the stages of the productive process.

The delegation pointed out the progress attained by the company in the application of quality, utilization of modern technology and in improving administration and industry.

On Sunday 19th September, Mr.

Abdullah Abduljabbar received in his Office, the Saudi businessman, Mohammed Awadh Al-Qahtani, and a delegation accompanying him from the Al-Sa'eed trading company, and Mr. Refa'at Al-Hakimi, the representative of the company in the KSA.

Afterwards, all of them held a discussion on trade and exchanged their experiences of opening the joint transac-

## Press conference on Ozone

BY RAMZI AL-ABSI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A press conference on Ozone Layer Protection was held in the Ministry of Water and Environment on Monday 20th September 2004. The conference, marking the world's day for Ozone Layer Protection on September 16th, aimed to raise awareness amongst the press men about the harm of this problem to all beings.

The conference was attended by Dr. Mohammed Lutf al-Eryani, Minister of Water and Environment, Mahmoud Shidaywah, Chief of Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Eng. Faisal Ahmed Nasser, Director of National Ozone Unit (NOU), and a number of press men and women representing most newspapers and media.

The conference begun with a speech by the Minister pointing out the significance of the environmental media, which should be utilized for the purpose of promoting environmental awareness in society. After that,



(L- R)the presenter, Shidaywah and Faisal

Mahmoud Shidaywah delivered a speech in which he mentioned the efforts of the EPA and NOU in the framework of regional and international exertions aimed at protecting the environment as a whole and the Ozone layer in particular.

Valuable questions raised by attendees were informatively answered by

both Shidaywah and Faisal. The conference created a better understanding of the Ozone and environmental issues among those present, which should be reflected throughout the media. The conference finally discussed the different environmental issues concerning the unique land and marine environment in Yemen.

## Illiteracy eradication discussed

AHMED AL-BUKHARI  
TAIZ BUREAU

A discussion session on eradicating illiteracy was held at the Aptech Institute Hall, Taiz, on Thursday, Sep. 16 2004. It was organized by the National Organization for Illiteracy in collaboration with Aptech. The session came in the frame of marking the World Literacy Day.

26 participants took part in the dis-

ussion among whom were academics, and other specialists in this problem. Dr. Abdullah Moh'd Saeed, from Taiz University, Mohammed Abdulwahed, Deputy General Director of Literacy and Adult Learning, Mesk Al-Junaid, Women Sector Official, and Yaser Al-Sagheer, a member of the Association, were amongst those who attended the session.

The Secretary General of the Organization, Ahmed Haza'a, stated

that "the session is part of the series of activities organized on the occasion of the World Day for Illiteracy and Adult Learning" and that "the session is concerned with suggesting solutions and strategies for solving this problem through the joint and individual efforts.

The Office of the Organization in Taiz has issued a detailed report on 2003 and 2004 activities which targeted some 18436 persons .

## New consumer guide

A press conference was conducted on Saturday 18th September at the Market & Consumer Studies & Researches Center, to announce the issuing of the 3rd edition of the Introductory Consumers directory for the Year 2004.

The Chairman of the aforementioned center, Mr. Hamood al-Bukhaiti assured that the guide was issued in compliance with certain measures to ensure the quality of the commodities announced. He also confirmed that the directory includes important health, medical and general guidance information, and that all products included within the guide meet high specification standards.

## Basic education projects hobbled

A parliamentary report released last month revealed a number of shortcomings and obstacles to the expansion of basic education by either establishing new schools or adding to existing ones.

Through field visits, the Parliament's Education Committee perceived that work on schools by contractors has stopped under the pretexts of the rise in iron prices, and the delayed payment by the committee responsible for giving them their wages.

The report added that projects conducted up until last March in three governorates lacked resident technical supervisors to monitor the fulfillment of specifications, and that the lack of coordination between consultant offices on one side and the education ministry's offices on the other, has slowed down the pace of projects.

The parliament slashed the meager allowances to the operation of the projects (1% of local component of each project). It also criticized the unwillingness of citizens to pay society's contribution towards projects which has led to transferring some projects from district to district.

## Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

### This edition's question:

**Would Abdullah Aidha Al-Razzami respond to mediations and lay down his arms or continue to face the same fate of Al-Houthi?**

1. I think he would accept mediations
2. He would continue the rebellion

### last edition's question:

**Do you think that the cancellation of the scandalous oil deal by the Yemeni government will resolve this crisis for good?**

- No, it will have no effect. 54%  
Yes, it will help resolve it. 27%  
No, it will in fact exacerbate it. 19%

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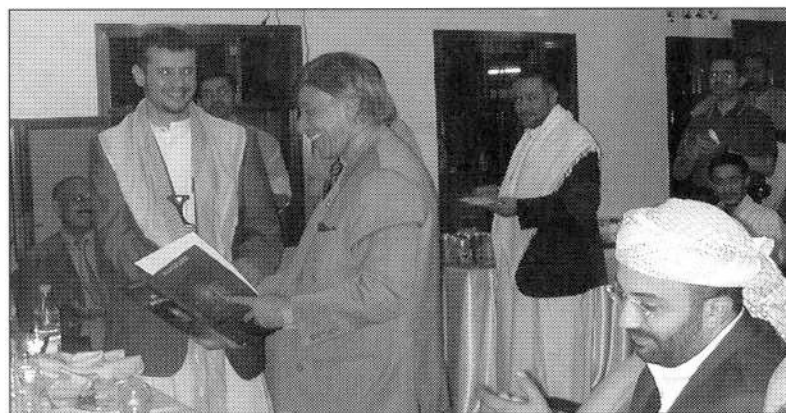
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## Dr. Al-Faqe meets businessmen

BY YASSER AL-MAAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A meeting with the administrative expert, Dr. Ibraheem Al-Faqe, was held Thursday September 16th at Businessmen Club. A number of businessmen attended the lecture delivered by Al-Faqe, during which he clarified the importance of modern administration, and coping with advancements in technology. In his lecture, Dr. Al-Faqe advised businessmen on how to balance between their job and the demands of their life, and suggested some ways in which they might achieve a balance. He also emphasized that their occupations often shift their attention away from their families and relatives, and this may result in several problems.



In a statement to the Yemen Times, Dr. Al-Faqe confirmed that this is his first visit to Yemen, and was at the request of the Maharat Skills Center. "In

Yemen I have found many people who possess good training skills, convincing ability, and ambition to cope with what is new in the world of today," he added.

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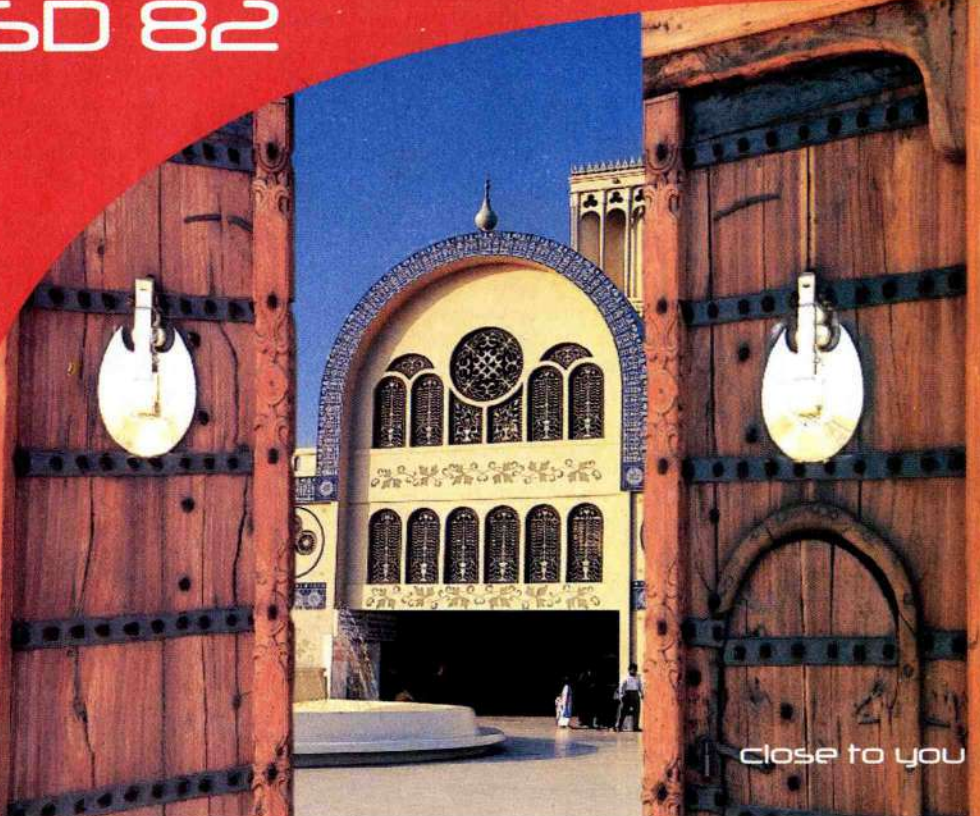


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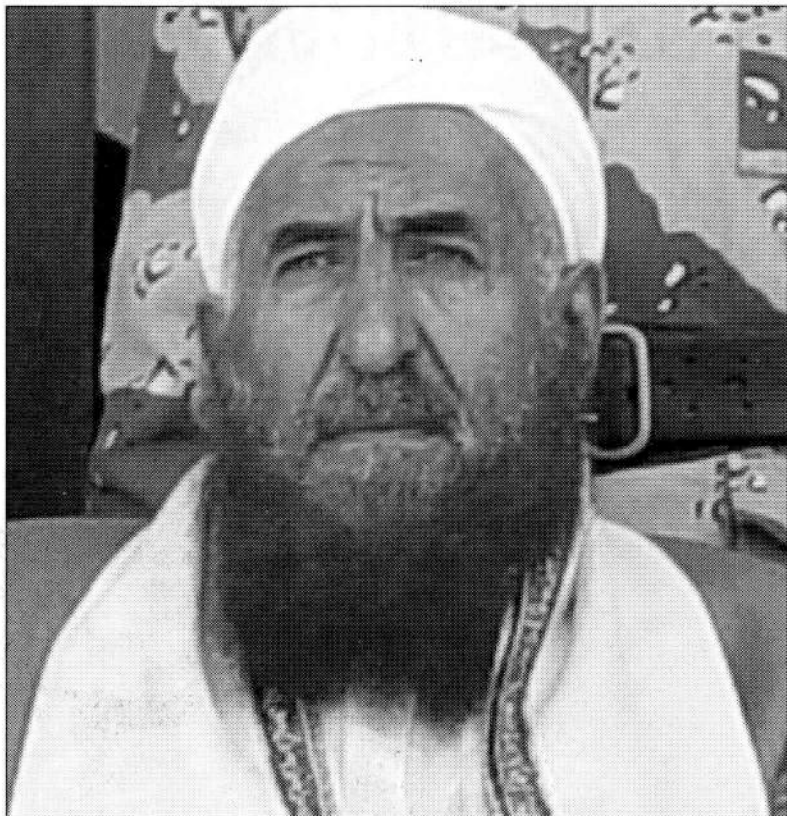
# Al-Zandani: "My reservation is due to security and intelligence factors"

By HASAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zandani, Rector of the Al-Eman University, confirmed that his reservation to talk to members of the press about the university, was due to security and intelligence factors.

"Foreigners used to visit us under the guise of being journalists and used journalism as a license to ask freely and form the speech of others as they wanted. What kind of freedom do they speak about?" said Al-Zandani, adding that he doesn't want to satisfy their desires. This took place during his meeting with a number of journalists at the university.

It was the first time that Al-Zandani welcomed the idea of meeting journalists to talk with them about the university, and this may evoke external controversy especially in the U.S.A. He attempted to appear as a knowledgeable scholar and not a University Rector nor Islah's Shora council speaker. He denied that there was a connection between the university and Islah party, stating that a great number of students don't affiliate to Islah and that the university demands graduates to swear by God not to harbour ideas of fanaticism and partisanship.



Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zandani

During his speech, Al-Zandani pointed to the miracles of the Holy Quran and to the coccyx of human backbone that has the role of restoring souls to bodies on the Day of

Resurrection. He also mentioned that he has recently discovered medicine for diabetes showing successful results with many patients and claimed that two AIDS sufferers were cured by his

hand.

Al-Zandani who is also an active politician, is convicted in the U.S.A. of supporting terrorism and for his relations with Osama Bin Laden when both met during the Afghan-Russian war.

The US-led war against terrorism hindered Al-Zandani's plans to built projects in the university financed by charitable societies.

He bemoaned the fact that Islamic nations do not support charitable societies and cited the example of US President Bush, who leads campaigns to collect donations for Religious Non-Islamic societies in the USA, where a part of the Federal Budget is assigned to such societies. "Why does this not happen in Islamic countries?" Al-Zandani wondered, mentioning that Yemen government halted the subsidy of \$ 5400 that used to be paid monthly to the university before the 1994 war.

War against terrorism has had its effect on the infrastructure of the university, which currently has buildings as hostels for teaching staff, hangers as halls for students, as well as separate buildings for families.

The University comprises four colleges, four big halls and a hostel for unmarried students, there are plans to equip the university with a telescope and a mosque with a capacity of 116.

## Children for sale

By ABDULWAHAB AL SOFI  
abdulwahab\_alsofi@yahoo.com  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES  
HODEIDAH

It is a new phenomenon that appears in our society nowadays, but which we had never before heard about. I am talking about the phenomena of child kidnapping. To me, it is perplexing and almost unbelievable. Many tales pertaining to this atrocious crime are worthy of consideration.

News about this has scattered from various narrated sources. When I first heard about it, I was overcome with doubt. Was this news real or something that came from someone's imagination? But, meeting my friend - a victim of this new practice - confirmed to me that it was not imagined nor was it merely an issue of emigration. He was mind was so preoccupied that he was unable to narrate his calamity in detail, it was as if his tongue was tied. "The cowards kidnapped my son", he said, tears were pouring from his eyes, but he couldn't stop them. "Who did?" I asked, "A gang", he answered.

It seems that a group of people practice this new 'career'. They kidnap children and blackmail the parents for their child's safe return. However, "Often parents don't receive their sons", informed the criminal investigator who accompanied the father to the place they had agreed. Afterwards, the kidnapper told the father that his son had been smuggled into Saudi Arabia. The kidnappers use these children as sellable commodities - without even having to pay customs duties! These gangs smuggle our children to neighboring countries and then they sell them or use them for begging. Is that to say that in Yemen we have an overabundance of children? I don't think so, we are a conservative society in which the family unit is still strong and stable. However, there are abnormal cases which force us to ask questions. Why are these children wandering the streets in the burning sunshine? They are either begging or selling snack foods or commodities. I approached some of these child victims to discover what condemned them to the streets. Each case reveals a tragedy. The main reason is often poverty. Let me narrate to you two individual cases that I have come across. They are two situations that represent many others. The first boy approached me and directly exhibited his commodity. First, he gave me a smile, hoping that I'd buy from him. His smile convinced me to buy a pen, as a dozen pens was all he had. His smile widened when he saw my

acceptance. After I had bought the pen, my curiosity evoked many questions. "Do you go to school?", I asked. "Yes, of course I go to school", he said proudly, "I work in the morning and go to school in the evening", he added. I asked him about his father. He told me that his father is unwell and unable to move. "Have you any elder brothers?" I asked. "No I have five sisters, the oldest one is ten years old." he answered. Another little boy with an innocent face was carrying, on his head, a large plate filled with home-made bread (Lahoh). He was distressed and weeping so that tears were clearly running down both of his reddish cheeks. He implored me to give him hundred YR as he couldn't sell his bread (Lahoh) as he had dropped it, and it had been spoiled by the sand on the road. He refused to go back home without any money. He was just a little boy in a family consisting of seven sisters and himself, all of them are under ten years old. Their father escaped to the village and left them in the city with their mother, as he could not afford their food. She was obliged to send her children outside the home in search of food.

Evidently, some poor families prefer, (or have no choice but), to close their eyes only to find themselves without children when they open them. They don't hate their children, but they are struggling to afford their food, and to heal their wounds. Hunger and disease never show mercy. Thus, some parents release their children to alleviate their poverty problems, and some of them abandon them to fend for themselves.

I hope Allah will not excuse those who are responsible for, but who abuse our society. Our government should pay full attention to children, who are completely neglected. We have a ministry for social affairs, which does not care about children at all, despite the fact that children are the seeds of our nations future. That's why, the ministry of social affairs should double its efforts to fight poverty and improve children's schooling. Moreover, our government established a so-called 'child's parliament' to support and help children, not to ignore them. It is ridiculous that this parliament has not been able to help children who are exposed to hunger, poverty, misery and illiteracy if - as it is claimed - it represents all children in Yemen. Or was this parliament established only to show the outward appearance of democracy? Those responsible have no obvious concern either for the grieving impoverished parents or their kidnapped children.

## Open day at Al-Rahma foundation



By RAMI AL-ABSI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Rahma Foundation for Human Development (RFHD) held an open day on Tuesday September 14th. The day featured various activities, including a clothes exhibition, a feast, and an artistic show by the foundations orphans.

A lecture titled "Cancer: reasons and protection" was delivered by Dr. Nadeem al-Qadasi, director general of the Charitable Establishment for Supporting Cancer Centers.

The Foundation was established as an orphanage in 2001 and it has been considered a foundation since December 31st 2003, when a benefactor donated the buildings. It aims basically to participate in solving one of the most serious social problems in Yemen, orphanhood. The Foundation's tireless efforts are directed towards giving shelter to orphans, providing them with the right nutrition, education and raising awareness amongst them. "Besides accommodating 18 boys



The orphans of RFHD listening to Dr. Nadeem's lecture

and 56 girls, the Foundation sponsors other annual programs targeting orphans who live with poor relatives," the manager said to YT.

"The Foundation is trying to alleviate the suffering of this social group through providing them with food stuffs, clothes, medicines and some

other things."

"The Foundation hasn't specific sources of support; it totally depends on benefactors," she added.

## Al-Shura Council discusses facilitating marriage

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

One of the biggest problems that Yemeni young people face nowadays is that they cannot afford the marriage costs that constitute a dowry, an extravagant wedding ceremony, superfluous qat, and the rental of huge halls, just to show off, which incidentally, is against the teachings of Islam.

This topic was on the top of the Al-Shura Council's agenda in its first meeting of the second session of 2004 headed by Mr. Abdualaziz Abdualghani, the Al-Shura Council chairperson.

Mr. Abdualghani, delivered a speech in which he welcomed all the council members saying "The objective of this meeting is to tackle an important issue: how to facilitate the marriage, and how to limit and lessen unnecessary expenditures that accompany the wedding parties. These phenomena have emerged recently and seem to have become a part of the wedding process, yet, they are not".

He claimed that these phenomena were not norms of Yemeni society and

that they had become a substantial burden on the citizen and society alike. Besides, they pervert the spirit of cooperation between the society members as well as irritating the other people feelings by pushing them to imitate and show off. Indeed it is against our traditions and Islamic rules, that are simple and humble.

He further went on to state that "The president's speech in Ibb a month ago advised the ridding of these bad habits that accompany weddings".

A proposal about facilitating the marriage was submitted by Mr. Abuslaim Karamn, Mohammed Aglan and Mr. Yayah Kahtan, Al-Shura Council members. The paper contains some practical suggestions and solutions for extravagance during wedding parties, such as holding awareness workshops and seminars, increasing the role of media and activating the role of the religious scholars and councilors, and founding charitable funds to help youths get married more easily.

Mr. Abdualaziz thanked all members along with the guests from the government and the representatives of civic society who attended the discussion and enriched the submitted papers.



CARE<sup>SM</sup>

## VACANCY Fund Officers /Supervisors

CARE International is looking for seven fund officers to work at Yemen Women Union branches in Mahweet, Sana'a, Shabwa, Al-Mahra, Ibb, Taiz, and Dhamar

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- Ability to work both in a team and independently, take the initiative when appropriate
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- Fluent reading, writing and spoken English

For detail: Tel. 01 298780, Fax: 01 298781 or Fax: 01 504021,  
E-Mail: care@y.net.ye or ywu@yemen.net.ye.

Applications must be received by 2nd October 2004.

## Erratum

A technical unintentional error occurred in the article entitled "Conclusion of Training Course on Administering NGOs" published on page 3 of YT issue No.769.

1- "Dutch Friedrich Eibert Stiftung Organization" was written instead of the correct reading "German Friedrich Eibert Stiftung Organization".

2- "Dutch Embassy in Sana'a" was written instead of the correct reading "German Embassy in Sana'a".

As well, in the article entitled "W/shop on Local Council Function" on page 2 of YT issue No.774, the correction as follows:

"Dutch NGO" was written instead of the correct reading "German NGOs".

So, please read "German" wherever the word "Dutch" is wrongly Published. Our apology to our readers and to the German Friedrich Eibert Stiftung Organization & other concerned German parties.

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# Deadline looms for American, British captives in Iraq

BY LUKE BAKER

BAGHDAD, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Militants who beheaded an American hostage in Iraq said they would kill another U.S. captive and a Briton on Tuesday if their demands were not met.

The militants led by Washington's top foe in Iraq released a video on Monday showing U.S. contractor Eugene Armstrong sitting blindfolded on the floor in an orange jumpsuit, black-clad and hooded gunmen standing behind him.

Armstrong rocks back and forth as a militant reads a statement. Then one of the men grabs him and saws off his head with a knife.

Armstrong was seized in Baghdad on Thursday along with fellow American Jack Hensley and Briton Kenneth Bigley.

U.S. President George W. Bush, in comments made before the video's release, said Washington would not negotiate.

"They will behead people in order to shake our will. These people are ideologues of hatred," Bush told a campaign rally.

"We will stay on the offensive against them."

The Tawhid and Jihad group led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said in the footage of Armstrong's killing it would behead the other two hostages within 24 hours unless female inmates were released from the Abu Ghraib and Umm Qasr jails.

The U.S. military says it does not hold any female prisoners in either of those two jails, and that only two women are in U.S. detention in Iraq. The two, dubbed "Mrs Anthrax" and "Dr Germ" by U.S. forces, are accused of working on Saddam Hussein's weapons programmes and are held at a secret high-security camp.

Bigley's family has made emotional appeals for British Prime Minister Tony Blair to do more to try to prevent the captives being executed, and urged that the two Iraqi women be released in exchange for the hostages' lives being



A file photograph shows American hostage Jack Hensley from a video posted on the Internet by an Islamist website on September 18. A militant group headed by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has killed an American captive in Iraq after the lapse of a 24-hour deadline on September 21, a statement posted on the Internet and an Arabic channel said. The Qatar-based Al Jazeera said a statement announcing the killing of American Jack Hensley, 48, by the Tawhid and Jihad group was posted on the Internet. It gave no further details. REUTERS

spared.

"I ask Tony Blair personally to consider the amount of bloodshed already suffered," Bigley's son Craig said on BBC television. "Only you can save him now... Please meet the demands and release my father — two women for two men."

Washington says Zarqawi, a Jordanian, is its number one enemy in Iraq. His group has claimed responsibility for most of the bloodiest suicide attacks in Iraq since Saddam's overthrow. Zarqawi's group also beheaded U.S. telecoms engineer Nicholas Berg in May and South Korean driver Kim Sun-il in June.

The United States has offered \$25

million for information leading to the death or capture of Zarqawi, and has launched a series of air strikes on the rebel-held city of Falluja, west of Baghdad, targeting suspected hideouts used by his followers.

### Families plead for help

Hensley's wife Patty, in an interview with CNN, pleaded for his release for the sake of their 13-year-old daughter.

"I would plead with them to please realise this man does not deserve this fate," she said. "I want them to understand that he has no political value whatsoever. He was just there doing a service for the Iraqi people."

In London, Bigley's brother Philip

said: "If nothing is done, then the two remaining hostages will die by the most horrific means".

"It is the prime minister who has the power to save Ken's life. Prime minister, we as a family are begging you, please help us," he said in a statement broadcast on Sky News.

A U.S. official said Armstrong's body had been identified.

In the video showing his killing, one of the militants read a statement ridiculing Bush and promising Iraqi women their honour would be protected.

"Oh, you Christian dog Bush, stop your arrogance... The mujahideen will give America a taste of the degradation you have inflicted on the Iraqi people," the statement said.

More than a dozen hostages are being held in Iraq and are threatened with death unless their captors' demands are met.

Two French journalists were seized a month ago, and two female Italian aid workers were kidnapped in broad daylight in central Baghdad earlier this month.

French President Jacques Chirac issued a fresh plea for their release. He said his reaction to the killing of Armstrong was one of "horror and incomprehension".

There has been no word on the fate of the Italians.

Another guerrilla group has threatened to kill 10 Turkish workers unless their company stops doing business in Iraq.

The firm, Vinsan Construction Company, said on Tuesday it was suspending operations in Iraq. Iraqi police in northern Iraq said they had found the body of a Turkish driver who had been shot several times.

Aides to rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said two of his top aides had been arrested in the holy Shi'ite city of Najaf, south of Baghdad. Sadr has launched two uprisings against U.S.-led forces, and his supporters say the arrests breached a peace deal that ended fighting in Najaf last month.

# Iran says no reason to halt nuclear programme

TEHRAN, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Iran is determined to press ahead with its nuclear programme even if it results in a halt of U.N. checks of the Islamic Republic's nuclear sites, President Mohammad Khatami said on Tuesday.

Khatami said Iran had no intention of pursuing nuclear weapons and was ready to expand the level of its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

"We are determined to obtain peaceful atomic technology even if it causes the stop of international supervision," Khatami said in a ceremony broadcast live on state television.

"We have never wanted nuclear weapons. We want peaceful technology," he said.

The IAEA governing board adopted a resolution on Saturday calling on Tehran to freeze its uranium enrichment activities, a process that can be used to build a nuclear bomb.

Iran on Sunday rejected the resolution and threatened to pull out of the

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty altogether if its case was sent to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

Khatami's comments highlight the fact that Iranian reformers are as committed as their hardline opponents to Iran's right to pursue its nuclear energy programme.

The United States, the European Union and Russia also urged Iran on Monday to comply with the IAEA demand to halt all activities linked to uranium enrichment.

Washington accuses Iran of running a covert nuclear weapons programme alongside its declared civilian atomic energy programme. Iran says its ambitions are limited to the generation of electricity.

The IAEA, which has been probing Iran's nuclear programme for two years, has found many previously concealed activities that could be used in a weapons programme, but no "smoking gun" that would confirm U.S. suspicions.



Iranian President Mohammad Khatami (R) speaks during a military parade to commemorate the start of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war in Tehran September 21, 2004. Iran is determined to press ahead with its nuclear programme even if it results in a halt of U.N. checks of the Islamic Republic's nuclear sites, Khatami says. REUTERS

# Somalis lament fresh violence on Peace Day

By C. BRYSON HULL

NAIROBI, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Fresh fighting in Somalia, the only country without a central government, cast a shadow over an anti-war rally by Somali politicians on Tuesday for International Peace Day.

Hundreds of Somalis have fled to Kenya this month to escape violence in the volatile south of the country stirred by warring militias battling for control of the port of Kismayo.

"It is a pity to see there are some people who don't believe that the state of fighting is over," Joseph Nyaga, Kenya's assistant minister of East African and Regional Cooperation, told the rally.

"The region and the world will no longer allow a situation where people fight the way you fought," he told his audience, which included several militia bosses who gathered with mediators to celebrate the U.N.'s International Day of

Peace.

Several small peace marches were due also to take place in the Somali capital Mogadishu.

The country disintegrated into anarchy after former dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was toppled in 1991 as clans pressured by famine and political turmoil launched battles for territory.

For 21 months, Somalis working with international mediators in Kenya, have laboured to form a new national government. A new clan-based parliament last week elected a speaker and is due to elect a president on October 10.

But for the moment clans and their rifles, truck-mounted machineguns and rocket launchers still rule the rubble-strewn streets of the capital of an estimated one million people.

"It will be the first priority of the new Somali parliament to restore peace in the country. The Somali people need peace more than anything else in the world

today," parliament speaker Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan told the gathering.

The fighting involves a militia controlled by warlord Mohamed Said Hersi, known as General Morgan, who three weeks ago began advancing on Kismayo, in hopes of taking it back from the rival Juba Valley Alliance (JVA) militia coalition.

General Morgan controlled Kismayo for six years until the JVA usurped him in 1999, and they again ejected him after his militia seized control of the town for a few days in 2001.

Winston Tubman, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's special representative for Somalia, said without elaborating that the warring militias faced punishment if they fought on.

"They must come together with their Somali brothers and sisters otherwise the international community will treat them as fighters and punish them accordingly," he told the rally.

# Israel unions start nationwide strike

JERUSALEM, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Israeli unions began a nationwide strike on Tuesday expected to affect about 400,000 public sector workers and severely hamper international travel.

The general strike, launched at 8:30 a.m. (5:30 a.m. GMT), was called by Israel's Histadrut labour federation and applied to government offices, banks, public hospitals, ports, postal services, trains and courts as well as financial markets.

Government offices would be closed and hospitals operate on an emergency basis only. Most Israeli railroad routes would shut down with sea ports and border crossings partially closed.

Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport grounded outgoing travellers. An airport spokeswoman said incoming flights would be able to land but passengers would not be able to collect

their luggage.

The strike was over a municipal workers' pay dispute. The Histadrut wants the government to pay salaries to municipal workers who have not been paid in many months due to lack of funding and steep debts.

Finance Ministry officials failed on Monday to persuade union heads and council leaders to accept proposed financial recovery programmes for municipalities and prevent the strike.

"If a council signs to accept a recovery programme, it could enforce the law. The banks...will allow the money to arrive because they will know there is hope that the council will pay its debt," ministry official Eitan Rob told Israel Radio.

Histadrut chief Amir Peretz said workers should not be used as what he called "hostages in Finance Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu's populist power games", saying the minister had in the past failed to carry out promises to compensate them.

"(The strike) will continue until a solution is found for municipal and religious council workers," he told Israel Radio. "We no longer agree that wages in Israel will be used as a vessel to promote the government's political goals."

This is the third nationwide strike since April 2003, although unions have held smaller strikes that closed government offices and seaports for long periods in the past year.

Some 7,000 members of various religious councils started a strike on Tuesday that would prevent people from registering for weddings and burying the dead. Corpses would remain in morgues.

The United States Agency for International Development "USAID" announces for immediate job opening within its organization.

### "Education Specialist"

Under the general supervision of the USAID representative, the incumbent serves as an education specialist under USAID Yemen's Strategic Objective 279-006: "Improved Basic Education, Especially for Women and Girls." The incumbent is USAID Yemen's local expert on all aspects of the Yemen education system and serves as the principle FSN advisor and analyst on these areas. S/he provides input and technical direction into the design, implementation, management, and monitoring and evaluation of assigned activities and projects. S/he also conducts related discussions with officials from the Yemen Government, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and donors.

### Desired Qualifications:

**Education:** University degree in Education, Social Sciences, Humanities or related field is required. A Master's degree is preferred.

**Prior work experience:** Minimum of five years work experience in developing and/or managing development projects, with at least two of those years being related to education issues. Experience must demonstrate increasing responsibility for managing, analyzing, coordinating, monitoring, evaluating and guiding projects.

**Language proficiency:** Level IV oral and written proficiency in English and Arabic is required to prepare narrative analysis and reports as well as to represent USAID Yemen with host government, educational institutions, and donor institutions.

**Skills and abilities:** Demonstrated managerial skills to effectively manage assigned activities. Excellent skills to deal effectively with officials at the most senior levels of the Yemen government, US Embassy and USAID Mission, as well as donors and non-governmental organizations. Excellent communication and writing skills to conduct clear and effective discussions and to draft clear and accurate documents. Computer skills, especially with word processing, spreadsheet design, web research, and presentation software is required.

**Grade/Salary:** \*EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-04 (to be confirmed by Washington)

\*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-10

**How to apply:** All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 303155, Fax: 303182 no later than the October 03, 2004.

**NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

## Ex-general defeats Indonesia's Megawati, test awaits

JAKARTA, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Former general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has triumphed over incumbent Megawati Sukarnoputri in Indonesia's first direct presidential vote, but now must deliver promised tighter security, better government and more jobs.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Yudhoyono had yet to claim victory in Monday's run-off, but had won 60 percent to Megawati's 40 percent with nearly 60 percent of the vote counted.

In past elections, early counting has proved a reliable guide to final results and pre-election polls as well as an independent survey of Monday's vote also forecast a Yudhoyono victory.

Given the custom among Indonesians from the main island of Java — home to Yudhoyono — to act with caution and to follow strict etiquette, he would probably prefer nearly all the vote to be counted or a nod from election commission officials before he announces victory.

Perhaps for similar reasons, supporters of SBY — as he is popularly known — have yet to celebrate openly.

However, his vice presidential candidate, wealthy businessman and non-Javanese Jusuf Kalla, was less cautious. "It clearly is apparent that it is going for SBY. We are definitely confident that (the end result) won't be far from this."

Indonesia's financial markets did not wait to welcome the win on expectations the business-friendly Yudhoyono, 55, will appoint a strong cabinet, and on relief a long voting season in the world's most populous Muslim nation had passed without the election-related violence some had feared.

The final presidential vote followed an elimination round in July and a parliamentary ballot in April.

The stock market hit an intra-day record in early trade before losing some gains on profit-taking, while the rupiah currency was trading around a two-month high.

Many hope Yudhoyono will retain Megawati's well-respected finance



Indonesian presidential candidates Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono gives a news conference in Cibubur outside Jakarta Indonesian presidential candidates Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (R) and his vice-presidential running-mate Jusuf Kalla give a news conference in Cibubur outside Jakarta on September 20. Ex-general Yudhoyono who promises to fight terror and clean up government headed for an overwhelming victory against incumbent Megawati Sukarnoputri in Indonesia's first direct presidential election on Monday. REUTERS

minister, Boediono, in his cabinet, although there has been no indication the soft-spoken economist wants to stay.

"I'm thinking of forming ... the cabinet when I'm sure that I would win this election," Yudhoyono said on Monday.

"Of course, before the inauguration, I will at least dispatch the main nominees," he said, referring to the Oct. 20 ceremony.

Faster counting than expected could cut the timetable, though Yudhoyono is known to prefer to act only after some deliberation.

However, without declaring victory he has already reached out to Megawati, 57, who in public has barely acknowledged him since he quit her cabinet as chief security minister in March after a bitter row over his presidential ambitions.

"It is time for reconciliation,"

Yudhoyono said late on Monday. "I expect we have to be more united in the near future to face the national challenge of building a better Indonesia."

### HARD REALITY

That Yudhoyono faces tough challenges is more than rhetoric.

The world's fourth most populous nation is resource-rich but bedevilled by rampant corruption, unpredictable courts, weak economic growth and violent Islamic militants linked to al Qaeda.

Monday's election run-off showed Indonesia's democracy, a rarity in the Muslim world, has come a long way since president Suharto stepped down in 1998 after 32 years of iron-fisted rule.

The U.S. State Department said the vote "set a strong example for the region and emerging democracies everywhere".

## India says no Kashmir territory offer to Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Sept 21 (Reuters) - India said it would not make any territorial concession in disputed Kashmir to old foe Pakistan and denied a report that said it was ready to make changes in a ceasefire line that divides the Himalayan region.

The comments came in response to a report in the latest issue of the Time magazine, which quoted an unidentified senior Indian official as saying that India was willing to "adjust" the so-called Line of Control in Kashmir "by a matter of miles".

The U.S. weekly said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would make the offer to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf when the two hold talks in New York this week on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meeting.

"We have seen an item suggesting that the Prime Minister will offer to adjust the Line of Control by a couple of miles eastwards as part of an offer to help defuse the situation in Kashmir," Indian foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said in a statement late on Monday.

"This is completely and wholly inaccurate. Any suggestion that the Prime Minister will make such an offer is factually wrong," Sarna said in the statement e-mailed from London, where Singh stopped over on his way to the United States.

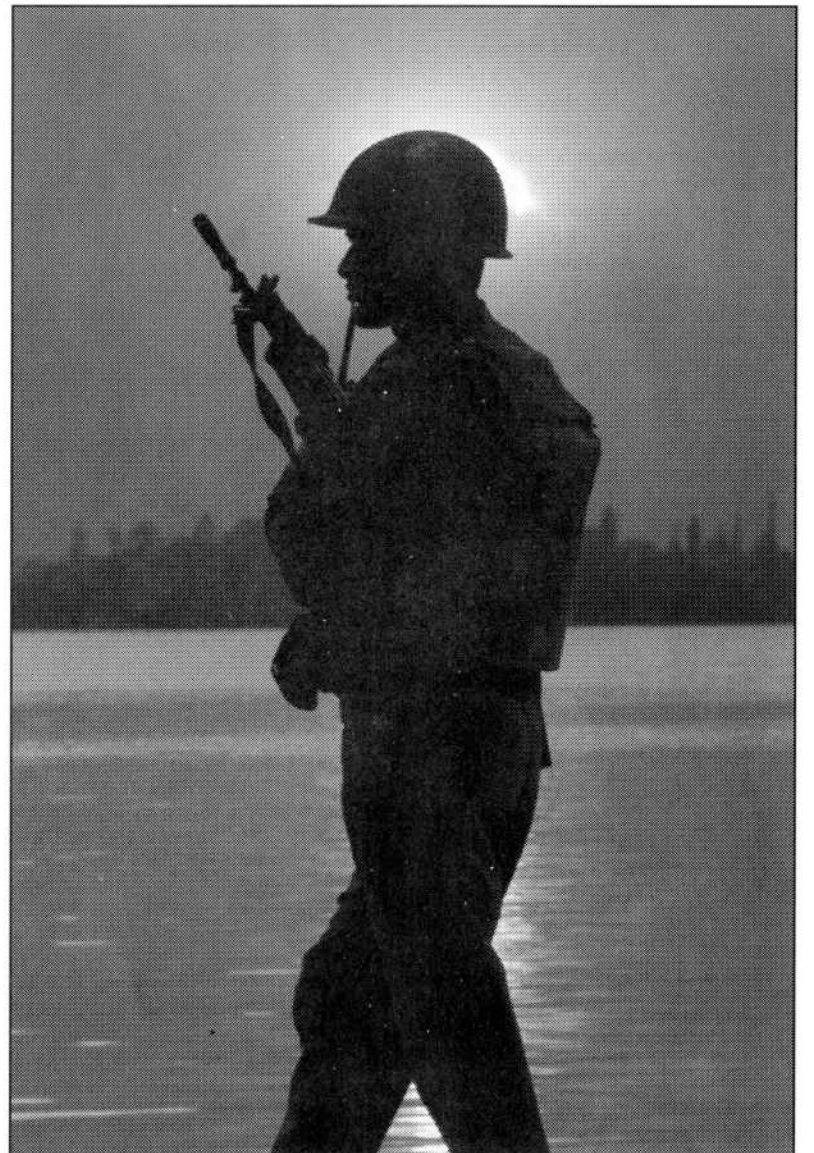
"There is no question of any territorial concession being offered by India to Pakistan," Sarna said.

Singh, who took over as prime minister in May, is due to hold talks with Musharraf on Sept. 24 to boost a peace process that is seen to have hit a familiar roadblock over Kashmir, at the heart of decades of enmity between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

Officials and the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan have completed one round of talks on a range of disputes but have made little progress over resolving Kashmir, cause of two of their three wars.

New Delhi, which controls 45 percent of Kashmir, says the entire region is an integral part of its territory.

Islamabad, which rules a third of Kashmir, seeks a U.N. mandated



File photo of an Indian paramilitary soldier patrolling as the sun sets over Kashmir's Dal Lake in Srinagar An Indian paramilitary soldier patrols as the sun sets over Kashmir's Dal Lake in Srinagar in this March 27, file photo. India said it would not make any territorial concession in disputed Kashmir to old foe Pakistan and denied a report that said it was ready to make changes in a ceasefire line that divides the Himalayan region. REUTERS

plebiscite to decide if Kashmiris want to merge with India or Pakistan. China holds the rest of the region.

More than 40,000 people have been killed in a 15-year revolt against New Delhi's rule in Indian Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan of abetting the insur-

gency. Analysts say that some territorial changes in Kashmir could eventually settle the long-running dispute. But any suggestion to that effect is known to evoke strong opposition among Indian politicians and people.

## Khmer Rouge trial costs a problem for Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said on Tuesday he will meet U.N. chief Kofi Annan in New York to discuss a quick start to trials of Khmer Rouge leaders once parliament ratifies a deal with the United Nations.

However, funding still posed a problem for the long-delayed trials of surviving leaders of the ultra radical Khmer Rouge whose "Killing Fields" rule from 1975 to 1979 was blamed for the deaths of 1.7 million people, he told reporters.

"The National Assembly is expected to ratify the agreement within the next few days, but the budgetary aspect is still the problem," said Hor Namhong, who is due to head to New York this weekend. He gave no date for his meeting with Annan.

"For our side, we will finish our work, and whether the Khmer Rouge trial happens or does not happen depends on the international community and the U.N.," he said.

The U.N. and Cambodia have estimated the cost at more than \$50 million, but Prime Minister Hun Sen said this month Cambodia had no money and could provide only the trial venue, water and electricity.

"If you ask Cambodia to pay for it

the answer is no, you have to pay by yourself because you wanted to try Khmer Rouge," Hun Sen said of trials expected to take three years, require hiring 2,000 people and involve foreign judges and prosecutors.

The agreement with the United Nations was finalised only last year after nearly six years of tortuous talks.

Hor Namhong appealed for donations to cover the cost.

"I call on the international community and the U.N not to let the budgetary aspect become an obstacle to the trials of Khmer Rouge," he said.

Australia has promised \$1.1 million and Phnom Penh hopes Japan, Cambodia's top donor, will provide most of the rest.

Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge "Brother Number One" vilified for deaths resulting from starvation, overwork, disease and executions, died in 1998.

Other leaders, "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea, Khmer Rouge head of state Khieu Samphan and former Foreign Minister Ieng Sary are free.

The only former top Khmer Rouge officials in detention are one-legged military chief Ta Mok and Duch, the one-named head of the notorious Tuol Sleng interrogation centre, a former school from which very few prisoners emerged alive.

Continued from page 1

### Threat of terror growing worldwide

Two weeks ago, a car bombing outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, killed nine and injured 180 people. Nearly 350 people were killed after hostages were taken by Chechen rebels at a school in Beslan, Russia. And last Tuesday, two terrorist attacks killed 59 people in Iraq, including a bomb going off while young men were lined up outside the main police headquarters in Baghdad which killed 47.

A recent report said that more civilians have died during the war on terror in the last three years than were killed by terrorists over the last 35 years. The death toll from terrorism amounts to around 22,000 since 1968. But in Afghanistan and Iraq alone, over 30,000 civilians — including aid workers, officials, police recruits and innocent bystanders — have been killed since September 2001.

"It looks like the world has not been this dangerous since World War Two," said a Yemeni analyst. "It seems like the war on terror is not doing as well as everyone expected."

The United States and its allies have been able to kill and apprehend hundreds of Al-Qaeda members and have affected the overall structure of its international network. But the US fight against terrorism in Afghanistan is far from over. Even though its invasion ousted the Taliban regime, destroyed terrorist training camps and put Al-Qaeda members on the run in late 2001, Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the Al-Qaeda's international network, has not been captured. The remnants of the Taliban have been able to regroup and have been fighting 20,000 US troops in the south of Afghanistan that has left up to 1,000 people dead in the last 12 months.

The Taliban are attempting to derail the coming presidential elections next month by focusing on targets not only in the south but also in northern areas, including Kabul, the capital. Over 40 aid workers and a dozen election workers have been killed in the last year.

Major General Eric Olson, Operational Commander of US-led forces in Afghanistan, said that Osama bin Laden and second in command of Al-Qaeda Ayman Al-Zawahiri are probably involved in orchestrating recent attacks.

"What we see are their techniques and their tactics here in Afghanistan," said Olson. "I think it is reasonable to assume that the senior leaders are involved in directing those operations."

Olson added that "I don't think we're close at all" to eliminating insurgents in Afghanistan in the near future.

Roughly 140,000 US troops have continued to fight insurgents in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003. A year ago, US soldiers were attacked by insurgents on average 20 times a day. Last month, attacks averaged 87 a day.

Insurgents are also gaining ground. It is reported that more than three dozen cities and towns are controlled by leaders who are against the new Iraqi government and the US occupation. Counterterrorism experts have said that Iraq, now in a state of lawlessness, is becoming the new training ground for terrorist groups.

"The bottom line is that at this moment we are losing the war," said Andrew Bacevich, former US Army Colonel. "That doesn't mean it is lost, but we are losing, and as an observer it is difficult for me to see that either the civilian leadership or the military leadership has any plausible idea on how to turn this around."

Some experts on terrorism argue that the wars launched by the United States in two Muslim countries, have inspired terrorist groups to increase attacks. A book written by a senior terrorism analyst at the CIA — called Imperial Hubris: Why The West is Losing the War on Terror — says the US invasion of Iraq has given an advantage to Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda.

The author named "Anonymous" said that the invasion was the "icing on bin Laden's cake." The author added, "US military operations in the Muslim world validate bin Laden's contention that the United States is attacking Islam and supports any country willing to kill or persecute Muslims."

The book also notes the importance of America's support of Israel that adds more to the hostilities against the United States.

Abdullah Al-Faqih, Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University, said that the US war in Iraq has not only hurt the war on terror but has damaged the image of the United States which is expected to be leading the charge to defeat terrorist organizations.

"The US invasion of Iraq has significantly undermined the global effort to offset terror," said Al-Faqih. "It made every stereotype about the United States used by terrorists a fact in the eyes of many people in the Middle East. The progression of the war and the blood river created in the name of democracy has given democracy a bad name and elevated terror to a moral posi-

tion." Experts on counterterrorism are critical of the Bush administration's shift from focusing on fighting terrorist organizations to invading Iraq. Richard Clarke, former Counter-Terrorism Advisor to Bill Clinton and George Bush, believes that the US invasion in Iraq has weakened its position in fighting terrorism.

"I think it [the war on Iraq] has done some terrible damage," said Clarke. "Number one, it has diverted US focus that should have been going after Al-Qaeda. Number two, it has diverted US resources, money that should have been spent to increase our defenses at home. And number three, it has given this increased momentum, ideological support to the jihadists all over the world. So, it's the exact opposite thing from what the United States should have done following 9/11."

Since the war on terror began, the Yemeni government has taken substantial steps in stamping out terrorist elements. A large number of terrorist suspects have been rounded up, and last month 15 suspects on trial were convicted of being involved in carrying out, or plotting, terrorist attacks in Yemen, including the bombing of the French oil tanker Limburg in 2002 off the coast of Yemen and planning to assassinate the US Ambassador. This week, six defendants charged with participating in

bombing the USS Cole at the port of Aden in 2000 are expected to be convicted.

Earlier this month, Yemeni forces defeated a rebel group based in the Saada province 240 km north of the capital. The leader of the group, Hussein Al-Houthi, was killed after two-and-a-half months of intense clashes that left hundreds of people dead.

Recently, US officials not only praised Yemen's performance on fighting terrorism but also announced the lifting a 14-year ban on the sales of weapons to Yemen. Yemeni government sources said that eliminating the ban will boost the country's efforts to fight terrorism.

"Security in Yemen has improved very well in recent years," said a foreign diplomat based in Yemen. "And there has been very good progress in fighting terrorism."

But with the threat of attacks and violence currently on the rise worldwide, some are concerned that Yemen might be just as vulnerable as other countries.

"Certainly there is more violence around the world today," said Mansour Al-Zindani, a member of the Yemeni Parliament and the Committee of Foreign Relations. "Every country has become vulnerable after 9/11 since the values of international law, values of countries and the values of violent groups have changed. We are in a world war against violence, so all countries, including our own, are vulnerable because it is a war against violent groups worldwide."

### The Arab League opposes the UN threat of sanctions on Sudan

China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said, "We should increase humanitarian assistance to Darfur rather than create a situation that could lead to the closing of the door to relief and assistance."

Arab militias, known as Janjaweed, are accused of killing over 50,000 and driving around 1.4 million people from their villages since fighting began 18 months ago in the Darfur area. Refugees have reported that the Janjaweed fighters have slaughtered men, raped women, and looted their villages during their assaults.

Up to now, the Yemeni government has not commented on the possible sanctions against Sudan.

Last month, Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi asked the international community to "help Sudan achieve the needed steps and not limit its role to only demanding that

Sudan quickly restore security and stability in Darfur."

"What is most important is for the crisis in Darfur to end and bring stability," said a Yemeni analyst. "But it looks like it is now a struggle between world powers."

The UN Security Council also called on the African Union to send in 3,000 monitors and soldiers to end ongoing strife and investigate human rights abuses.

Last June, the Yemeni government offered to send troops to Sudan as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force when there was a possibility of a peace deal being reached between the Sudanese government and rebels in the Darfur region.

Production of oil in Sudan is around 300,000 barrels a day and it is believed that oil exports can pull in around \$2 billion this year.

# At U.N., Bush defends Iraq war, asks for help

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 21 (Reuters) - President George W. Bush defended the Iraq war before skeptical world leaders on Tuesday, called on them to help post-Saddam Iraq develop into a democracy and vowed not to retreat against an insurgency that threatens more violence in the country.

In a U.N. speech with election-year overtones, Bush made no apologies about his decision to go to war against Iraq in 2003 without U.N. Security Council backing based on claims Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, which were not found.

In fact, he reminded the General Assembly of the Security Council's failure to join with the U.S.-led coalition in carrying out its threat in a resolution passed unanimously before the war of serious consequences for Iraq for disobeying U.N. resolutions.

"The commitments we make must have meaning," Bush said. "When we say serious consequences for the sake of peace, there must be serious consequences."

Bush appeared at the United Nations at a time of rising casualties in Iraq and when some lawmakers in his own Republican Party are questioning his Iraq policy.

Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, in a speech in New York on Monday, accused Bush of "colossal failures of judgment" that have turned Iraq into a haven for terrorists and made America more vulnerable.

Bush cited the presence of Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi among the assembled world leaders as an example of a new Iraq on a path to democracy, along with post-Taliban Afghanistan.

"The U.N., and its member nations, must respond to Prime Minister Allawi's request, and do more to help build an Iraq that is secure, democratic, federal, and free," he said.

Bush predicted more violence in the days ahead as both Iraq and Afghanistan attempt to hold national elections — next month in Afghanistan, and in January in Iraq.

"The work ahead is demanding. But these difficulties will not shake our conviction that the future of Afghanistan and Iraq is a future of liberty. The proper response to difficulty is not to retreat — it is to prevail," he said.

He cast the Iraq conflict as a moment of opportunity for transforming the Middle East and in a direct challenge to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, urged Israel to impose a freeze on Jewish settlements in the

West Bank and Gaza and to dismantle "unauthorized outposts."

Bush got no more than polite applause at the end of his speech.

## Challenging insurgency

Kerry is holding out the possibility that if elected, a U.S. troop withdrawal could begin next summer and be completed within four years.

Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters in New York the insurgency must be defeated and he dismissed Kerry's talk of an early troop withdrawal. Bush has given no such timetable.

"And so we are facing a challenging insurgency. We have to defeat it, but let's not talk about leaving next year. We must finish the job that we have started and I am confident we will finish the job," Powell said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, speaking before Bush, took a veiled swipe at the United States by citing "disgraceful" prisoner abuse in Iraq as an example of violations of international law, while also denouncing an insurgency where civilians are massacred and relief workers, journalists and others "are taken hostage and put to death in the most barbarous fashion."

Annan said in a BBC interview last week the U.S.-led war in Iraq was "illegal" because it did not get U.N. Security Council approval, although he said his office was now doing what it could to help rebuild the country.

Bush had a domestic audience as well on Tuesday. His re-election campaign has pitched the Iraq war as an extension of the war on terrorism, drawing support from many Americans anxious to avoid a repeat of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"Coalition forces now serving in Iraq are confronting the terrorists and foreign fighters, so peaceful nations around the world will never have to face them within our own borders," Bush said.

# World bank chief backs Putin shake-up plans -WSJ

MOSCOW, Sept 21 (Reuters) - World Bank head James Wolfensohn has backed Russian President Vladimir Putin's political shake-up criticised by many Western nations as limiting democracy, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday.

But he expressed concern about limits on press freedom and moves against oil major YUKOS over huge tax claims.

Wolfensohn told the newspaper in an interview he did not doubt Putin's motives in overhauling the electoral system to boost Kremlin power. Putin said the changes were needed to beat terrorism after a string of deadly attacks across Russia.

The United States and the European Union have said the changes — including direct nomination of regional governors — come at the expense of democracy, but Wolfensohn was more supportive of the plans.

"I personally would be reluctant to conclude that his motives are bad," he said. Putin announced the shake-up

after a fortnight of attacks by Chechen rebels, including the Beslan school siege that killed over 320 hostages — half of them children — and twin plane bombings in which 90 died.

Bearing in mind the bloodshed, Putin was taking the right steps, Wolfensohn said.

"I think Putin has a very difficult issue to face. The act of barbarism has upset the entire country and the first reaction is for security and trying to centralise it," he said.

"I continue to have the belief that Putin is trying to bring the country under control, and the country is not under control. So I feel for him."

Wolfensohn criticised moves to limit press freedom.

Top television current affairs programmes have been taken off the air and critics accuse newspapers of selective reporting.

"Clearly the moves in relation to press freedoms and in relation to YUKOS



U.S. President George W. Bush addresses the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York, September 21. REUTERS



Mourners look at a memorial of flowers, toys and water bottles placed inside the gym of besieged school Beslan, September 20. REUTERS

# Belgian PM suspends marathon DHL talks without deal

BRUSSELS, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt suspended politically sensitive talks with DHL Worldwide Express on Tuesday, after ministers failed to agree whether to back the courier company's expansion plans.

After marathon talks lasting more than 18 hours, politicians remained divided along linguistic and ideological lines in a dispute that pits supporters of job creation against those fearing a rise in noisy night flights.

Verhofstadt's Liberal-Socialist coalition government risks paralysis if national and regional politicians cannot reach a deal when talks restart on Wednesday morning.

DHL, a unit of Deutsche Post, wants to more than double the capacity of its European hub at Brussels international airport.

Although an expansion would likely bring sorely needed jobs to the region, it would also aggravate the problem of noise with a greater number of night flights over homes.

"We need a decision not only from the federal state, but also of the differ-

ent federated entities, Brussels and Flanders, as they are responsible for noise regulation," Verhofstadt told a group of legislators on Tuesday evening.

Verhofstadt — who had been due to speak to the parliamentary infrastructure committee several hours earlier — said he had proposed allowing more night flights for DHL, but insisted on a greater range of flight paths.

DHL was satisfied with the proposals, but they were still being considered by the regional governments of Brussels and Flanders, Verhofstadt added.

Some 80 residents recently raised the temperature of the dispute by including DHL in a lawsuit filed against airport and government authorities in a bid to suspend night flights.

"They can't operate at night and at the same time respect the rules on noise," the residents' lawyer, Luc Misson, told Reuters.

A block away from Verhofstadt's office where the meeting took place, about 200 DHL workers blew horns, set off fire crackers and waved placards

urging him to let the courier expand its operations for fear of losing DHL completely.

"Jobs are seriously threatened," said one union leader.

Although DHL declines to give much detail of its plans, it has insinuated that it might leave Belgium if it does not get what it wants.

DHL spokesman Xavier de Buck said the courier was looking at expanding its operation at Brussels, Leipzig in

eastern Germany or Vetry in northern France. He declined to elaborate.

## Delicate balance

The debate has exposed the delicate balance Verhofstadt has to keep for his coalition government to survive.

Flemish and Liberal politicians favour letting DHL expand its operations in the hope that it would create jobs.

Their French-speaking and Socialist

counterparts fear a deterioration in the quality of life of residents near the airport. Brussels is predominantly French-speaking.

The debate has also pitted the Flemish regional government, which wants jobs, against Brussels, which does not want more planes flying over the city.

Officials of both governments are taking part in the talks.

Deputy Prime Minister Laurette

Onkelinx was optimistic that an agreement could be reached.

"There's a constructive attitude," she told RTBF radio.

DHL wants to increase inbound and outbound flights from a combined total of 16,000 per year to 34,000 and more than double package handling to 3,000 tonnes per night.

DHL employs about 6,600 in Belgium, 3,000 of which work at the airport.



An employee of global courier DHL holds a placard reading "DHL stays in Zaventem" during a protest in front of Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt's office in Brussels September 21. Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt struggled to avoid a political crisis on Tuesday as his cabinet debated past a deadline on how best to respond to DHL Worldwide Express's plans to expand in Brussels. REUTERS

# 26 SEPTEMBER

Compagnie Générale De Géophysique

Presents their heartfelt congratulations to the President

Ali Abdullah Saleh


we wish to Yemen the best of success and progress towards building a strong country headed by its wise leadership for years to come.

الشركة العامة للجيوفيزياء

تقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى رئيس الجمهورية الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لتورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر متمنية لليمنه السيرة قدما في طريق التقدم والنجاح والإزدهار



الشركة العامة للجيوفيزياء

Words of Wisdom



The role of ethics is central to establishing acceptable norms and relations among members of the community. Degeneration of values can only lead to more trouble. Even from an economic point of view, high morals are important. I can remember a time when many deals were done on the basis of a handshake or a person's word. These days, you cannot depend even on a notarized contract, unless you have the power to make it stick.

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

OUR OPINION

The culture of totalitarianism in us, and our regimes

There is a famous saying in Arabic that goes "Those who come to rule you, are a sample of you". With the passing of each day, I become more convinced of the truth of this saying.

It is no longer a surprise, to see that the way Arab regimes think is no different to the way the average Arab citizen does. It is in some areas so identical, to the degree I begin to think that perhaps the ruling president may even be better than many others.

Arab culture over the last half-century, or even more, has been based on the dominance of one person or family.

On a personal level, as an Editor-in-Chief and a publisher, I suffer from this mentality quite regularly. For example, when a person comes to request advertising rates, he first tries to go to the top boss - me in this case - and I have to forward him on to the marketing department. What this person thinks is that I am in total control of all issues related to advertising, especially the rates, so he attempts to approach me for a discount or a better price - bypassing all else.

It is a pity that this way of thinking had taken us from the path of institutionalization, to the path of individualization. For many Arabs, a regime is based on an individual, but for them, so is a company, a school, a newspaper, or even a government. In other words, many Arabs think that everything culminates in the decision of one man with absolute authority.

Recently, a friend of mine told me about a meeting between an Arab President and the President of the United States. He told me that he concluded after he attended the meeting, that Arab leaders still think that George Bush is the ultimate and only person to take decisions regarding oil deals, donations, financial support, etc. Those Arab Presidents may compare Bush to themselves in terms of power and dominance, but they tend to forget, or may not know from the start, that Bush is merely a President who cannot act without the support of the Senate and other bodies that need to support him in a vote. For them, it is only a matter of going back and issuing a Presidential decree regarding anything they choose, even in changing the name of the country. But for other developed countries, there are institutions which limit the control of any one person over the rest.

Hence, I concluded that in order to change the way our regimes think and act, we also need to change the culture of a whole generation.

I suspect it could happen for the elder generation, but it is wiser perhaps to start with the younger ones. We should teach them in school that it is important to share opinions, to consult, and not to take unilateral decisions.

In order to have deeply rooted cultural change, we need to start implementing a long-term strategy that may take decades to be successful.

But, we should at least start somewhere, and perhaps our children are a good starting point.

The Editor

The personal strife of a Yemeni abroad

BY ZAMZAM ABDULLAH  
AMZAMABDO00@YAHOO.COM.AU  
NETHERLANDS  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I'm of Yemeni origin, but was born in South Africa. I came to my homeland, Yemen when I was barely 5 years old.

I lived and worked in my country until 1990, when suddenly, my citizenship was put under a microscope! Never in my life, had I thought that my citizenship will be questioned as I am Yemeni. I know no other citizenship. The reason for this was my place of birth. I loathed the way I was treated. I worked as a teacher for 25 years and I have contributed tremendously to the upbringing of the new generation of educated young men and women. I reasoned this again and again to the Ministry of Interior, but my pleas fell on deaf ears. Why?

I tried my level best to convince them with proofs of my parents birth certificates, who were born in Yemen, and my grandparents' documents from Mukalla, once again I failed to convince anyone. All I needed was to bribe, or to have known someone from within who could sort out the matter for me. What a shame. According to my modest knowledge of Islam, "rish-wa" is a mode of "Suht", which is forbidden in Islam. And here we have people; talking in the name of religion, demand bribes to do things. At one point, someone advised me to change my birthplace as many did, however I refused because of my strong belief in

the "curse of Allah on those who lie" and because I don't want to alter a reality of my life. What to tell my kids? I changed my birthplace to please the Yemeni authorities, or to be accepted in my own country? Hard, Eh! I had to pay, as I needed to renew my passport, then what? Did I solve the problem? Have I made the required change? No.

Every time, I come to ask for a renewal of my passport or require Identity Cards for my children, we go through the same mill. I decided that the country I thought was my country, the country I served in the most critical conditions, the country which bears witness to my growing up, my education, my work, my marriage and my family, is but a mirage. After all these decades, I was awakened from a dream, a true dream though. I decided to find an alternative for my family and myself. It was a very hard call, having all our roots here, but we have to take the step and go somewhere, where people are respected for their being; where people enjoy the same benefits and no one questions anybody about their place of origin! And we migrated to the Netherlands. Yemen has lost some of its educated people, on such grounds: people who could have brought massive changes to the country with their educational background, their honesty and loyalty.

I'm now settled here and very happy, but sad from the bottom of my heart. What I have done and still do here could have benefited my fellow people and together we could have achieved success. I did not at any time

relinquish my Yemeni citizenship and will never do that. I also instilled this in my five children. "You are Yemenis, no matter what the authorities say, keep your identity, your culture and heritage."

I still visit my country, in spite of all that I have gone through and still go through when I visit my parents, for the simple reason: this is my country whether people choose to accept me as Yemeni or not. No one can uproot the love and my patriotism for my country. It's in my heart and my mind and thank God, no one has access to them!

May I, Sir, via this column in your prestigious paper, ask HE the President, how long will this continue? Is there a criterion which measures who is who? At one point, I was told that only those who were born outside Yemen after 1979 would be scrutinized about their citizenship. I was born long before that, yet I had to face the music whenever, I applied for passport, identity card for my family or myself! Is there a law about this? If so why don't they make it public to avoid such humiliation, discrimination and unnecessary struggle for the thousands and thousands of Yemenis born outside the country? The known fact today, is "pay and you get what you want". This is pathetic. We are already in the 21st century. I hope once again that this concern will get the attention of our President who is trying his level best to bring Yemen to where it should be. Bless his heart.

A country governed by tribalism, myths and bribes will never be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Legal bribery

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Having been conferred a university certificate is one the requirements for getting a government job, having been urgently needed to fill a vacant position is another requirement, and having been highly-qualified and nominated is a third. However, the above-mentioned statements are not considered as the only conditions for getting a public-sector job, they are sub-conditions - all may be present but still you lack the main condition. "What is it?" I asked many applicants for vacancies in the Ministry of Education. "A sum of YR 100,000 to be paid to the Civil Service

Office is the super-condition," they answered and at the same time, everyone shows a willing readiness to mortgage anything he possesses, or do whatever he can, in order to get such a sum of money and pay. Up to this point, the applicant has met the main requirements making me pensive in thought as to whether this sum is approved by the Cabinet and that he perhaps he will be given a receipt or something else.

A few minutes later, it became clear to me that the amount of YR 100,000 will be openly paid as a bribery to officials at the Civil Service, otherwise, getting a job is impossible.

Bribery is the norm not only in Yemen, but it is practiced in most of the developing countries but what con-

cerns us is the way of practicing it. Scandalous violations like this are not publicly practiced in other countries and there are penalties for both the briber and the bribed when discovered. But in the country of belief and wisdom, since it is practiced in public, and with a fixed sum of money, and no penalties are imposed, I am compelled to call it "Legal Bribery".

Will the applicant who paid bribery be a loyal and hard-working recruit and will the officials to whom bribery is paid be convinced that he will be so?

It is too late for us to be shocked or to not fully understand the reasons for our backwardness.

It is a shame for us to claim reform without being reformed.

Letters to the Editor

To Mike: Don't prejudge!

I would like to respond to Mr. Mike who wrote a letter entitled "Clean up our house first" and published in the Yemen Times issue (772). Dear Mike, I do agree with your point of view stated in your letter. However, I need to advise you not to judge people in advance. For example, you simply said your point of view would probably not be published in the Yemen Times meaning that it would be filtered out. Contrary to what you thought, it was indeed published, and I thank the Yemen Times for that.

Mohammed Ghaleb  
Khartoum  
ghalebsa2003@yahoo.com

Government needs to fight corruption

First of all, let me tell you that as a graduate from the Netherlands, I wonder why we do not hear about the problems you frequently publicize from our own government and the people responsible, instead of foreign analysts.

In my opinion, the first thing the Yemeni government should do in order to attract foreign and local investors is to be transparent, talk about the questions, stop corruption and by all means help promote advanced technologies.

I would like to also thank the Yemen Times for present-

ing these facts and helping Yemeni people throughout the world to become more aware of the current economic crisis our country is facing.

Ebrahim Gamil  
egamil70@yahoo.com

Political will & corruption

Concerning your viewpoint published in issue 770, I totally agree with your point of view with those who think that there is a political will to fight corruption.

On the other hand, other pessimists have a third opinion, that there seems to be a determined will to continue this path in parallel by talking against corruption from time to time. Those who bear this view, support their claim by quoting the very recent appointment of Asst Under Secretary for International Affairs in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is an executive post and not a political position. He further explained that this appointee has apparently no experience and does not possess the required skills in this field. Apart from one year after graduation, he has no other experience whatsoever and has been at home since 1993. Perhaps the only merit is that he is a son of one of the famously corrupt ex-Ministers.

He concluded that after the speech of the President in Ibb about corruption, a presidential decree for this appoint-

Letters to the Editor

ment was issued! This is the continuity, he argued.

Yemen, unfortunately, has a unique situation, where corruption is a common factor amongst the:

- Government, regime, governing party.
- Parliament
- Islah and Socialist & other parties
- Civil Associations due to the influence of parties

When will clean people (independents and from parties) start gathering with the hope of convincing the President, and donor countries of the necessity of reform?

It is possible to start. Probably, the Yemen Times and Al-Ayyam can initiate by surveying peoples views.

Hussain Mohsin  
hussain\_muhsin@hotmail.com

Disarmament in rural provinces: A Must!

I recent article "Can this be a new beginning?" published on 13th September. Certainly, it's an undeniable fact that we urgently need to disarm the far-off tribes because we won't be able to live tranquilly in this obsessed atmosphere. We have, therefore, to seize the opportunity of terminating the followers of heretic cleric in Saadah to launch an extensive war against the armed tribes. However, it is worth

taking into account that the government is mindful and handles this carefully. With the prevalence of this phenomenon, unfortunately our government faces intractable problems, the most important of all, the lack of adequate finances to compensate the primitive tribes who are armed to the teeth, by employing and amalgamating them into society.

In addition, the activation of a geopolitical approach can probably make a sense of patriotism, which paves the way to ease the disarmament process in a few years.

Omar Hassan  
omaray81@hotmail.com

Appreciation

I appreciate the candor and interest of your editorial regarding the issue of democracy in Lebanon.

I am sad to report that Lebanon has in fact failed the democratic test as you yourself define it. It is even more disappointing to note that the bigger blame rests on the shoulders of its neighboring Arab state, hardly a country of democratic temperament.

At the moment, the belief in democracy lives in the hearts and minds of the Lebanese who resent are disgusted by this latest act of inter-Arab power mongering.

Dr. George A. Abdelnour  
Williamstown, MA  
george.a.abdelnour@williams.edu

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Election Blues

What difference does it make, who wins the elections in the United States, I can bet you 10 to 1 that Israel will have it its way, no matter who wins." Hamid was talking to his brother at the coffee shop, where they sat for a cup of tea before going home.

Murad wanted some hope still: "Look Brother, no American President has been as generous to Israel as George W. Bush has been. As far as I can see, even if the Americans voted for a toad to be President, the Arabs are bound to be better off. Do you know that most of the people in the Bush Administration are affiliated in one way or another with one or two Zionist organizations or institutions. Israel has even agents "embedded" in some of the most sensitive positions in the American Government. Yet, the Bush Administration has no qualms whatsoever about it."

Hamid wasn't impressed by the pro-Zionist inclinations of the Bush Administration cited by his brother: "Do you really think that the problem for us is just who is in the White House or out of it? Come on my younger brother, when have we had the opportunity in the Arab World to start thinking about who is going to be President in the next elections of any of the Arab states? The sad part of all this is that we are worrying more about who holds the reigns in Washington, while who holds the reigns in the Middle East has taken a back seat for at least two generations in the minds of most of the citizens of most of the Arab states"

Zeid, their neighbor joined them: "Hello Brother Hamid and Brother Murad, boy am I glad to see you guys. Are you guys going to watch the soccer game this afternoon? I am coming over to see it in your digital satellite TV. Our home-made dish antenna is shaken out of position by the rough winds yesterday and I haven't had an opportunity to set it in the right direction."

Murad wanted to express his congeniality and hospitality: "Zeid, you are welcome to sit in our house and watch anything you like. However, I am going to just sit and read all the reading material I have gathered from the Internet about the American forthcoming Presidential Elections. Our future is at stake in those elections."

Hamid couldn't let his brother continue: "What future are you talking about? We do not have any future to look forward to. The Arab World has never been any worse situation than it is."

Zeid put sports aside: "You are right Hamid. We have the Americans making Iraq into a slaughterhouse, where anyone who has a craving for blood can have a field day anytime and kill anyone or anything that he finds disturbing to his eyesight, while the American public is gulled into thinking that they are carrying out a messianic mission to enrich their bloodsucking war machine institutions. We have Israel having an open theater, in which it can carry out its systematic program for the annihilation of the Christian and Moslem Arab Palestinians, just so they can achieve the mythical dreams of some monstrous demagogues like Ariel Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu. We have an Arab World, where the Arab population is systematically stepped upon by its rulers, whose only worries in life are how to keep their thrones and how to keep their subjects subdued to the point of not even knowing what it is they really are living for. We have Arab people who on the whole have no idea what the social contract between the government and the governed should really entail and what is in it for them, if their rulers are ready to even allow them just to talk about such matters. We have Arab states that can't seem to live without some violence or civil strife disturbing the peace and stability of their constituencies. Look at the Sudan. Here is a country that can play the role as the bread basket of the Arab World. But ever since the Generals took over it has been one regional blood-bath after another. Revolution is supposed to bring progress and strength. In the Arab World, revolutions have done nothing more than actually put development and prosperity at a standstill and ensured repression and the suppression of civil liberties indefinitely. Where can you see a future in all this?"

Hamid wanted to get back to the US Elections again, while looking here and there to make sure that no one was listening in on them with concentrated attention: "Murad here thinks that Kerry will be our savior! He believes that with Bush voted out of office, the end of all the misery of the Arabs will be lifted!"

Zeid was almost ready to chuckle: "Come on Murad. How many American Presidents have we seen come and go and yet our prospects get gloomier and gloomier with each new President. You have to remember that it is not the Arab public that votes American Presidents into office. We can't even elect our classroom presidents let alone our countries' presidents. So what difference does it make to Kerry or Bush what the Arabs in the streets have to say about US foreign policy. The Americans know that the Arabs are so frozen politically that they can shape the Arab World into any mold they want. They do not even bother to ask the people's views about the state of affairs of the world. Our leaders are ready to condescend and submit to any White House Administration, even if they know that no American President can even think of running for office unless he has declared that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel forever and that Hanan 'Ashrawi ought to be hanged for her anti-Semitism and anti Christian prejudices. In all likelihood, they do not even know that Ms Ashrawi is a Gentile! In fact they do not care. They see all Arabs as being Abu Musab Al-Zirqawi, whoever he is, and all religious leaders as Osama Bin Ladens. As for the Arab leaders, their influence on American leaders was put on reverse gear with the events of 9/11, which surprisingly many Americans have suggested to be an American-Zionist enterprise. But, the most important thing is that, because we have to keep our political interests confined to following up on the elections of other nations, there can be no hope of seeing any light at the end of the tunnel."

Hamid saw a chance for sarcasm: "With all the electrical shedding and blackouts we have, and all the news blackouts we have, we can't even hope to see any light, even if we are outside the tunnel."

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**Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:**  
Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

**Head office:**  
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661  
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276  
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

**Email:** yementimes@yementimes.com  
**Website:** http://www.yementimes.com

**Branches:**  
Aden Bureau Chief: Adnan Al-Saqqaf  
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed  
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596;  
Tel: 605350  
Fax: +967 (2) 347-056  
Email: ytdaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156  
Tel: +967 (4) 217-157  
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz  
Email: ytttaiz@y.net.ye

Hodeidah Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah  
Tel: +967 (3) 206-886

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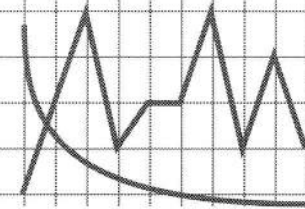
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# YT Business



*Unorganized "sidewalk" private sector,*

## When would it be connected to production?

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The unorganized private sector is to be seen in urban and countryside areas, practicing its activity without having licenses. Its groups are spread on sidewalks of town streets' sidewalks and small shops in the countryside. This type of private sector includes groups of peddlers, porters, taxi drivers, repairs workshops owners and others who do not care about activities of organized and recognized private sector.

These segments do however constitute a significant part of the national economy with regard to the

number of those working in it and size of activities they practice, whose added value is estimated at around 20% of the gross domestic product of registered economic activities in both private and public sectors.

According to official estimates, the number of people economically active and not connected to organized activities is about 600 thousand workers forming 25% of the total economically active population outside the agricultural sector in the countryside.

In the urban areas, the proportion of workers in local private sector is estimated at 59% of the urban workforce and around two thirds of them work in the unorganized private sector in installations employing less

than five individuals, which is equal to 40% of the workforce active in the economic activities of urban areas.

Activities of the unorganized private sector seem to be away from orientations of the economic policy effective in the free economy market and this condition makes it at a reality of randomness and needs for measures to merge its activities with the rest of other economic activities.

It is therefore, the owners of this activity say they feel they are lagging behind for staying on the sidewalks practicing free commercial works, which are not open to modernization and development such as moving into the field of converting industries or at least at large workshops and construction. They add

that working outside productive establishments would always remain an experience amidst noise of streets and their crowdedness with pedestrians, under the scorching heat of the sun and threats of municipality authorities.

Unorganized public sector member Ibrahim al-Suraihi says the workers in this sector always dream of being liberated from streets but their potentials would not allow them to organize themselves within the licensed private sector to practice large-scale trading activities. He sees that solution to the problem of this kind of private sector in the Yemeni cities is a necessity to create balances in productive activity of the private sector. This solution requires the extension

of the social safety umbrella to offer support to these groups and enable them to practice developed productive activities generating income based on renewable bases.

Despite the government's pursuit of supporting activities of organized private sector to increase the economic growth based on market economy and freedom of competition, this sector faces a number of problems and difficulties such as the government's more work for completing constitutional and material structures and amending some laws and administrative rules connected to fixing economic defects that impede the private sector activities. Those working in the unorganized private sector confirm however that the govern-

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.8400	185.0500
Sterling Pound	329.8600	330.2300
Euro	224.7200	224.9700
Saudi Rial	49.2900	49.3400
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.9800	627.6900
UAE Dirhem	50.3200	50.3800
Egyptian Pound	29.6500	29.6800
Bahraini Dinar	490.2900	490.8400
Qatari Rial	50.7700	50.8300
Jordanian Dinar	260.7100	261.0000
Omani Rial	480.1200	480.6700
Swiss Franc	145.6300	145.7900
Swedish Crown	24.6200	24.6500
Japanese Yen	1.6841	1.6861

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

ment's encouragement is focused on the registered private sector as it plays an important role in developing the productive base and diversity of income sources as well as creating new work opportunities. This in turn limits opportunities for developing activities performed by those of free work.

Despite the feeling of pessimism shown by those working on the sidewalks, they are still hopeful that economic stability would lead to prosper their incomes and embarkment on practicing small economic activities to grow larger under circumstances of competition and then increase their revenues for using the investment in medium projects future.

### Distinguished from local banks:

## IITB inaugurates electronic cashier



YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The International Islamic Tadhamon Bank (IITB) celebrated launching the service of the automatic cashier (A.T.M.) on Tuesday, Sep. 14th 2004. This service allows the Bank's customers and international credit cards holders to use it not only in Yemen but also in any other country.

Amer Tuqan, General Manager of the bank, confirmed that IITB offered this service in order to meet the needs of its customers and to provide some other services. The automatic cashier

of IITB is different from those of other banks because it is not usable just by IITB Cards, but also by International Credit Cards from different countries. The IITB Cards can be used abroad.

"The IITB will distribute cashiers in all its branches and in various public places, such as trade centers, hospitals, and hotels," he added.

The Bank will present the following services within the coming days:

- Prepaid credit cards that can be used in ATM's worldwide.
- Internet credit cards that facilitate online shopping through the Internet.

Dr. Marwan Qaddurah, Chairman of the board and General Manager of the company Credit Services Cards (CSC), pointed out that the IITB

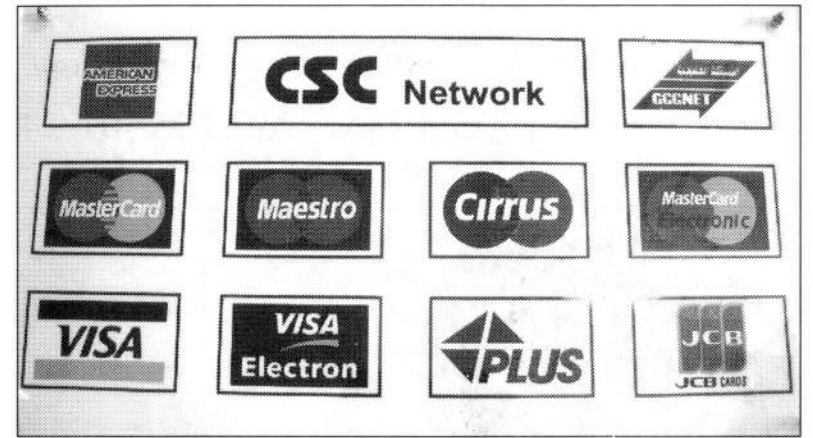


The Tadhamon Bank officials and the corporation representative at the time of launching the cashier

Cards can be used in 220 countries, 12 of which are Arabic countries.

It is worth mentioning that IITB

attains first place in the list of national banks according to the monetary status. The Bank has assets of YR 91.3



The internationally approved cards that are used in the automatic cashier services

billions, and its deposits reach YR 79.7 billions. The Bank attains the same position in terms of funds, which

reached YR 42.9 billions during the first part of this year, according to the report of the Central Bank of Yemen.

## Spacetel offers more for information

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

This week, Spacetel Yemen launched two new services that provide customers with a wide range of information including regional and international news bulletins.

Spacetel customers are now able to subscribe, via Short Message Service (SMS), to receive news from two leading media agencies, Reuters and Al-Jazeera.

"We are the leaders in providing information services," said Walid Akkaoui, Marketing Manager at Spacetel in Yemen. "Spacetel focuses on customers' expectations and needs. These new services will provide the latest of what GSM technology has to offer."

The new services allow Spacetel customers to receive an abundance of news information. Customers using Al-Jazeera, based in Qatar, can keep up with political, financial, sports and breaking news.

"As soon as Al-Jazeera sends out a news item, our customers will

receive it," said Akkaoui.

Al-Jazeera has hooked up with six other telecom operators in the Middle East since it first started the service last year.

A month ago, Spacetel launched an information service by working with info2cell.com, a content provider for information services in the Middle East. It provides GSM operators with many different kinds of information - from entertainment, news and the weather, to beauty tips and music in either Arabic or English.

Competing with Sabafon since 2001, Spacetel has always tried to be the leader in providing innovative new services.

When it first opened shop in Yemen, it introduced numerous services, such as SMS, voice mail, conference calls and call forwarding. Last year, Spacetel launched UniMail, allowing customers to deal with email, faxes and voice messages in one mailbox.

The GSM operator allows clients with permanent lines to use Scratch Card Payment so that they can buy a card locally, instead of traveling to a branch, to pay for using Spacetel.

Customers can also be informed that they have missed calls when their phones are off, or out of coverage, by using Spacetel's Super Clip. Earlier this year, Spacetel gave its customers a chance to interact on satellite television and track their packages using leading courier services in Yemen.

Now that Sabafon and Spacetel's exclusivity of the market has expired, they will be facing more stiff competition in the future. Yemen Mobile, a government-owned telecommunications company, planning to use the CDMA communication system, is expected to enter the market at the end of this month. One or more additional GSM operators are also expected to compete for the Yemeni market next year.

According to Akkaoui, Spacetel believes that by focusing on being the leader in offering new services to Yemeni customers, it is prepared to take on more competition.

"We find it an opportunity, not a threat, to show ourselves as the best in the market for customers," said Akkaoui. "It will be a good opportunity to be better and better at meeting customers' expectations."

## Public sector privatization



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
mkamaly@yahoo.com

Economic sources claim that privatization of public sector institutions in Yemen is progressing very slowly for various reasons. The main cause is the lack of capital necessary for buying unstable establishments. Nevertheless, the process is progressing in an organized manner since the launching of the Yemeni reforms in 1995. The program seeks to improve the state's finances by removing the financial burden of subsidizing the public sector from the general budget, and to allow the state to concentrate on supporting free economy by the mobilization and distribution of the country's economic resources.

Since the beginning of the reforms,

the public sector was constituted of around 140 companies, employing around 76 thousand persons, among which figured 37 agricultural companies, 26 industrial companies, 12 companies for trade activity and 11 public services companies. The remaining companies deal with construction, transport, communication, electricity, water, oil and fish.

The Yemeni government took a decision in 1995, to regulate the rules required for implementation of total or partial privatization operations of the establishments and companies owned by the state, or those in which it has shares. The decision decreed that the financial revenues of a privatized company sold to the private sector, would be used for development of the sector to which that company belongs.

The government has so far succeeded in the privatization of state farms, some establishments selling meat, vegetables, fruit, poultry, agricultural machines

rental companies and mills. It has also succeeded in the privatization of companies such as dairy factories, banks, other trading establishments and seaports.

The government laid down some general rules for privatization. Among which forbade the changing of the main function of the company concerned, and sought to ensure the safety of its staff. Thus the process has been split up into the following stages:

- 1- The stage of evaluation of the company.
- 2- The stage defining the value of the company.
- 3- The stage of taking the decision, and assessment of the implementation of the results.

Nevertheless, the program has still difficulties with providing the convenient climate for investment. This and the weakness of the private sector and its incapability to buy out the public sector or run it, hinder the process of privatization in the country.

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**After** winning European Fellowship Certificate, Saba Islamic Bank launched the automatic cashier service through more than 10 international networks.

Saba Islamic Bank (SIB), throughout its transactions with all costumers, is seeking to get the pioneership in the field of banking services. SIB is following the latest in information technology and communication for the sake of achieving the high quality in banking. It aims to convince and serve customer all over the world.

Saba Islamic Bank offers a distinctive model of banking and monetary transactions according to the Islam Shariah. Following all these aims, SIB in collaboration with CSC Yemen, inaugurated for the first time in Yemen the International Automatic Cashier Service. This service will easily allow the bank's costumers and the international credit cards' holders in Yemen as well as in any country to get any amount of money wherever they are with less time and effort.

Abdulmajeed al-Mikhlaifi, General Director of the Saba Bank, said, "This service is considered as one of the Bank strategies in modernizing the automatic and technical system especially after connecting our branches with Interbranch net and after updating our website on the Internet. Not only that, but even the talking bank was provided. We are today launching the service of the automatic cashier (ATM) and the electronic monetary services in more than 10 international nets in a response to the public desire and following the modern technologies."

En. Jameel al-Ansi, Deputy General Director of the Bank, pointed that: "Lunching this service comes in the frame of the Bank's intentions to meet the need of costumers through offering distinguished and highly approved services. The Bank also aims to bring the latest achievements in technology at ease everywhere in Yemen and in the world. The Bank is working nowadays on preparing for issuing the 'Debit card' that will enable the customer to take out money with the Bank's machines that will be distributed later in most of the governorates."

On the other hand, Ahmed al-Areeqi, Secretary of the Central Bank of Yemen for Accountancy and Computing, praised the level of banking services in SIB.

The automatic cashier service of SIB is a great step towards improving banking in Yemen presenting unique services in this field, answering the age's inquiries and fulfilling qualitative advances in the economic field.' He added.

Beside the automatic cashier service, SIB grants also the services of Visa Card and Golden and Silver Master Cards. This service is offered to the businessmen and companies' proprietors. It is beneficial for those who don't want to carry money in their pockets and who want to save efforts and time. This service is available in all SIB branches.

SIB attains an estimated rank among the working international and local banks in Yemen in terms of its assets and investment banking services granted to costumers

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# Afghan refugees eager to vote in historic election

DARA ONE, Pakistan, Sept 21 (Reuters) - Abdul Wahid's desire to vote in next month's Afghan presidential election is driven by a simple logic.

"I will vote because I have become sick of war," said the unemployed teacher from the northern province of Faryab, who has been living as a refugee in Pakistan for the past three years.

"When I was born, there was fighting in Afghanistan. Now I am 22 years old and am a father of a son, but the fighting is still going on."

Wahid said he did not want his children to live with the violence, as a dozen other jobless refugees, some with long flowing beards and turbans, looked on.

Wahid was hopeful that the presidential election on Oct. 9 would help end the violence in Afghanistan, ravaged by more than two decades of war and factional fighting that forced millions to take refuge in neighbouring countries, including Pakistan.

Despite broad enthusiasm for the election in the sprawling Dara One refugee camp, an expanse of mud-walled huts separated by rubbish-strewn dirt roads, there is nothing to suggest a historic election is about to take place in less than a month.

Many of the huts at Dara One have already been destroyed, as families trickle back to their homes in Afghanistan.

About 15,000 Afghans settled in the camp, set up by the U.N. refugee agency a few kilometres from the Afghan border in the wake of the U.S.-led war on the Taliban launched in late 2001. Roughly 7,500 people remain.

There has been no election campaign, no posters or rallies, and no campaigning by any of the 18 Afghan presidential candidates, seemingly

oblivious to the estimated 500,000-600,000 eligible voters living in Pakistani camps.

The U.N.-sponsored International Organisation of Migration (IOM) plans to set up more than 1,000 centres across Pakistan to register eligible voters among Afghan refugees from Oct. 1 to 3.

"I have no idea how I will vote and for whom I will vote, because no one has contacted us so far," said 45-year-old Haji Abdul Shakoor, a bearded man who has lived in Dara One camp along with his two wives and 17 children for three years.

Pakistan signed an agreement with the United Nations and the Afghan government in July to enable Afghan refugees to vote in their country's first presidential polls.

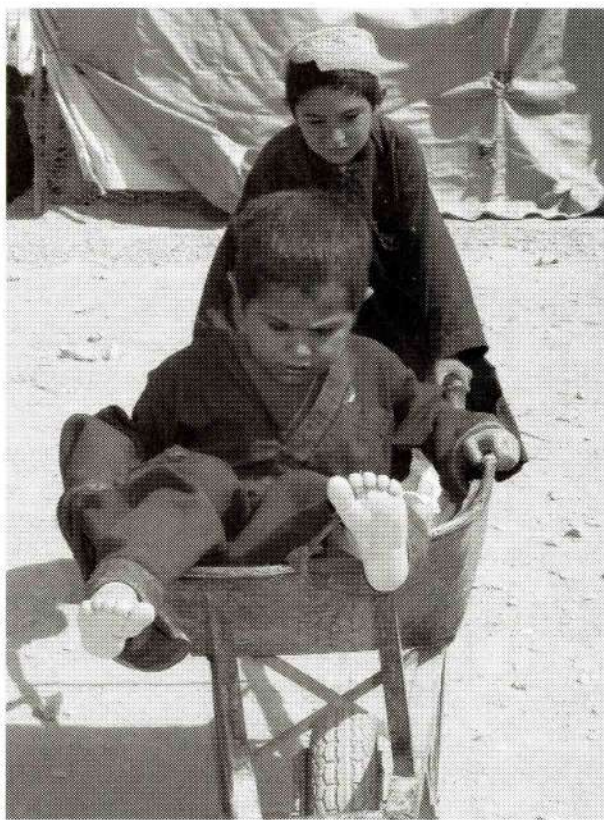
But with less than a month left to the election and a lack of reliable data about the number of refugees, analysts say logistical and security problems could hamper their voting.

"It's a challenging task, but the way preparations are being made suggests that refugees are not a priority (for election organisers)," said Rahimullah Yusufzai, a newspaper editor and expert on Afghan affairs.

#### ELDERS MAY DICTATE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

According to U.N. officials, an estimated one million Afghans live in Pakistani refugee camps and many more in cities, towns and villages. Another 800,000 eligible voters live in Iran.

Many refugees say community elders will decide about whether women



An Afghan refugee boy sits in a wheelbarrow at Dara One refugee camp on the outskirts of the Pakistan-Afghan border town of Chaman September 10, 2004. Despite broad enthusiasm for the election in the sprawling Dara One refugee camp, an expanse of mud-walled huts separated by rubbish-strewn dirt roads, there is nothing to suggest a historic election is about to take place in less than a month. Picture taken September 10. To accompany REUTERS

will be allowed to participate, a reflection of tribal and family customs in conservative Islamic Afghanistan.

But within Afghanistan, expectations of a low turnout among women proved unfounded, although the percentage in the more conservative

south and east is below the national average of 41 percent of the 10.6 million people with voter registration cards.

The majority of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan are from the majority Pashtun ethnic group, traditional rulers of Afghanistan who live mainly in the south and east of the country.

President Hamid Karzai, who is seeking re-election, is a Pashtun, and clear favourite to win the poll.

Many refugees in Dara One camp, on the outskirts of the frontier town of Chaman, 100 km (60 miles) northwest of the city of Quetta, pledged to back Karzai on ethnic grounds.

"We will never vote for Dostum, because his hands are stained with the blood of Pashtuns," said Shakoor, a Pashtun from Faryab province, referring to ethnic Uzbek commander Abdul Rashid Dostum, one of Karzai's main challengers.

Dostum's forces stand accused of involvement in ethnically motivated attacks in northern Afghanistan immediately after the fall of the Pashtun-dominated Taliban militia.

Others refugees said they would vote for Karzai because they knew little about other candidates.

"All we hear on the radio is about Karzai. We don't know who the other

candidates are," said Haji Saloon.

The election in Afghanistan is being held amid threats from remnants of the Taliban who have vowed to disrupt the poll.

But Akhtar Mohammad said he was not scared.

"I am scared of Allah, not of Taliban or anyone else."

Afghan officials say a large number of Taliban militants stage attacks in

Afghanistan from the safety of Pakistani soil. But Pakistan border security officials said they had beefed up security ahead of Oct. 9.

"We have taken stringent measures to check cross-border movement of unwanted people, especially for the election," said Colonel Aurang Zeb Afridi of Pakistan's Tochi Scouts, responsible for border security in Chaman.

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## Invitation for Bids Republic of Yemen Child Development Project

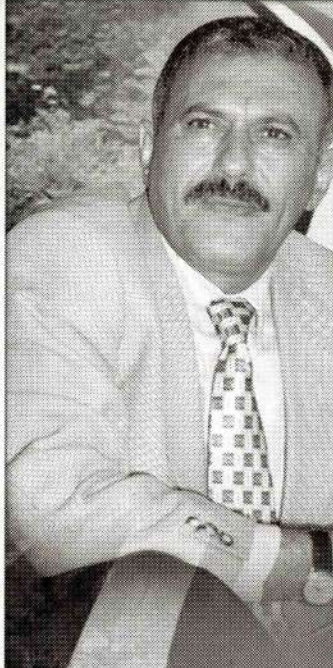
Credit No. 3326-YEM

### Extension for invitation for the bid No. PCU/ICB/01/2004 (Medical Drugs)

The new date for submission the bids will be at or before 11:00 on Sunday, 10 October 2004 instead of 15 September 2004

- 1- This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in UN Development Business No.555 of 31 March 2001.
- 2- The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Child Development Project (CDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for the supply of Medical Drugs.
- 3- The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Delivery:
  - 165,000 Bottle of Amoxicilline
  - 30,000 Bottle of Cotrimoxazole
  - 30,000 Bottle of Pencillin V.
  - 60,000 Bottle of Paracetamole
  - 30,000 Bottle of Erythromycin
  - 30,000 Tab of Mebendazole
  - 30,000 Bottle of Iron syrup
  - 5,000 Bottle of Chloroquine Syrup
- 4- Bids must be submitted with 100% of the items.
- 5- Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding Procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996 and September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
- 6- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of Child Development Project at the address below from 08:00 to 15:00 hours.
- 7- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USD\$ 50. The method of payment will be cash or bank transfer to the Central Bank of Yemen in Sana'a, account No.1076-0010235. The document will be sent by mail or Urgent post/Air carrier. In the latter case, the bidder will be charged for the additional cost.
- 8- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 11:00 am on Sunday, 10 October 2004. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum 2.5 % of bid price. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 11:00 am on Sunday, 10 October 2004.

Child Development Project  
Project Coordination Unit  
Attn: Dr. Nafisa Al Jaifi, Project Director  
Hadda District, behind of the Crown Hotel  
Sana'a, Yemen  
Tel: 967-1-426470 - Fax: 967-1-426457  
E-mail: [hcm1@y.net.ye](mailto:hcm1@y.net.ye)



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والى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ / عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر.  
والى مجلس الشورى برئاسة الأستاذ / عبد العزيز عبد الغني  
والى أبناء الشعب اليمني  
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**H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh**  
all government bodies presided over by the PM Abdulqader Bajammal,  
the Parliament presided by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar,  
Ashoura Council presided by Abdulaziz Abdulghani  
and all Yemeni people  
On the occasion of 42nd anniversary  
of the revolution on 26th September

# 26 September

# Yemeni Press, A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

## Main headlines

- Defence and interior ministries announce the end of al-Houthi rebellion, al-Houthi's dead body found in his hideout
- International Red Cross expresses satisfaction over the government success in tackling humanitarian impact of Saada events
- Soufan back from Tehran, Hajja-Al Miftah highway projects signed with the Islamic Bank for Development
- Victims of massacres in Iraq on the increase, Germany calls its nationals to leave Iraq
- The president warns elements that supported al-Houthi insurgency
- The government abolishes an agreement on selling the state share of one of oil sector
- A scientific symposium on terror
- Al-Houthi photo, evidence on his death
- Yemeni Congregation for Reform Party observes foundation anniversary
- Parliament decides fate of Bajammal government
- Razammi refuses to surrender
- In his visit to military training center the president praises results achieved by armed forces and security in Saada
- Destruction of al-Houthoi insurgency, a victory for Yemeni revolution and constitutional legitimacy
- Interior ministry source: Documents on personalities and political parties supported al-Houthi to presented before justice
- FM takes part in meeting of the UN General Assembly meetings
- Defendants of Cole case to receive verdict on 29 Sept.
- Cooperation between Aden University and WHO discussed
- The oil deal ignites a crisis between the government and parliament
- Meeting of the technical committee for borders demarcations to meet at the end of this month
- Assistance from the WB to encounter waters crisis in Yemen

**الوحدة** Al-Wahda weekly, 15 Sept. 2004.

### Main headlines

- Dr Al-Asbahi: Leaderships in the JMP rebel against law and national constants
  - Political parties' stance regarding allocation of constituencies for the woman:
  - GPC: We study the proposal; support the woman as candidate and voter
  - Islah: Islah female members have to be brave to wring out their rights
  - YSP: Engagement of the woman in political life needs a political decision
  - Communications ministry stops smuggling international phone calls in three governorates
  - Yemen takes part in Tokyo tourist exhibition
  - For modernizing foreign trade, Border customs crossings to be connected by electronic system
  - Discussion seminar on tackling impediments of agricultural marketing
  - Italian support for health programs
- Columnist Abdulnasser al-Mamlouh says in his article that the opposition parties are nowadays trying to gather their papers and rearrange their internal situation by setting what are called controls for regulating their work and through them, it aims at building a strong and organized opposition based on a constitutional basis.

The opposition parties have established a what is called as "Joint Meeting Parties" and thus have caused happiness to all those interested in the matter of wanted democratic balance in the hope to create suitable climate for the growth of the democratic experience in Yemen and prepare the way for the realization of its goals, but things run against the hoped for objectives.

Despite the official and legitimate existence of a large number of Yemeni political parties along with the ruling party, those opposition parties do not possess any clear political program distinguishing them from others and what they do is that they call themselves as opposition parties. They do not possess another program that the citizen could think of and hold comparison between it and the government program to choose between the better.

**الميثاق** Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress, 13 September 2004.

### Main headlines

- President Saleh: Those who stood by secessionism are those who supported al-Houthi
  - FM: Lebanese-Syrian relations an internal affair, the Sudan in need of the international community support
  - During his visit to Human Rights ministry, the PM gives his directives to include human rights syllabus in educational curricula
- The newspaper editorial says that Al-Houthi rebellion has ended up to the fate its has to face although it has taken some time and many human and material losses and Saada will move to the battle of construction and development to repair what the insurgency has destroyed.
- In Yemen, the real battles are those of development on economic, social, cultural and political fronts to achieve the progress of our society. But it seems we have to use some of the effort and resources to resist projects adopted by who try to intercept our way for realization of development with projects of destruction and conspiracies.
- The end of the rebellion led by Al-Houthi is believed to offer evidence that the Yemeni environment is no longer suitable for the implementation of those projects and all attempts of that kind would be doomed to failure.

**الاسبوع** Al-Isbou weekly, 16 Sept. 2004.

### Main headlines

- Islah: Hardliners win
  - Common Arab bourse
  - In an attempt to ease electricity problems, a new power station in Aden
  - Because of transferring their headmistress, Students of Sukainah school for girls stage a strike against attending classes
- Columnist Mohammed Ahmed al-Mahraqah says in his article by the death of insurgent al-Houthi and downfall of the conspiracy life returned to the areas and districts of Saada, which seemed looking forward to a happy future and joy snatched away by the events returned to the areas. The gover-

norate of Saada is now seeing a government and political efforts towards adopting the policy of future development after it has suffered very much from the al-Houthi rebellion for more than two months and it was damaged by the fighting events and military operations. The area deserves special care from the government to make for the suffering it has endured due to the events.

It seems that the most dangerous results the events have disclosed is that the republican system, unity, and democracy in Yemen are not far from or immune against attempts of targeting them and that there are external powers against progress in this country and its achievements.

**الاصبوع** 26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces 16 Sept.2004.

### Main headlines

- The government abrogated agreement of selling part of oil sector no. 53
  - YR 300 million for services projects in Haidan
  - Following TOTAL company failure in its exportation, government directives for benefiting from Yemeni gas in energy and local uses
  - Japan writes off \$ 17 million of its debts on Yemen
- The political editor of the newspaper says in his article that celebrations of our people in the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the 26 September revolution and the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the 14 October revolution come this year while Yemen is proud of what it has achieved of accomplishments and victories in various areas of stability, development and comprehensive construction. The revolutions have restored for the people their freedom and dignity among world nations to assume their position due to what they have contributed to the course of human civilization. The Yemeni revolution on 26 September was not great because it has only pounded the strongest reactionary imamate regime the history has known, but also because it has ended the colonialist presence on the Yemeni soil by eruption of the 14 October revolution so that it would be clear the correlation between the remaining and elimination of the



imamate and colonization against the unity of the national struggle of the Yemenis embodied by the unity of their revolution. The republican system has triumphed and the colonialists had departed because of the struggle and strife of the Yemeni people and their armed forces who sacrificed their precious blood for the cause.

22 May weekly, issued by the General People's Congress, 16 Sept. 2004.

### Main headlines

- Ministry of education effects comprehensive change movement for all of its offices directors general in all governorates
- Aden Social Charity Society distrib-

utes 500 school bags on poor students, a gift from the cement company of Aden

Writer Ms Huda Fadhl says in an article that the Yemeni Forum for Media Females, chaired by the journalist Ms Rahma Hujairah, has taken courageous steps in establishing a status deserved by Yemeni media women in the Arab and international media arena. The Forum aims at giving information on the Yemeni female journalists, their capabilities and their qualification through holding training courses on the profession as well as holding meetings between Yemeni female journalists and the parties supporting the project.

The presence of the journalist Ms Hujairah on the head of the forum serves very much the Yemeni female

journalists as it has filled her position successfully and efficiently. The success of Yemeni media females is the task of all Yemeni female journalists in all governorates of the republic and all of them should endeavour to keep high this forum depicting the voice of Yemeni female journalists. The forum of Yemeni female journalists is considered the first organisation paying attention and interested in issues of Yemeni female journalists. It has been established with the aim of developing performance of Yemeni journalists professionally and providing various cultural means to guarantee achievement of a just and effective media message and for raising the level of the social awareness about the role of Yemeni female journalists in the process of comprehensive development.

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# NON SEQUITUR

by Wiley



WON'T READING IN THE CAR MAKE YOU FEEL SICK, KATE?

NOT WHEN I'M ENGROSSSED BY THE MATERIAL, DANAE.

OH... SO WHAT HAS YOU SO ENGROSSSED?

STEPHEN HAWKING'S PRESENTATION OF HIS NEW CALCULATIONS IN THEORETICAL PHYSICS AT THE GR17 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN LAST JULY. IT STIRRED SOME CONTROVERSY AMONG PHYSICISTS

UH...WHAT WAS SO CONTROVERSIAL ABOUT IT?

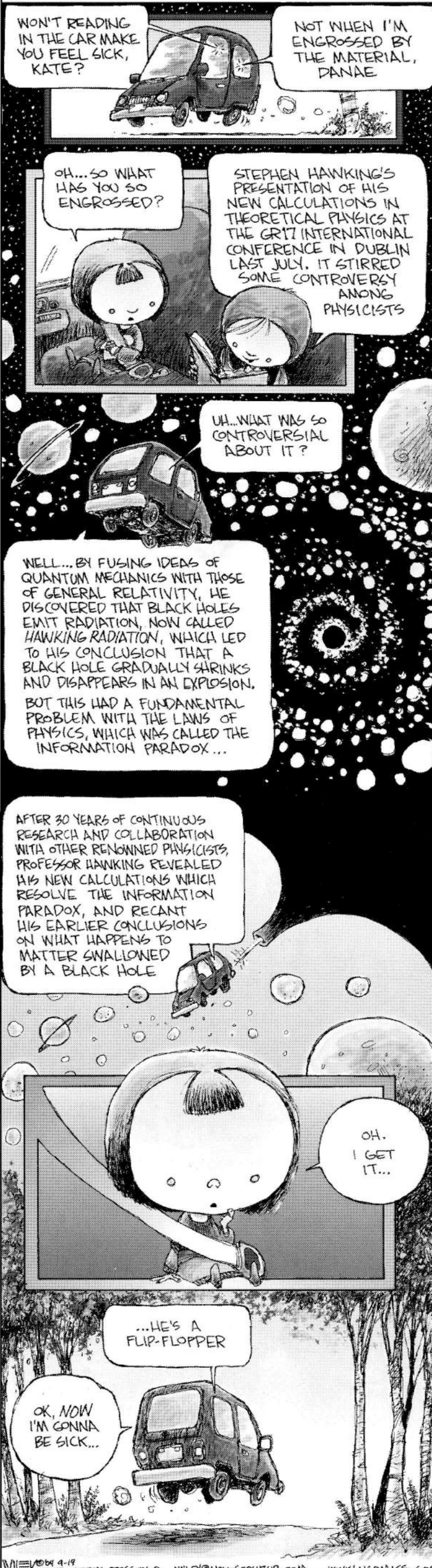
WELL...BY FUSING IDEAS OF QUANTUM MECHANICS WITH THOSE OF GENERAL RELATIVITY, HE DISCOVERED THAT BLACK HOLES EMIT RADIATION, NOW CALLED HAWKING RADIATION, WHICH LED TO HIS CONCLUSION THAT A BLACK HOLE GRADUALLY SHRINKS AND DISAPPEARS IN AN EXPLOSION. BUT THIS HAD A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM WITH THE LAWS OF PHYSICS, WHICH WAS CALLED THE INFORMATION PARADOX...

AFTER 30 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER RENOWNED PHYSICISTS, PROFESSOR HAWKING REVEALED HIS NEW CALCULATIONS WHICH RESOLVE THE INFORMATION PARADOX, AND RECALCIT HIS EARLIER CONCLUSIONS ON WHAT HAPPENS TO MATTER SWALLOWED BY A BLACK HOLE

OH. I GET IT...

...HE'S A FLIP-FLOPPER

OK, NOW I'M GONNA BE SICK...



تعامل الهندسة والتجارة راقى  
**C.E.W** وبضاعة ارقى

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## Complete these proverbs :

Ans. Con. 24  
 worried - amiable - talent - angry - negative - illness


**Winner**  
**Safwa Mahboob**

Care killed .....  
 E say come, .....  
 Walls have.....

الاسم: .....  
 المدينة: .....  
 رقم التلفون: .....

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

### THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



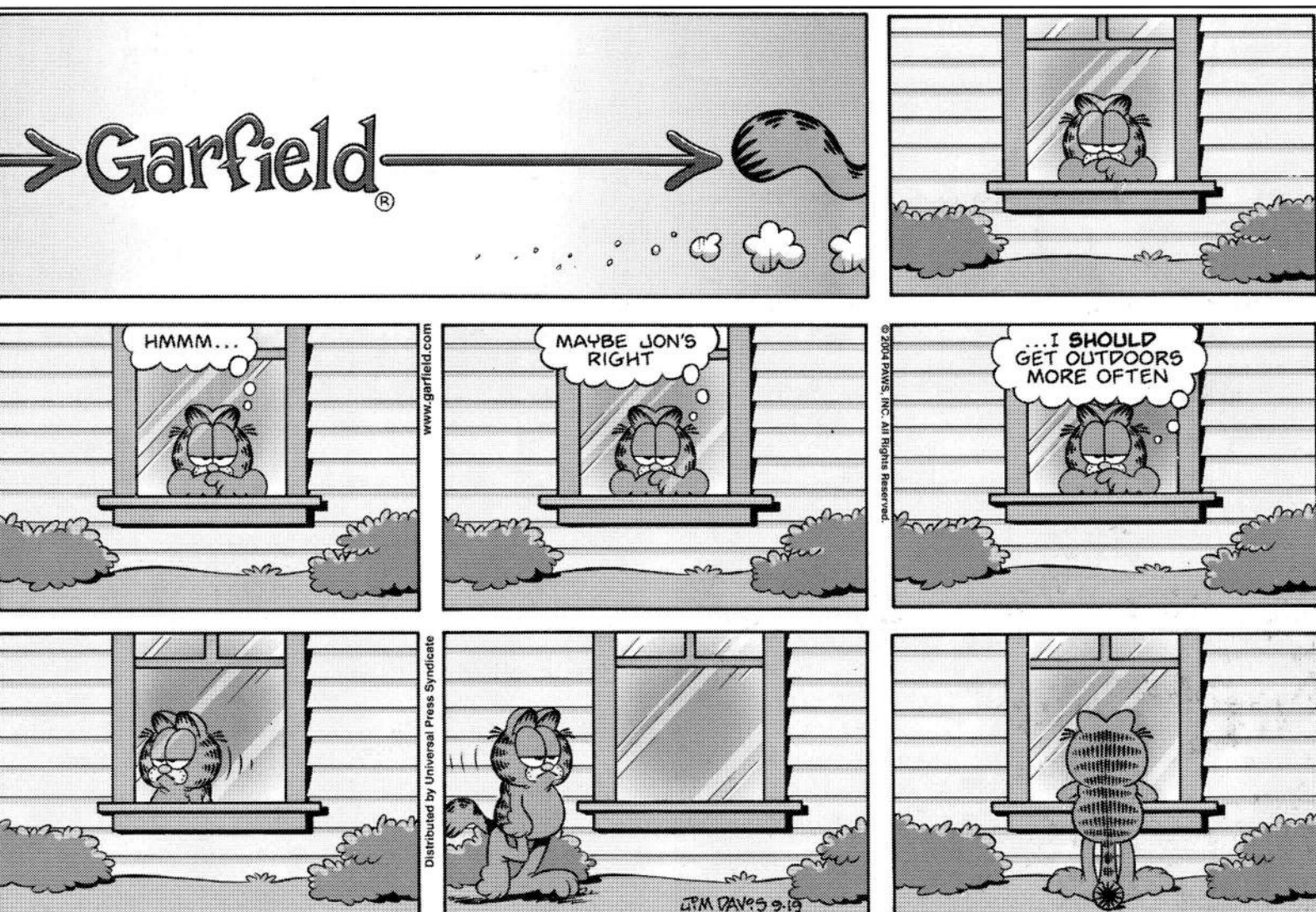
BY Eugenia

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
You can get ahead professionally, but if you let your personal problems interfere with your work, you will miss out on a chance to advance. Focus on what counts and keep your emotions in line.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
Improvement should be the order of the day. Social activities will result in romance. Sign up for a course that will aid you in getting into something new.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**  
You should be thinking about investments, property, making changes to your home or personal situation. Invite people to your house to discuss plans for prosperity
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**  
You may not be doing things for the right reason in your personal life. If you are with someone because you don't want to be alone, move on. Love is in a high cycle.
- Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**  
Someone you work with may offer you something you can't refuse. Money matters can be dealt with if you are prepared to make a move. Someone from your past will remind you of your original goals.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**  
Set your goals on doing something that will benefit you. This is the perfect day to make physical or mental changes that will move you in a new direction.
- Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**  
You may be goaded into an argument that will leave you confused and upset. The less said today, the better. An older relative may be a burden.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
Partnerships will lead to prosperity. Get involved in an organization that can benefit you in the future. The more you know about the industry you are involved in, the better.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
You may be questioning the professional choices you've made. Consider your dreams and if you have fulfilled them. You may have to make a few changes.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
You will find yourself thinking about someone you used to know quite well. Don't be afraid to get in touch. This is a perfect day to reconnect with someone you should never have lost contact with
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**  
You can discover new ways to make a buck. Your inventive mind will lead you to someone who has the skills you are lacking.
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**  
Your unique approach will attract attention that could lead to a newfound friend or partner. What you do today will influence the people you care about the most.

### 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

## Garfield



Garfield comic strip panels showing him thinking about going outdoors more often.

## 'I'm 100 Percent Innocent', Says Hamilton

ZURICH (Reuters) - Olympic champion Tyler Hamilton said on Tuesday he was "100 percent innocent" as the Phonak rider responded to testing positive for blood transfusions.

"I'm devastated to be here tonight. My family, team, friends are all devastated and one thing I can guarantee you is I'm 100 percent innocent," the American told reporters at a news conference held by his Phonak cycling team.

"I've been accused of taking blood from another person. Anyone who knows me knows that is completely impossible.

"I can tell you what I did and did not put into my body. Cycling is very important to me but not that important. If I ever had to do that (doping) I'd hang the bike on the rack."

Hamilton said he was informed by the International Cycling Union (UCI) last Thursday that he had tested positive at the Tour of Spain for having a blood transfusion. The 33-year-old was told on Saturday by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that he had also tested positive for having a blood transfusion at last month's Athens Games.

"The two tests are alleged to show a similar method of doping," Hamilton said at a news conference.

If found guilty Hamilton would be the first athlete caught for a blood transfusion.

Hamilton won the Olympic time



Olympic time-trial champion Tyler Hamilton (L), captain of Switzerland's Phonak cycling team, gestures as Phonak Chairman Andy Rihs (R) looks on during a news conference of the Phonak cycling team in Regensdorf near Zurich, September 21.

trial gold medal and the eighth stage of the Tour of Spain — a time trial — on September 11. He withdrew from the Vuelta on Friday citing an upset stomach.

"I can guarantee you the (Olympic) gold medal will be staying in my living room until I don't have a cent left," said Hamilton. "I've worked hard for it and it's not going anywhere."

Blood transfusions are believed to have been widely used in cycling but there has, until now, been no way to detect them.

New tests are thought to have been

introduced for the Tour de France but asked to confirm the timing a UCI spokesman said: "We are refusing to comment on this."

Phonak chief executive officer Andreas Rihs, casting doubt on the reliability of the tests, said the team would stand behind Hamilton even if

the 'B' tests were positive.

"We don't fire innocent people and if the 'B' test is positive as well we'll still stand behind Tyler. We believe Tyler independent of these results.

"We don't believe the test is reliable. It's more of a probability test. We have scientific papers that question the reliability of these tests.

"We think this test (at the Tour of Spain), or the IOC test at least, were done sloppily. The IOC test is suspect because it (the result) came out one month after it was done."

Hamilton finished fourth in the 2003 Tour de France despite breaking his collar bone in a crash at the end of the first stage. He used to support Lance Armstrong on the U.S. Postal team before leaving in 2001 to become team leader with CSC Tiscali.

Swiss cyclist Oscar Camenzind, who raced for Phonak, was banned for two years after testing positive for EPO shortly before the Athens Games. Camenzind was the 1998 world road race champion and he retired after the positive test was revealed.

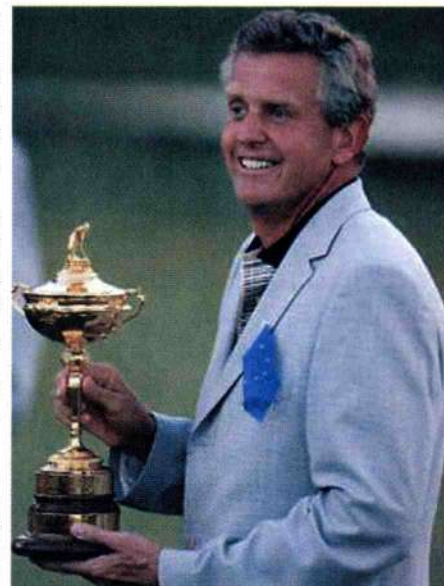
## Monty, ryder cup teammates to play links championship

LONDON (Reuters) - Ryder Cup hero Colin Montgomerie will lead a clutch of his victorious European team mates into a links championship in Scotland next month, organizers said on Tuesday.

The 41-year-old Scot will be joined by nine other members of the team which beat the U.S. by a record 18-1/2 points to 9-1/2 points at Oakland Hills, Michigan, at the weekend.

The 10 are taking part in the \$5 million Dunhill links championship from October 7-10.

The championship will also feature world number one Vijay Singh as well as a number of celebrities, and will be played over three of the world's best known links courses — the Old Course at St Andrews, the Championship Course at Carnoustie and Kingsbarns Golf Links.



Ryder Cup hero Colin Montgomerie will lead a clutch of his victorious European team mates into a links championship in Scotland next month, organizers said September 21.

## Half-Marathon starts

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Eleven countries are to compete in the international half marathon race, starting on Thursday morning on September 23rd at Al-Sab'een Square in the capital city of Sana'a. The competition, which includes nine Arab countries (Yemen, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Palestine, Sudan, Bahrain, Syria and Egypt) in addition to France and Russia, is for the

President Cup.

The race line has been set according to international specifications and overseen by a French expert, who visited Yemen a few months ago.

The 21km race will start from Al-Sab'een Stage to Al-Mesbahij junction, passing through Baghdad, Algeria, Ministry of Finance, and Forty-five km Streets returning finally to the starting point.

The championship is of particular interest since it comes on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Yemeni Revolution.

## Ibb hosts 6th bicycle championship

TAIZ BUREAU

The 6th Bicycle Championship, sponsored by Al-Nojoom Chocolate (a trademark of the General Industries & Packages, one of Hail Sa'eed Group) was held recently held in Ibb.

This sporting event comes within the framework of the Company's commemoration of the September 26th Revolution, as well as its general encouragement of sports and sportsmen all over the republic.

Approximately 100 athletes, under the age of 18, took part in the 20km race, that started from the city center and ended at the outskirts of Maitam.

The winners were awarded at a ceremony held at the headquarters of the governorate on Tuesday, in the presence of the Deputy Governor, the Secretary General of the Local Council, the General Director of Youth and Sports in the Governorate, as well as many representatives of the General Bicycle Federation and the sponsoring company.



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الجمهورية اليمنية  
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# Frankfurt Book Fair welcomes Yemeni writers

BY RAMI AL-ABSI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A preparatory meeting between the German ambassador to Yemen, Frank M. Mann, the Second Secretary, Hendrik Selle and the Yemeni participants in the Frankfurt Book Fair was held at the headquarter of the German embassy on Monday September 20th 2004.



(L-R) Mr. Selle, Huda al-Attas, Dr. Abdu Ali, Ibtisam al-Mutwakil and Frank M. Mann

The meeting was followed by a short press conference, which allowed the introduction to the media of the seven Yemeni writers selected by the German Academy for Language and Poetry (GALP) to attend the biggest book fair in the world, the Frankfurt Book Fair.

The meeting was attended by Dr Abdu Ali Othman, Huda al-Attas, Ibtisam al-Mutwakil, and Mohammed al-

Sharafi who reported Dr. al-Maqaheh's apology. The conference released that the seven Yemeni poets, artists, and critics are Huda al-Attas, Ahmed al-Awadhi, Hashem Ali, Ibtisam al-Mutwakil, Mohammed Haitham, Dr. Ahmed Qayd al-Sa'eedi, and Dr. Abdu Ali Othman. They were chosen by GALP to participate in the Book Fair, during October 6th – 10th 2004, which will contain seminars, presentations, and discussions about Yemeni culture and different topics to promote dialogue among civiliza-

tions. Answering a question raised by the Yemen Times on the criteria adopted to select candidates, Mr Hendrik Selle said: "the Academy that selected them is quite knowledgeable of Arab writers. And the selection was a result of hot discussions in consultation with Dr. al-Maqaheh."  
"Their attendance will not be the first Yemeni presence, there were two writers mediums, in 2002 and 2004. Yemeni and German writers are well known to each other," the ambassador added.

Many questions were asked to the Yemeni candidates and the German ambassador who replied in a very friendly manner depicting the strong Yemeni-German ties and cultural cooperation.

"The Arab world is the honored guest of Frankfurt Book Fair this year. There will be delegations from all the countries of the Arab League. There will be also an official delegation, besides the writ-

ers' delegation, which will be headed by Khaled al-Rowaisan, the Minister of Culture," the Second Secretary said.  
The writers' journey is going to start on October 5th and they'll return on October 12th.



A view of the meeting



The participants discussing the visit program

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