

People afraid of the new price hikes

Government: Stopping price reforms could result in catastrophe

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The government failed last week to pass its proposed new price rise by lifting subsidies on oil products, which would have meant that the price of diesel increases by 100%, and petrol by 50%, in addition to price rises for other products.

Some 250 members of the Parliament and the Al-Shura Council absolutely rejected lifting subsidies on oil products because the government has not showed its seriousness or credibility in executing financial and administrative reform, fighting corruption, decreasing governmental expenses, or limiting extravagant spending on official ceremonies and luxurious buildings.

In a statement to Yemen Times, Sultan Al-Atawani, MP, harshly slashed at the government's new proposal.

He said: "The government has proposed a view on reform. It asked the Parliament to approve lifting subsidies on oil products in return for lowering custom fees on new cars and agricultural machinery. They are not necessary for citizens and do not affect the lives of the majority of people."

Al-Atawani added: "The government complains of a decrease in investment activity, a frailty of the investment infra-

structure, and the retreat of the private sector's contribution to the five-year plan from 95%-39%. But it never tries to find solutions to the rampant corruption. It also does not prevent smuggling oil outside the country by the elite of society whose oil tankers pass across sea and land borders."

He believes that the government should, before lifting subsidies, reform the administrative apparatus, reconsider the system of wages, and improve revenues from sources other than taxation like agriculture and fishery wealth.

The Prime Minister, Abdul-Qadir Ba Jammal, had proposed a draft to the Parliament and Al-Shura Council reporting several challenges before his government including slow economic growth, less job opportunities, low investment volume, frail infrastructure, and a health and education gap between males and females and in cities and rural areas.

Consequently, he claimed that to face these challenges, the price of oil derivatives should be raised. He also asked for a change in new vehicles custom fees from 25% to 5%, and exempting raw gold, books, newspapers, and magazines from custom fees.

Members of the Parliament and Al-Shura Council considered Ba Jammal's report contradictory. Whereas the PM's



Poverty levels in Yemen have reached a record high in the last few years. Beggars and street sellers have also increased in number. It is expected that the price hike will have short-term devastating impact on the economically vulnerable sections of the community. YT photo (Archive)

report says that subsidies mount to YR 150 billion, the minister of planning and international cooperation had said it is YR 80 billion.

An official source had earlier informed media that the government's

move is motivated by the donors, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. Aid is conditional to implementation of the proposal, which is actually approved by the political authority.

Most of them come from the Horn of Africa :

Illegal immigrants to Yemen on the rise

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Official sources have reported a new and unprecedented wave of illegal immigrants coming from the countries of the African Horn. According to sources in the Ministry of Interior, last week alone, more than four hundred illegal immigrants were apprehended while trying to enter Yemeni shores. Those individuals were mostly of Somali and Ethiopian origin. Among them were 71 women. The arrests took place mainly in the provinces of Shabwa and Hadramout after they were forced to leave their boats.

Apart from those arrested while trying to enter the country illegally, more than 50 Somalis were arrested last



Somali and Ethiopian refugees constitute a majority among illegal immigrants to Yemen. YT

week for staying in Yemen without permits and entering the country illegally.

Security measures have recently increased inspection operations of suspected illegal immigrants throughout Yemen. The steps are to ensure the legal status of foreigners in Yemen from various nationalities, and apprehending those in violation of immigration laws and sending them back to their original countries, or to refugee camps if their return becomes impossible. The majority of immigrants to

Yemen are from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. However, other illegal immigrants from other countries have also been identified.

The issue of refugees and illegal immigrants has caused a substantial and negative impact on the country's economy as they continue to flock into the country in greater numbers. The effect is to increase competition for the scarce employment opportunities and burden the economy, which is already suffering.

Another blow to freedom of the press

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In another development concerning the press in Yemen, the Press and Publications Attorney interrogated on Tuesday the Editor-in-Chief of Al-Wasat Newspaper, Jamal Amir, for allegedly causing harm to Yemen-Saudi relations.

Upon completing the interrogation, Jamal Amir said that the issue was raised by the Ministry of Information in relation to a number of articles and news reports that damage relations between the two countries.

Amir requested the interrogation be delayed by a week to allow him to review the case against him and his

newspaper, and to enable his lawyer Nabeel Al-Muhammadi to prepare a response.

Also regarding press rights in Yemen, the Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Mahboob Ali sent a memo of congratulations to President Saleh on the occasion of the anniversary of the 26th of September and requested the government to quickly put the law into practice, so as to release currently imprisoned journalist Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani.

Despite local and international pressure, Al-Khaiwani, who is serving a one-year imprisonment sentence, has not been released and his appeal attempts have turned to be unsuccessful.

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World Bank boosts basic education in Yemen

WASHINGTON, September 23rd 2004 – The World Bank approved a US\$65 million loan to the Government of Yemen to help increase access to basic education for all, especially girls and disadvantaged groups, to enhance the quality of education and improve the management and efficiency of the education sector.

Yemen has made great strides in improving access to education, but it still faces huge challenges to achieving the Millennium Development Goals of universal primary education and gender equality. Enrolment in primary education has increased from 25,000 students in 1970 to more than 4 million in 2003. However, a significant lack of access, quality and efficiency exists; enrolment is approximately 65%, and the adult literacy rate is only 48%. Gender equality is an especially severe problem, with only 55% of primary school-aged girls in schools country-wide and less than 30% in rural areas.

In response to these challenges, the

Government of Yemen is working in partnership with donors in implementing the Basic Education Development Strategy, which focuses on increasing access to school, particularly for girls, improving and developing education curricular and improving management in the Ministry of Education.

In its first years, the Basic Education Development project will be launched in 10 governorates where new schools will be built and existing schools refurbished. The implementation of the Project will expand gradually to the entire country. The project will also emphasize on curricular review and development, and enhance the quality and provision of educational materials. It will support better teacher management and strengthen the system of educational supervision. The project will also help the Ministry of Education improve policy development, strategic planning, and evaluation, and curriculum review and development. By the time the project is completed, it is

expected that enrolment in primary education will have increased by more than 20% across the country.

The Task Team Leader of the Project Ousmane Diagana said, "The project will have a far-reaching beneficial impact in Yemen. The reforms it supports are designated to create an education system in which the less well-off social groups – including girls, children with special needs, and children in rural areas – will benefit increasingly from the nation's investments in education. These reforms will help to gradually change Yemen's education system from one that is relatively costly and poorly managed, to a system that is more efficient and relevant."

The Basic Education Development Project has a maturity of 40 years, including a 10-year grace period. The World Bank began its development cooperation and assistance to Yemen in 1971. Since then, commitments to the country total approximately US\$2.3 billion for 135 operations.

Setting up of a training course on meetings administering

By YT Taiz Bureau.

A training course on administering meetings was set up at the hall of Taiz Governorate bureau. It was organized by the Local Council of Taiz Governorate in collaboration with the German Association for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Chamber of Commerce, and was participated by 35 female and male trainees from the local councils, private sector, and NGOs. The Coordinator of the Course, Adnan Abdullah Saleh, declared that the course lasted between the period from 25th-29th September 2004, and it aimed at improving the communication skills of the trainees in a way securing their improved performance. In addition, the

course aimed to improve cooperation and coordination between the local councils and the other parties and associations, and the development of skills in constructive dialogue for the topics, decisions, and the problems under study, with emphasis on providing the participants with the skills and expertise to help them in listening thoroughly, and controlling their feelings and reactions. The course inauguration was attended by the Deputy Assistant of Taiz Governorate, Ali al-Muqdash, Miss Gabriele Herrmann, CIM, Advisor, Dr. Dawood Othman, Teacher in the Faculty of Economy in Sana'a, and the Director of Media and General Relations of Taiz Governorate bureau, Ammar al-Mua'allemi.

Training Course on Women's Rights concluded

TAIZ BUREAU

A Training Course on Women's civil, political and legal rights, including reproductive health, and international agreements on Women's Rights was concluded at the hall of Taj Shamsan Hotel, in Taiz, on Wednesday 22nd September. The event was organized by the National Committee of Women, the Information & Training Center for Human Rights in Taiz, and was supported by the UNDP Population Fund. The course was attended by 30 female and male trainees from the

Governorates of Dhalae, Lahej, and Taiz. The Director of Human Rights Information & Training Center, Mr. Ezzuddin al-Asbahi, declared that the course lasted for four consecutive days, during which the participants received lectures on Women's Political Rights, the legislative structure in Yemen, and Women's Legal Rights in Civil and labor law. Additionally, the course focused on Women's Rights in Islam, Women's Rights in Educational Law, the Civil service Law, Insurance and Social Securities, and Women's Civil Rights in International conventions.

Readers' Voice

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This edition's question:

Do you think that the Yemeni government will delay the expected price hike until 2005?

- Yes it will
- No it will not

last edition's question:

Would the Gulf Arab States write off their debts owed by Iraq?
Yes, they would 50%
No, they would not 50%

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Judiciary and media discussed

By RAMZI AL-ABSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A discussion session on 'Judiciary and Media' under the slogan 'towards effective partnership to achieve justice' was held at the Higher Institute of the Judiciary during the period from September 22nd-23rd 2004. The Ministry of Justice organized the session under the patronage of its Minister, Dr. Adnan al-Jefri. The session aimed at raising awareness among participants, from both the judicial system and the media, about the significance of coordination between them to achieve justice.

More than 120 men and women who are working in the judicial system and media attended the session. Under-secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Mohammed Zabarah, and Under-secretary of the Ministry of Information, delivered welcoming speeches opening the session. Zabarah praised the session on its first day while some papers were presented stressing the importance of a complementary relationship between the judiciary and the media.

Ali al-Jaradi presented a working paper on the 'scope and nature of media treatments'. Another paper was presented by Dr. Mohammed Ja'afar Qasim, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Justice, on the famous American experience, *Shepard*, that narrates a trial affected by the Judiciary and media. Many questions and comments were presented when analyzing these papers.

Ali Abu Hulaqah, Head of the Constitutional Committee in the parliament, headed the session on the second day. Dr. Yahya al-khazzan and Dr. Sameer al-Abdali presented their papers entitled 'Judicial independence and press freedom'. Khalid al-Dubais



A view of the discussion session

talked about 'the exchange of views between judiciary and media'. Not only that but even Ra'afat Maswa'ae presented a TV model on the scope and nature of media treatment. Hamoud Munassar, and Dr. Ahmed al-Wushali presented 'the relationship between the judiciary and the media' and 'the legal controls on the media treatment' respectively. Dr. Ali al-Sharafi contributed to the session with his speech on the legal items that deal with punishing, imprisoning and executing pressmen.

The Minister of Justice concluded the session with a speech showing that: 'we should seek to modify many law items, not only those that deal with the media.' In this respect, Dr. al-Sharafi said: "there are 19 items in the Yemeni law that allow punishing pressmen on different levels. We aren't allowed to say that an item is wrong or unjust, or disobey it on that account, but we should suggest that in front of the legislative authority and do our best to make them modify it."

The Committee of Recommendations was formed of Hamoud Munassar, Sa'eed Thabet, Dr.

Mohammed Ja'afar Qasim, and Judge Rasheed al-Manifi. Concerning the recommendations of the session, Dr. Moh'd Qasim said to YT: "we hope that the decisions and recommendations of the session make a powerful reinforcement on judicial work. Some of the main recommendations were:

- The importance of coordination through raising awareness about the judiciary throughout media.
- Working on forming a media plan to contribute towards reinforcing the judiciary and its position in society.
- Supporting the role of men of justice in protecting others' freedom, liberty and achieving justice.
- Fulfilling the joint duties of the judiciary and the media that aim to combat the negative phenomena such as revenge, terrorism and kidnapping.

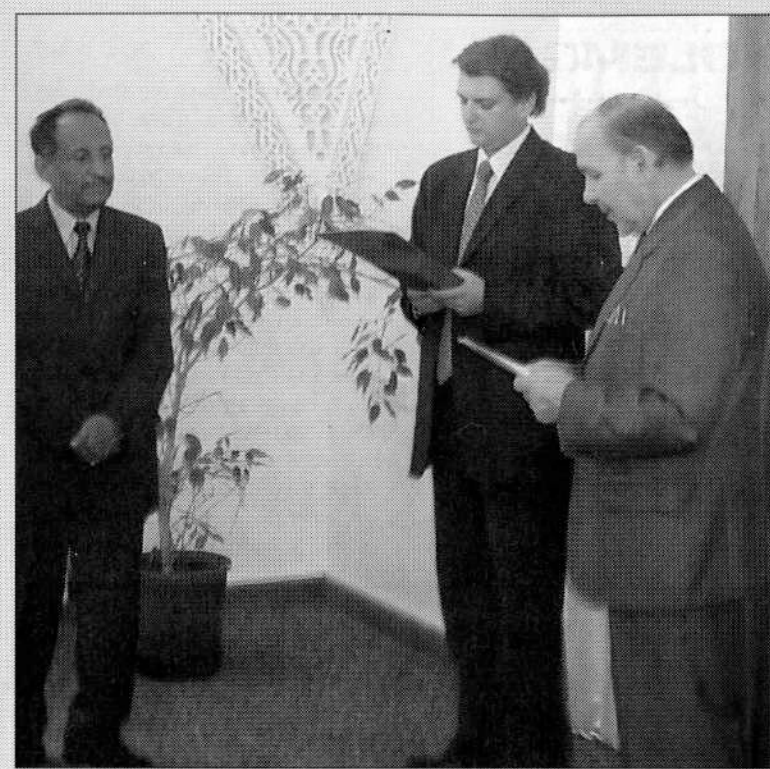
"Though the session was the first of its kind, it was considered a great success. It urged us to continue organizing such sessions in collaboration with the Yemen Journalists Syndicate, in order to create developed public understanding of the importance of press freedom and civil organizations as guarantors of human rights.

Poland honors former Yemeni Ambassador

The President of Poland, through the Polish Ambassador to Yemen Mr. Tadeusz Strojwas, has honored Abdulaziz Ahmed Ali ba Eisa, the former Yemeni Ambassador to Poland. The award was made on Tuesday 28th September at the Embassy's premises in Sanaa.

"This prestigious award, the Commendation Cross of the Order of Merit, is to honor one of the elite Yemenis who contributed greatly to the development of Yemen-Poland relations and laid the foundation for lasting and fruitful cooperation between the two countries," Polish Ambassador said.

In response, Mr. ba Eisa thanked the ambassador and emphasized that "Yemen-Poland relations have a long way to go. I believe in the potential that even greater levels of cooperation and relations can be achieved, and I hope my successor will continue in building on the work that I have accomplished during my term, and I wish the Polish government and people all the very best."



HRITC holds a Course

Special Course on Community planning for Women Organizations

A training course on Community planning which has been organized by the Queen Zain-al-Sharaf Institute for Development in Jordan in collaboration with Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC), started on the 28th September 2004. The course which will last for one week includes: training on the connotations of Community planning, Planning elements and its different stages, training on preparing speedy research and measuring the local community's requirements. The program will comprise practical training and field visits to prepare research plans, data analyzing, and evaluating the community's requirements. The course is a special one for organizations operating in Women Development field in which 30 female trainees from different women's unions in Aden will participate.

This training course comes from the real interest of the Center, which is the necessity of developing the capabilities of civil community associations

and their contribution to development operations.

Additionally, the course offers a chance to benefit from the training expertise of Jordanian.

On the other hand, HRITC is going to organize the 4th Arab course on 3rd October, in Aden Governorate. The course will be attended by 35 male and female trainees from eleven Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Egypt, Somalia, and Yemen.

The trainees on the regional course will receive lectures on the legal background of human rights, economic, social and cultural rights in addition to workshops on the world's legal framework on human rights and agreements on child's and women's rights. In addition, participants will listen to lectures on civil and political rights, the democratic contribution problem of the Arab homeland and the regional agreements on human rights as well as the International Criminal Court.

During the course, participants will benefit from checking and documenting cases of human rights violations and a number of other important topics.

The course, which continues until 9th October, will reward a group of the best trainees and academics, i.e. from Egypt, Tunis, Jordan, Algiers, Yemen, and Palestine.

It is worth mentioning that HRITC have regularly attempted to organize this course and to aim to hold it annually. The course focuses on representatives of NGOs, and activists from Arab countries, especially, the Peninsula's states and Arab Gulf. It is considered one of the most distinguished and advanced courses, which has gained a wide Arab fame. In addition, it is worth noting that 4th Arab course will be organized by the Center in coordination with the KONRAD ADE-NAUER Human. It will be attended by representatives of the Supreme Higher Commission to Human Rights of UNDP, Geneva.

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A press conference on tourism



BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

On the occasion of World Tourism Day September 27th, a press conference on Tourism in Yemen, its domains and barriers, was run last Monday at the Open Air Theater in the old city of Sana'a.

Before holding the conference, the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Khaled Al-Ruwaishan inaugurated the tourist exhibition. Then, he along with the Secretary of the Ministry for the Tourism Sector, Nabeel Al-Faqeeh walked through the exhibition which contains historical and hand-made articles from Yemeni heritage and grains of various kinds of Yemeni crops such as wheat, corn and beans. Many societies, such as Al-Takamul Development Society, participate in the one-week exhibition with various traditional hand-made materials.

The Minister of Culture and Tourism then delivered speech to open the conference, in which he stated that such functions are exerted in the framework of the Arab Conference for Joint Handicrafts (ACJH) that is to be held on October 2nd 2004.

"Yemen is one of the countries of the world that has witnessed vital progress in its tourism field. Yemen has numerous tourist sights and the weather in Yemen is also considered as conducive to tourism. The Ministry of Culture & Tourism represented by the Tourist Marketing Department, is working harder than it has done in the past 10



Minister of Culture and Tourism on his arrival at the theater

years to boost the tourism industry in Yemen. This is clearly seen from the reconstruction of tourist hotels in many Yemeni cities", said Al-Ruwaishan, adding that the state is interested in the tourist sector considering it as a main source of income for the government, and the population as well. He added though that the construction of hotels is the task of the private sector and not the government.

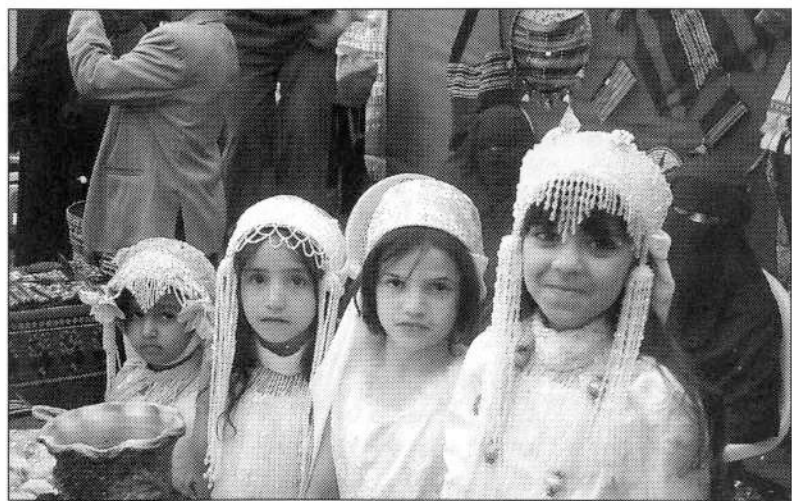
When asked about the rate of tourism development, the number of tourists visiting the country and Yemen's participation in the Top Resa exhibition in

France, the Minister replied, in a statement to the Yemen Times, that the rate of tourism rose by 121% and hotel accommodation by 109%. According to statistics of 2003, the number of tourists amounted up to 154,000 last year. Yemen is planning to participate in the tourist exhibition in the Top Resa and the Yemeni representative is now taking part in an exhibition in Japan. After completing his task, he will head for France to represent Yemen there.

The Secretary of the Ministry for the Tourism Sector stated that tourism in Yemen has suffered for sometime due

to regional security problems, in spite of the fact that the Ministry has published many tourist marketing pamphlets and manuals.

In his answer to a question about making movies which play an important role in attracting tourists to the country, Al-Faqeeh said, "it is impossible for us to make movies before providing adequate information about Yemeni heritage and the attractive views of cities like Shabwa and Hadramaut. The role of movies is secondary since we can compensate for it by the reconstruction of hotels."



Young girls dressed in Yemeni traditional costumes



The Minister along with the Secretary for Tourism Sector view hand-made articles from the Yemeni heritage

SFD concludes workshop

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) concluded on Thursday 30th September 2004, a workshop on training consultants and contractors that are executing projects sponsored by the Fund in some governorates. The workshop aimed to help the participants to understand and implement the strategy and the methods of executing these projects.

Eng. Mohammed Abdu al-Buthaiji, trainer of the participants, declared that: "the workshop which lasted from September 25th-30th 2004 was organized by the Social Fund for Development, Sana'a. The workshop is considered significant because it aimed at increasing the quality and improving the performance of the contractors and

consultants which the Fund has entered into contracts with. The are some secondary objectives that the workshop intended to achieve, such as teaching the participants the common mistake in executing projects and showing them the ways that lead to work of high quality."

"It aimed at letting them know the difficulties and weaknesses at any stage of their work. Not only that but it even explained the process of controlling the quality and production of materials, transporting and storing them." He added.

The workshop, during the five days, dealt with vital aspects of improving execution and constitutes an important step forward in the Fund's efforts to execute different projects. It is note worthy that the Fund's projects were highly appreciated by the sponsors.



Consultants and contractors taking part in the workshop

Training course on commercial arbitration & administering Disputes

A training course on commercial arbitration and administering disputes was carried out at the hall of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry who organized the event in collaboration with the German Association "GTZ".

The course was participated by trainees from different sectors of Chamber of Commerce, local councils, advocates and lawyers from the governorates of Taiz, Sana'a, Aden, Hadramout, Dhala, Saadah, al-

Mahweet, Dhamar, Shabwah, al-Baidha, and al-Mahweet. The course lasted for the period from 25th until 29th September 2004. Attendants of the Training Course were Mr. Adnan Abdullah Saleh, the representative of the General Manager of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mufeed Abdo Saif, and Miss Gabriele Herrmann, CIM, Advisor, and Mr. Horst Becker, the German Lawyer, from the German Association.

The German Expert, Mr. Becker

introduced himself as an expert in the study of law, in Germany. He comes from Munich and has an office in France, and gives lectures in French universities on law and legislation. He has good contacts with many international lawyers.

The course discussed German courts and German-European legislation, as well as the following:

A Presentation of the workshop's schedule and objectives; an introduction on the legal structure of continen-

tal Europe; the role of legal decisions in a constitutional state; tasks of legal judgment; an exercise to compose a judgment; the role of arbitral jurisdiction and alternative jurisdiction; the reasons for the application of arbitration and mediation; the structure of the German arbitration system in comparison to other European and American structures; working groups on the objectives and activities of a Yemeni arbitration Center based in Taiz; and evaluation and closure.

Teachers: the cornerstone of education



BY SHAKER AL-MOLISI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a remote area, a host of children are seen playing in the schoolyard when they should be studying. When asked, they reply, "No teachers are there." The school is closed down and its principal has set off to procure new teachers from the district education department since the previous ones do not attend. They have made arrangements with corrupt officers to be absent in return of a sum of money deducted from their salaries. They pursue their own interests at the expense of their integrity, and even boast that they can get out of it making unlawful profits.

In main cities, some students confess that their teacher's lack of expertise and punctuality compels them not to look up at him. This is why they rely on self-study or hire a tutor.

It has become almost a phenomenon, particularly in rural areas, that school graduates display a poor mastery over their subjects. They simply attribute that to their teachers' inefficiency or absence. They may not be telling the whole truth, but they are victims.

These problems have in some way or the other link to teachers and are a warning sign of a collapse-threatened system of education, which is central to development, strengthens nations, and opens new perspectives. The fact is that the advanced nations are thus because they take the path of education, and invest in it, targeting in the first place teachers because they are the custodians who can upgrade (or degrade) the entrusted kids. Sure, we will never be able to make the future that we want and catch up with developed nations unless we overhaul our educational system so that it meets the need.

Unfortunately, gone are the days when teachers were so venerated, seen as holy creatures, and occupied a special status in this country. Since the teacher's image was damaged,

the education quality suffered a decline.

The major problem appears to be manifested in teachers being unprepared both psychologically and in terms of their knowledge. Many teachers are not willing to do their tasks and fulfill their mission. They either teach reluctantly or flee the scene. They are primarily concerned with gaining salaries and worry not about how well they perform, if they do at all.

Moreover, some teachers do not represent the ideal to the pupils who become no longer motivated. Who claim to the contrary should visit schools both in urban and rural districts where the slackness of students prompted by the indifference of teachers is clear.

The problem of education began when a large number of teachers were recruited without having been prepared for the profession nor did they have the desire for it. Their number has been increasing and, unluckily, hobbling the educational process.

The alpha and gamma of any sound educational system are the well-qualified teachers who sense the burden over their shoulders, and are never goaded into apathy under any circumstance. They have a vital importance since they build the capacity of the whole community, and are especially important in basic grades where students are shapeable. However, a commonplace policy is that untrained instructors are assigned to teach early stages, which is a big mistake.

Education is witnessing great strides at present. The ministry is trying to expand the base of education by adding more facilities, furnishing, and staffing them. It has also allotted a large budget for training teachers across the country in 2005. But if in-service teachers are not continually trained and reminded of their ethical and humanitarian responsibility, we would have institutions and facilities that are useless and inefficient. The generation of the future would be helpless, and whatever the state spends on education would be in vain.

Course on juveniles

A special training course on dealing with juveniles was concluded on Wednesday September 22nd at the Police officers Club. The symposium program covered a number of subjects related to, and dealing with, juvenile issues.

Dr. Ali Awadh, General Juvenile Police Director, asserted that the 30 participating officers from different governorates are to form the first core for the

inauguration of Police Juvenile Branches in the governorates they work in.

He also confirmed that the UNICEF organization in the country will provide help and equipment for constructing these branches, in light of the agreement signed between Ministry of Interior and the organization. The course aimed at raising the level of awareness of police officers of juvenile issues.

Lecture on the role of warriors and traders

TAIZ BUREAU

A cultural lecture was delivered on Thursday 23rd September at Al-Sa'eed Cultural Forum (AFC), in celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the September 26th Revolution. Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture (AFSC) organized the lecture, which was conducted by Faisal Madhaji. Dr. Abdullah Al-Dhaifani delivered a historical lecture on the September 26th Revolution, its roots and the role of warriors and traders in sustaining the revolutionary

movement that preceded the 1948 revolution. This included issuing "the wisdom magazine" in 1938, and founding the liberal party in 1944, and a number of secondary schools in 1947 in many Yemeni cities. The lecturer said that there are no available documents to show us the facts, and that there are many distorted books in need of rectification.

Dr. Al-Dhaifani answered many questions raised by the attendants about the Revolutionaries and their recurrent attempts to erupt against tyranny.

Creative figures receive honors

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism yesterday honored a number of creative figures during the activities of the cultural days of Al-Beidha, commemorating Sana'a being the Arab cultural capital for 2004. The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Khaled Al-Ruwaishan, delivered a speech during the inauguration of the

cultural days commending the role of citizens of Al-Beidha in defending the Revolution and its achievements.

Al-Ruwaishan also stated that the ministry intends to repair Al-Beidha Museum and some ancient castles. He also expressed the Ministry's readiness to discuss different cultural issues in the province.



البنك التجاري اليمني
YEMEN COMMERCIAL BANK

يتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

علي عبدالله صالح

والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني الحبيب
بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لثورة السادس والعشرين
من سبتمبر الخالدة و كل عام والشعب اليمني بخير.

الشيخ / محمد بن يحيى الرويشان - رئيس مجلس الإدارة

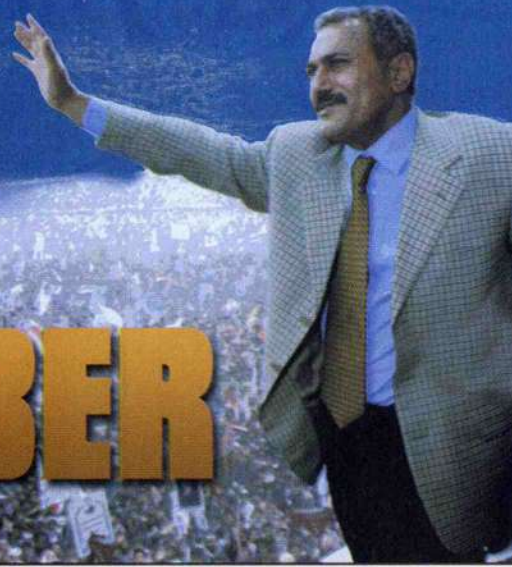
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and the Yemeni people

**On the occasion of the 26th
September Anniversary**

Sheikh Mohammed bin Yahya Al-Rowaishan - Chairman.

**26
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- * خدمات ما بعد البيع

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تلفون: ٢٠٢٨٤١ - فاكس: ٢٠٢٨٦٩
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تلفون: ٤٩٨١٧٠ - ٤٩٨١٧١ - فاكس: ٤٩٨١٧٢
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Sudan asks U.N. to verify Darfur refugee returns

By OPHEERA MCDOOM

KHARTOUM, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Sudan has asked the United Nations to help verify reports that 190,000 refugees from the conflict-hit western Darfur region have voluntarily returned to their homes, the U.N. refugee agency chief said on Tuesday.

UNHCR head Ruud Lubbers also said a long-delayed peace agreement to end a separate civil war in Sudan's south would not help the people of Darfur unless there was a simultaneous push for peace to end the 19-month-old rebellion in the remote west.

The U.N. estimates about 1.5 million people are displaced in Darfur, with 200,000 refugees encamped in Chad, creating one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Lubbers said government officials had told him that 190,000 of the displaced had returned voluntarily to their homes.

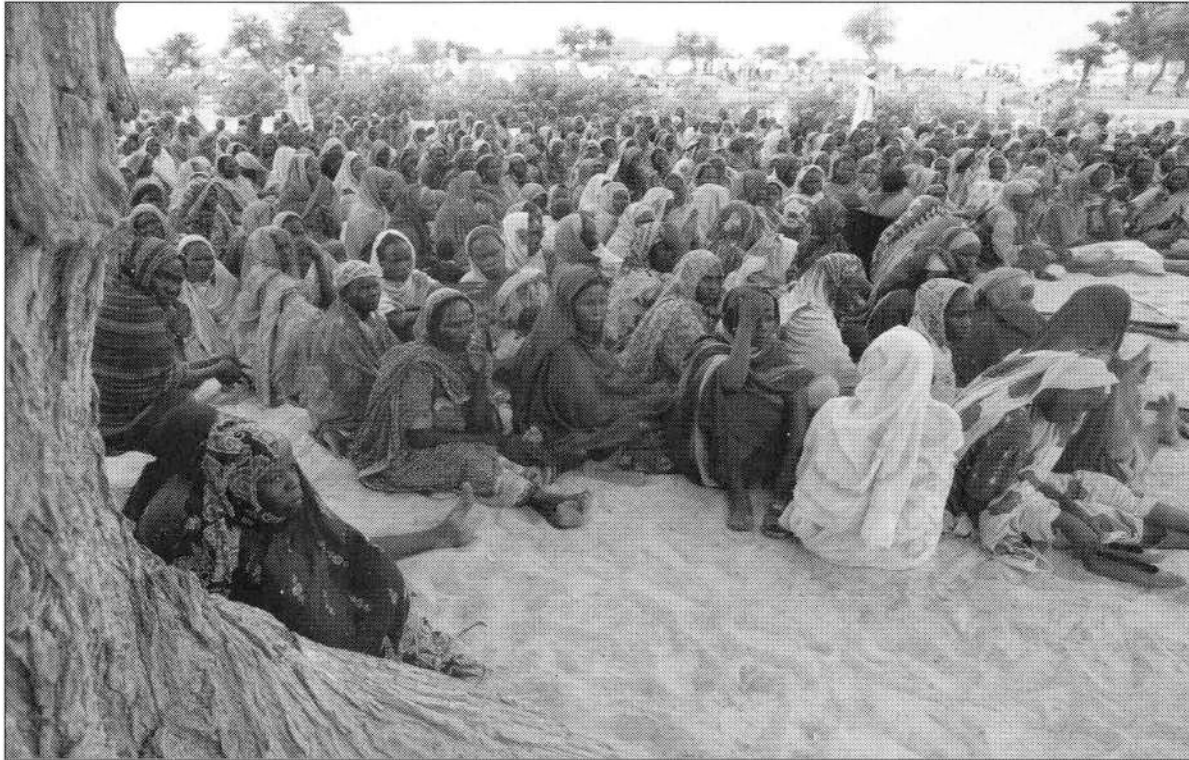
He told reporters in Khartoum that First Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha had complained that the international community did not believe government reports of returnees.

"So he invited UNHCR to be present to go together and verify the voluntariness of returns," Lubbers said after a five-day visit to eastern Chad and Darfur.

After years of skirmishes between Arab nomadic tribes and mainly non-Arab farmers over scarce resources in arid Darfur, rebels launched a revolt accusing Khartoum of neglect and supporting Arab militias, known as Janjaweed, to loot and burn non-Arab villages.

The government admits arming some militias to fight the rebels, but denies any links to the Janjaweed.

A U.N. Security Council resolution



A group of internally displaced Sudanese women sit under a tree in Seliah camp West Darfur, region in Sudan, September, 27. The camp is home to thousands of Sudanese who have fled their villages due to fighting. Sudan's government and rebels from the country's west and south urged the international community on Monday to pressure all sides toward peace so aid can begin to flow to civilians caught in the fighting. REUTERS/

threatens Sudan with possible sanctions if it fails to stop the violence in Darfur, which the United States says is genocide.

A U.S. State Department official in Khartoum told reporters all parties to the conflict needed to be disarmed, not only the Janjaweed. He said a reduction in violence in Darfur so far was not enough.

"We won't be satisfied with the situation until there's zero violence," he said, adding there was a risk up to 100,000 more refugees could cross the border into Chad to escape violence, and he was concerned some refugees may never return to Sudan.

Lubbers said peace talks set to begin on Oct. 7 in the Kenya city of Naivasha to end more than two decades of civil war in Sudan's south, should not reach a deal before making substantial progress in negotiations to end the separate Darfur conflict.

Darfur peace talks in the Nigerian capital Abuja collapsed earlier this month and are due to reconvene about Oct. 21.

In Oslo, a senior Sudanese government official said on Tuesday that Sudan urgently needed over \$300 million in aid from international donors to deal with the humanitarian crisis, including rebuilding roads to let

refugees return home.

"Now the region needs over \$300 million," Yahia Hussien Babiker Mohamed, head of the Khartoum government's delegation to a preliminary international conference in Norway on aid for Sudan, told Reuters.

The state minister in President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's office said he was referring to the immediate needs, including rebuilding roads and restoring transport, health care and other basic services.

But Western officials said that holding a donors' conference would depend on the conclusion of a comprehensive peace deal.

Suspected Algerian Islamic rebels kill 6 in ambush

ALGIERS, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Suspected Islamic rebels killed six members of a civilian self-defence unit in an ambush in western Algeria, security sources said on Tuesday.

The attackers believed to belong to the al Qaeda-aligned Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) used explosives during the ambush that took place on Monday evening in the region

of Ain Defla, 180 km (112 miles) west of the capital Algiers.

Militants have been fighting since 1992 to overthrow the Algerian government and set up a purist Islamic state.

At least 150,000 people have died, according to human rights groups. Violence, however, has sharply fallen in recent years, allowing a return of foreign investment.

Zarqawi group kills Iraqi woman officer

DUBAI, Sept 28 (Reuters) - A group led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said on Tuesday it had killed an Iraqi intelligence female officer and abducted three of her colleagues, according to an Internet statement.

"Last night (Monday), the mujahideen captured Nadia Abdulwahhab Matlak, a member of the apostate Iraqi intelligence. After Islamic law was carried out in her case, we captured three of her colleagues today," said the statement signed by the Tawhid and Jihad Group and dated Sept. 28.

It was not immediately possible to authenticate the statement which was posted on several Islamist Web sites.

The statement said that after the abductions, the group clashed with members of the Iraqi National Guard in Baghdad's Haifa Street, the scene of intense fighting on Tuesday.

The statement had no word on the fate of British hostage Kenneth Bigley, being held by Zarqawi's group. His abductors have already beheaded two American hostages and said Bigley would be next to die if their demands are not met.

Gaza kidnappers free CNN producer

GAZA, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Palestinian gunmen on Tuesday released an Israeli Arab producer for CNN television kidnapped a day earlier in the Gaza Strip.

Police officials told Reuters that Riad Ali was turned over to them in Gaza City. CNN confirmed Ali's release.

Israel Radio quoted Ali's father as saying he had spoken by telephone to his son who told him that he felt fine and was waiting to return home.

There was no claim of responsibility for Ali's abduction and no word on a possible motive. Israel Radio said he was snatched by members of Islamist

militant movement Hamas, which denied any role in the incident.

Ali was abducted in Gaza City on Monday by Palestinian gunmen who stopped a CNN vehicle and asked for him by name.

Such incidents involving journalists have been rare in Gaza and the West Bank during the past four years of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Israel allows journalists with Israeli citizenship to cross into areas under the administration of the Palestinian Authority after they sign a waiver releasing the Israeli Defence Ministry and military of any responsibility for their safety.

U.S. says catches head of Iraq militant cell

BAGHDAD, Sept 28 (Reuters) - U.S. forces have captured the leader of a suspected militant cell during a raid in the northern Iraqi town of Kirkuk, the U.S. military said on Tuesday.

A statement said U.S. troops captured Hussein Salman Mohammad al-Jabburi during a raid on Monday afternoon.

It said Jabburi was believed to have led a Kirkuk-based militant group with links to Ansar Al Sunna, another militant group which is itself believed to be linked to Ansar al Islam, a northern Iraqi Islamic militant network.

Washington says Ansar al Islam, whose mountain bases along the border with Iran were destroyed in the early stages of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, had connections with Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network.

It has also been associated with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant believed to be behind a string of suicide bombings and beheadings of hostages in Iraq.

The U.S. military said Jabburi was being held for questioning. No injuries were reported in the raid, it added.



Iraqis drive their cars in front of a U.S. tank in Sadr city district in Baghdad, September 28. The sound of heavy bombardments echoed across Baghdad from the poor Shi'ite district of Sadr City on Tuesday morning, following a night of sustained U.S. aerial attacks, residents said. REUTERS

Egypt says in talks to host Iraq conference

CAIRO, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Egypt said on Tuesday it was discussing hosting a conference on Iraq that would gather Iraq's neighbours, the Group of Eight (G8) industrialised nations and others, probably in the second half of November.

But Egyptian officials said the agenda and timing of the meeting, which would also include permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, was still under discussion. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih welcomed holding a conference on Iraqi reconstruction as proposed by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. Salih said it would offer support to Iraq, seeking to hold elections in January despite a fierce insurgency.

"It is expected, if there is agreement on all the elements and objectives about this suggestion, that the conference will be convened in Sharm el-Sheikh during the second half of November," a Foreign Ministry official said in a statement.

The official said several states had already welcomed holding a conference and expressed their readiness to attend.

France, which opposed the war in Iraq, said earlier on Tuesday it backed U.S. proposals to hold an international conference to discuss how neighbouring states could help Iraq.

French presidential spokesman Jerome Bonafont said the conference was discussed when French President Jacques Chirac met Jordanian King

Abdullah. He said Powell had suggested it should group Iran, Syria and the G8.

Egyptian officials said the conference would also include the permanent Security Council members, as well as members of the Arab League and Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

"The issue of timing is still under discussion in light of several considerations. The first consideration is that talks on the agenda are still going on," Egyptian presidential spokesman Maged Abdel Fattah told reporters.

He said the issue was being discussed by foreign ministers in New York. Fattah said Iraq had suggested holding the conference in Egypt.

Iran's hardline lawmakers want withdrawal from NPT

By PARISA HAFEZI

TEHRAN, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Iran's hardline lawmakers could try to force President Mohammad Khatami's government to follow North Korea's example and quit the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the official IRNA news agency said on Tuesday.

Leading conservative parliamentarian Hassan Kamran has prepared a bill for submission to parliament that would force the government to set a November deadline for the U.N. nuclear watchdog to take Iran off the agency's agenda, IRNA said.

"The bill obliges the government to pull out of the NPT if the International Atomic Energy Agency does not meet the deadline," IRNA quoted Kamran as saying.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has threatened it will take tough action against Iran at its November meeting if it defies the

agency's call to stop uranium enrichment.

The United States accuses Iran of running a secret nuclear weapons programme and has forced the IAEA to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council for possible economic sanctions.

Iran insists its network of nuclear facilities are geared to produce atomic power, not bombs. Iran's Foreign Minister said Iran did not intend to pull out of the NPT: "No that is not our policy," said Kamal Kharazmi when questioned on CNN on Tuesday. "We are sticking to NPT".

The bill by Kamran, a member of parliament's Foreign Affairs and National Security commission, will be submitted to parliament if it is backed by 15 out of 290 lawmakers.

Kamran said he was seeking special triple-urgency status for the bill. If accepted by two-thirds of lawmakers, parliament would have to discuss it

immediately. It would then go to the hardline Guardian Council, a watchdog body, before becoming law.

Some sections of Iran's clerical establishment have called for the country to withdraw from the NPT in return to the IAEA's "hostile stance". But the government has assured the world that it had no intention to end its co-operation with the IAEA.

Kamran said the government would be obliged to end its "voluntarily undertakings" to the IAEA as well if the bill passed into law.

International pressure forced Tehran last year to agree to snap checks of its nuclear sites and to halt the enrichment of uranium, a process that can be used to develop nuclear weapons.

Reformist lawmakers said they were against the bill. "We believe in more co-operation with the IAEA," Nureddin Pirmoazen told Reuters. He added: "But we are in minority in parliament".

Lebanon readies charges for embassy bomb detainees

BEIRUT, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Lebanon's public prosecutor began preparing charges on Tuesday against a dozen people detained over a plot to blow up the Italian embassy in Beirut and Lebanese government buildings, court sources said.

They said prosecutor Adnan Addoum referred the suspects to a military court ahead of formal charges, which are expected as soon as Wednesday.

Lebanon announced last week it had arrested 10 people, including a man

described as an al Qaeda operative, after receiving a tip from Italian authorities that thwarted a planned car bomb attack on the Italian embassy in central Beirut.

Court authorities subsequently announced additional arrests in the plot, which Lebanese officials said involved two cells and included plans to bomb the Ukrainian consulate and Lebanese court and security buildings.

They identified two ringleaders among the suspects, accused of recruiting fighters for al Qaeda in Iraq:

Ahmad Miqati, who they said was a member of an Islamist group that staged an uprising in north Lebanon in 2000, and Ismail Khatib, described as al Qaeda's top man in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Interior Ministry said Khatib died in custody of a heart attack on Monday.

Lebanon, whose security services and judiciary are closely allied to Syria, has said it cracked cells behind bombings of Western fast-food restaurants and a plan to attack the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

Afghan election bandwagon creaks into motion

SHIBERGHAN, Afghanistan, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Afghanistan's election bandwagon creaked into motion on Tuesday with a leading candidate drawing the biggest crowd of the campaign so far.

Tens of thousands of people crammed into a sports stadium in the northern Afghan town of Shiberghan to hear regional strongman General Abdul Rashid Dostum launch his bid for the presidency with a call for national unity.

But hundreds of kilometres (miles) to the west, powerful Defence Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim used his visit to another regional leader to criticise President Hamid Karzai for betraying those who fought the Soviets and the Taliban.

Karzai, who enjoys the support of the West, is favourite to win the landmark Oct. 9 poll and his two most serious contenders — Dostum and Yunus Qanuni — are members of the so-called "mujahideen", or holy warriors.

In comments likely to heighten tensions between Karzai and factional leaders who have seen their powers eroded in the last year, Fahim said sidelining commanders did not help the country.

"He wants to omit the mujahideen from the scene," said Fahim during a meeting with Ismail Khan, dismissed by Karzai as governor of Herat earlier this month.

Mujahideen leaders argue they have been discriminated against by Karzai, who they say spent most of his time in safety abroad while they fought the Red Army and the Taliban.

But the Human Rights Watch group said in a report released on Tuesday that regional commanders and factional leaders posed as much of a threat to Afghanistan as the Taliban, who have

waged an insurgency since being deposed in 2001.

"This report shows the warlords are still calling the shots," said Human Rights Watch's Afghan researcher, John Sifton.

"Human Rights Watch urges President Karzai and the Afghan government to continue to step up efforts to sideline abusive commanders and refrain from deal-making that would further entrench warlord rule," the report said.

Largest rally to date

The 30,000-strong rally in Shiberghan was the largest reported election gathering to date — although there are doubts over whether Dostum can appeal to voters outside his traditional heartland in the north of the country.

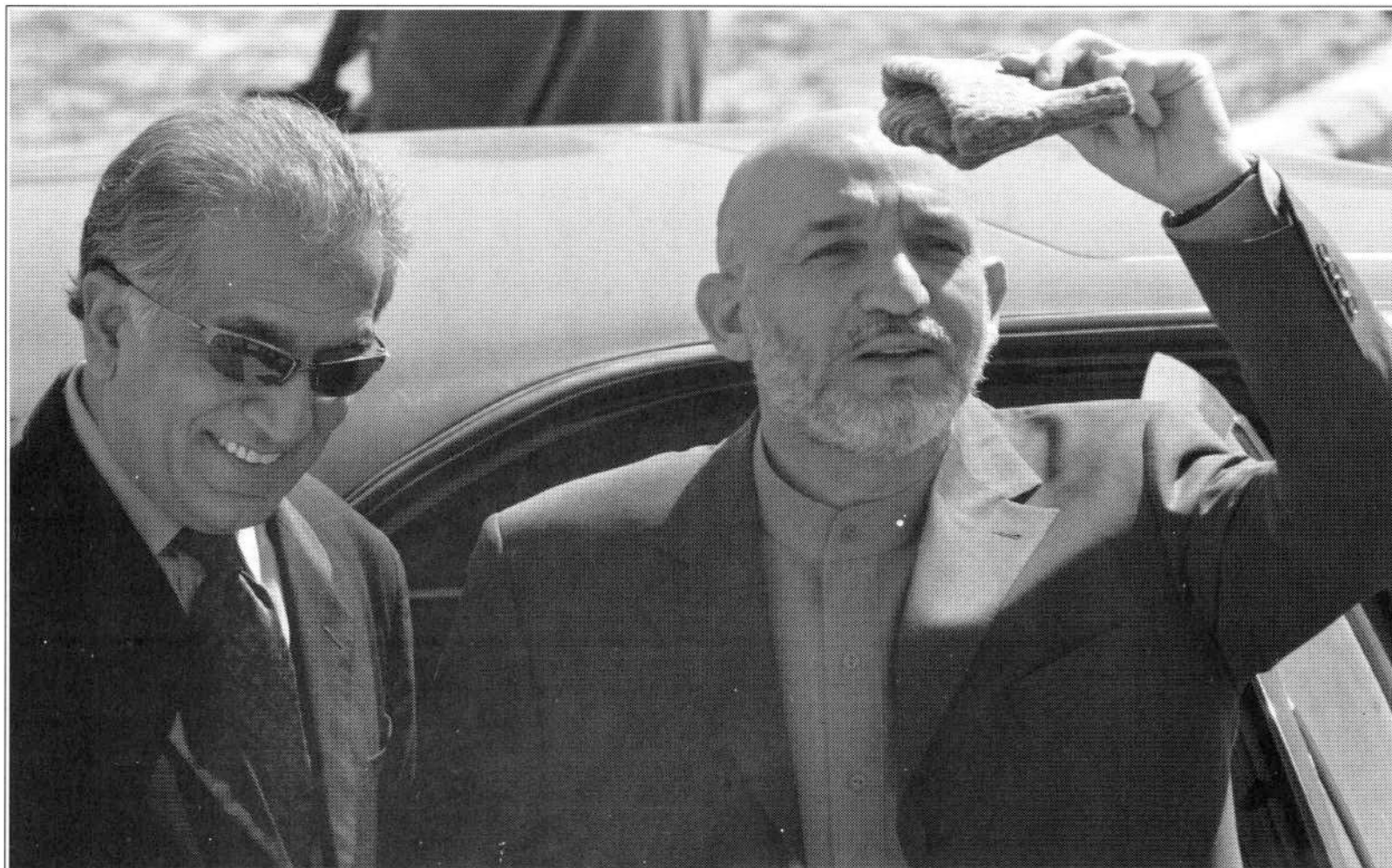
"Afghanistan is going through one of its difficult stages," the moustached candidate told the crowd made up mostly of fellow ethnic Uzbeks. "You need to know who you want to vote for."

Dostum played a key role in helping the United States topple the hardline Islamic Taliban in 2001, but has seen his influence diluted as a disarmament drive eats into his militia in the north.

He told the crowd that Karzai's government had created an atmosphere of "mistrust", and criticised him for failing to crush the Taliban and allies including al Qaeda who are mostly active in the south and east where Pashtuns are dominant.

Remnants of the Taliban have been blamed for a wave of violence since August last year in which more than 1,000 people have been killed.

In the latest incidents, at least four Afghan policemen were killed and a former official's driver beheaded in



Afghan President Hamid Karzai (R) stands with the U.S. ambassador in Kabul, Zalmay Khalilzad, after an inauguration ceremony of a dormitory in Kabul September 28, 2004. Karzai who enjoys international support, is widely expected to win the presidential vote, due in October but there is concern among Western diplomats that the more complex parliamentary elections could be manipulated by commanders and their political parties. REUTERS

attacks in the troubled southern province of Zabul, a police official said.

Election organisers said on Tuesday that militant groups seeking to disrupt the vote have issued threats against Afghan refugees living in Pakistan to stop them from voting.

"There have been threats to both our staff and potential voters by small groups who wish to disrupt the elections," Peter Erben, head of the registration process for refugee voters in Pakistan and Iran, told a news conference in Islamabad.

Potential voters among refugees liv-

ing in Pakistan and Iran could account for close to 10 percent of the electorate. Some 10.5 million people have registered to vote in Afghanistan.

Political analysts predict Karzai will win Afghanistan's first-ever direct presidential election comfortably, but are concerned that factions

could resort to coercion and violence to influence parliamentary polls in April.

U.S. President George W. Bush is likely to want the vote to be held on time in order to portray it as a foreign policy success story ahead of his own re-election bid in November.

Pakistan arrests over a dozen suspected militants

KARACHI, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Security forces have detained more than a dozen suspected militants, including some linked to al Qaeda, after killing Pakistan's most wanted man in a weekend shootout, intelligence sources said on Tuesday.

Suspects were picked up in all four of Pakistan's provinces.

"Raids are continuing and we expect more arrests," said one of the intelligence sources, who requested anonymity.

Arrests took place in the cities of Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province, Peshawar in the Northwest Frontier and in Faisalabad and Rawalpindi in Punjab province.

Most of those arrested were caught in the southern province of Sindh, where Amjad Hussain Farooqi was shot dead on Sunday.

Farooqi was regarded as a crucial link between al Qaeda's top leaders and Pakistani militants.

He figured in some of Pakistan's highest-profile terror attacks in the last two years, including two assassination attempts on President Pervez Musharraf last December and the murder of U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002.

Arrests were also made in Sukkar, Mirpurkhas, Karachi and elsewhere in Sindh, said provincial government spokesman Salahuddin Haider.

Musharraf, in Europe in an official visit, led government officials in a chorus of relief and triumph at the news Farooqi had been killed.

One eyewitness described how Farooqi refused to be taken alive after being surrounded at a house in Nawabshah, a city some 250 km (155 miles) northeast of Karachi.

Numerous leads

Security personnel ordered Farooqi to remove his shirt as he stood at the gate to the house, recounted neigh-

bour Wakil Rajpar. Farooqi refused and stepped toward them reciting Koranic verses, whereupon he was shot dead, Rajpar told Reuters.

The security forces gathered enough information from material at the scene and from two men captured in the shootout, as well as from earlier telephone taps, to launch a fresh round of arrests, government and intelligence sources said.

Farooqi's comrades in Nawabshah — identified as Abdul Rehman and Yaqoob Farooqi — had provided crucial leads, the government sources said.

"They have given valuable information leading to the arrest of more suspects," said one security official.

Investigators were trying to extract information from computers, discs, documents and maps seized from the house where Farooqi had been hiding for the last couple of months, security sources said.

Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao told a news conference in Islamabad on Monday that Farooqi had had ties with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, strikes on the United States.

Farooqi was a leader of the outlawed Lashkar-e-Jhangvi group, which gained notoriety by killing members of the minority Shia Muslim sect, but he forged ties with several other Islamist militant groups.

Pakistan intensified its crackdown on militants following the assassination attempts on Musharraf, whose alliance with the United States in the war on terror has angered hardliners.

An army offensive in the semi-autonomous tribal region of South Waziristan near the border with Afghanistan earlier this year caused scores of militants to run for cover in Pakistan's teeming cities.

Zimbabwe police arrest 48 women during protest march

HARARE, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Zimbabwe police on Tuesday arrested 48 women on a protest march against a new bill which government critics say is aimed at closing down operations of some private human rights groups, the protest organiser said.

Jenni Williams, spokeswoman of civic organisation Zimbabwe Women Arise (WOZA), said the women and four men, who had been helping the women with logistics, were arrested in Norton, 30 kms (19 miles) south of Harare, after walking 400-km (250 miles) from Zimbabwe's second city of Bulawayo towards the capital.

"The 48, and the four youths, were arrested in Norton and we believe they are going to be held in custody tonight," she said.

"The indications we have are that they will face charges of participating in a political march that was not authorised by police," Williams said by telephone.

Police spokesmen were not available to comment on the arrests.

But Williams said the women had embarked on the march last week to raise money and awareness for human rights work in Zimbabwe, where President Robert Mugabe's critics accused his government of abusing rights as part of a battle against its political opponents.

"This was a march to protest against the government's plans to enact the NGO (Non-Governmental Organisations) Bill which we all believe will be used as a repressive tool to ban and to control human rights work in Zimbabwe," she said.

Mugabe's government — which accuses Britain and other Western powers of using NGOs in a campaign to oust it — says the NGO Bill will ban foreign funding of rights activists, and require hundreds of organisations currently operating to register with a state-appointed body.

S.Africa court denies bail to WMD suspects

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 28 (Reuters) - A South African court on Tuesday denied bail to two men accused of involvement in a global nuclear weapons black market, a lawyer for one of them said.

Gerhard Wisser, 66, a German living in South Africa, and Swiss colleague Daniel Geiges, 65 were arrested earlier this month. Prosecutors say they have evidence linking the two to the Abdul Qadeer Khan network.

Khan, the father of Pakistan's atom bomb, has admitted to supplying nuclear secrets to North Korea, Iran

and Libya, which last year vowed to abandon its nuclear programme.

"Bail was rejected in respect of my client," Geiges' lawyer Kevin Cross told Reuters, adding that Wisser had also been denied bail.

Prosecutors say the men imported and then exported a device that could be used to produce a nuclear weapon without the necessary permit.

Both men have denied the charges. South Africa disarmed its nuclear arsenal before the end of apartheid in 1994 and has hailed the arrests as part of its efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

Burkina blames "hostile" powers for plot claims

OUAGADOUGOU, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Burkina Faso said on Tuesday Mauritania and other "hostile" powers were trying to discredit the former French colony by peddling "fantastic" claims that it has been training coup plotters.

Security Minister Djibril Bassole said in an interview that Burkina Faso would not respond to the "baseless" accusations as it had asked the African Union to conduct an independent enquiry and was awaiting the outcome.

"There are doubts about the credibility of what today seems to be a cross plot which can only makes us more cautious and vigilant," Bassole told state-owned newspaper Sidwaya.

Mauritania has twice accused

Burkina of harbouring and training dissident soldiers it believes were behind a failed putsch in the capital Nouakchott in June 2003 and a second plot which it says it foiled in August this year.

Mauritania's Communication Minister Hamoud Ould Abdi accused Burkina Faso over the weekend of training soldiers at two camps.

"You will soon have all the ins and outs of this incredible affair which looks like a sort of coalition whose members' common goal is to harm Burkina Faso and divert national and international opinion," Bassole was quoted as saying.

Ivory Coast, which has long blamed Burkina Faso for backing a September

2002 rebellion, accused Burkina on Tuesday of plotting to destabilise the world's top cocoa grower.

"President (Laurent) Gbagbo has sent a delegation led by (government spokesman) Alphonse Douay to tell heads of state in the sub-region about this destabilisation plan," Gbagbo's legal affairs adviser and spokesman Desire Tagro said on Tuesday.

Burkina Faso has long rejected the accusations by Ivory Coast, and Bassole blamed an opposition politician for stirring up trouble with both its southern neighbour and Mauritania.

Mauritania has also blamed Libya for backing the dissident officers, a charge the oil-rich north African state denies.

Blair makes partial Iraq apology

BRIGHTON, England, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Tony Blair offered his Labour party on Tuesday a partial apology for waging war in Iraq, striving to pull angry supporters behind him ahead of an election next year. But as two more British soldiers died in Iraq and a hostage remained under threat of death, the prime minister's hopes of drawing a line under two years that have wrecked his public trust ratings are far from secure. "The evidence about Saddam having actual biological and chemical weapons ... has turned out to be wrong," Blair told Labour's annual conference, his nearest yet to a "mea culpa". "The problem is I can apologise for the information that

turned out to be wrong but I can't, sincerely at least, apologise for removing Saddam," he said. "The world is a better place with Saddam in prison not in power."

Blair's speech was interrupted twice by protesters, one yelling that the prime minister "had blood on his hands", others opposing a planned ban on fox-hunting. They were bundled out of the hall.

IRAQ UNAVOIDABLE

For most of his speech, Blair showcase domestic policies he hopes will deliver him a third term at an election expected in

May. But he knew they would not resonate, with the party or the wider public, if he did not tackle Iraq head-on. Blair made the case for war on the basis Saddam Hussein

possessed banned weapons that were ready to use. The fact none has been found well over a year after major military combat ended has soured British public opinion and many in his party feel betrayed. "Whatever disagreements we have had, we should unite in our determination to stand by the Iraqi people until the job is done," he said, adding that Britain could not insulate itself from world insecurity even if it wanted to. "If I don't care and act on this terrorist threat then the day will come when all our

good work on the issues that decide people's lives will be undone because the stability on which our economy ... depends will vanish," he said. The crowd applauded warmly. Sceptics were unconvinced but said the party would unite to win a fresh term in power. "I don't think this speech changed anything on Iraq," former minister Clare Short, who resigned over the war, told Reuters.

"Iraq will go on being a mess but the party wants to win the election and will pull together for that," Blair acknowledged terrorism would never be defeated unless

Israelis and Palestinians were reconciled — expressing frustration at a lack of progress ahead of U.S. elections. "After November, I will make its revival a personal priority. Two states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in an enduring peace would do more to defeat this terrorism than bullets alone can ever do," he said.

He expressed condolences for the two soldiers killed in Basra on Tuesday and pledged "solidarity" with British engineer

Kenneth Bigley, abducted by militants 12 days ago.

Bigley's brother has accused Blair of not doing enough to appeal for his release. Outside, some 8,000 marchers staged a noisy protest on the seafront of this southern seaside resort against the government's plan to ban the ancient pursuit of fox hunting. The carcasses of two calves and a horse were dumped in the city.

Blair stressed the election could only be won with a radical agenda, not solely by resting on past achievements.

He also offered an olive branch to finance minister Gordon Brown, whose supporters think he should have Blair's job by now.

Referring to incessant talk of a feud between the two, Blair said Brown was "a personal friend for 20 years and the best chancellor this country has ever had".



A protestor shouting "blood on your hands" is restrained by security during Prime Minister Tony Blair's keynote address to the Labour Party conference in Brighton September 28, 2004. REUTERS

Greek plane diverted due to bomb alert

ATHENS, Sept 28 (Reuters) - An Olympic Airlines plane heading for New York from Athens is due to make an emergency landing in Ireland after a bomb alert, an airline spokeswoman said on Tuesday, the second such incident in three days.

"The Airbus A340 left Athens at 1 p.m. (1000 GMT). There was a call to a local newspaper around 3.45 p.m. (1245 GMT) saying a bomb on the plane would explode in an hour. Nothing has happened," Olympic Airlines [OLY.UL] spokeswoman Melina Pitta said.

"After a meeting it was decided the plane should make an emergency landing at Shannon in Ireland as it is the nearest airport. The plane carrying 295 passengers and 12 crew is heading there now."

On Sunday, another bomb threat forced an Olympic Airlines passenger plane to make an emergency landing at London's Stansted Airport on a similar Athens-New York flight.

A search of the aircraft turned up nothing and the plane was allowed to take off on Monday.

Sunday's threat was called into a Greek newspaper — Ethnos — while the latest alert on Tuesday was set off by a call to the newspaper Eleftherotypia.



Olympic Airways Airbus A340-200 sits in a remote area of Shannon airport, Ireland, September 28, 2004. The Greek plane heading for New York from Athens made an emergency landing in Ireland on Tuesday after a bomb alert — the second such incident in three days. REUTERS

Belgian regional minister supports ban on burqas

BRUSSELS, Sept 28 (Reuters) - The region of Flanders in northern Belgium has given the green light to local authorities wanting to ban the wearing of burqas in public, a government spokesman said on Tuesday. A small town in northern Italy caused uproar earlier this month when it fined a woman for going outdoors in a burqa — the full-length robe covering head, face and body worn by some Muslim women.

Some Flemish local authorities such as the eastern town of Maaseik now want to follow suit, using existing rules which require people to be readily identifiable in public. A spokesman for Flemish minister Marino Keulen denied the rule infringed women's freedom of religion or expression, and said he was backed by Mohammed Boulf, the head of the official body

representing Muslims in Belgium, the Belgian Muslim Executive.

"I find it quite normal that people who cannot be identified in public give rise to a feeling of insecurity, and that mayors want to combat this," Keulen said in a separate statement. The existing law is little-used but it gives mayors dispensations for carnival periods when people wear masks.

In January, Belgium's deputy prime minister, Patrick Dewael, called for a law to ban religious symbols such as headscarves and crucifixes in courts, schools and the public administration, and also backed a similar ban in French state schools.

The anti-immigration Vlaams Blok party, which captured 25 percent of the vote in regional elections in June, also wants to impose local bans of burqas throughout Flanders.

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Please note that only those candidates selected for an interview will be notified. Applicants who have not been approached by 30 October should consider themselves unsuccessful.

Italian women hostages released in Iraq

DUBAI, Sept 28 (Reuters) - Two Italian women aid workers held hostage in Iraq were released and handed over to the Italian charge d'affaires in Baghdad, Al Jazeera television said on Tuesday. In Rome, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi confirmed that charity workers Simona Pari and Simona Torretta had been freed and are well. Two Iraqi aid workers seized with them had also been freed, he added. Pari and Torretta, both aged 29, were snatched from their Baghdad office on Sept. 7 and had not been heard of since. "The hand-over took place in a Baghdad district through mediators," Al Jazeera news network said but gave no further details.

Unverified statements posted on Web sites and purporting to come from Islamic militants at first said the women would be killed if Italian troops did not leave Iraq, and later that they were dead.



A combo picture shows undated handout photos released September 7, 2004 of Simona Torretta (R) and Simona Pari, volunteers for the Italian aid organization 'Un Ponte Per Baghdad' (A Bridge for Baghdad). REUTERS

Words of Wisdom



I personally feel that female journalists can play an important role in the presence of women in public life. They will be the torch-bearers because they will influence society, and they play role models for other women. We will help them, provided they satisfy the minimum - not optimal - condition.

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

OUR
OPINIONFear of
change

Arab regimes still think that change is something to fear, or at least to be cautious about. This is what I have concluded from my 2-day meeting in New York with representatives from the Arab world as preparation for the upcoming inauguration of the Future for Future.

"What if this is the reaction you get from officials when trying to convince them that reform is needed in the Arab world."

"What if this is a conspiracy to introduce Western culture into our societies?"

"What if these reforms are intended to bring insecurity and rebellion in our countries?"

"What if our people don't want these reforms, especially economic reforms that result in higher prices?"

"What if this is a means to integrate Israel in the region and make us normalize relations?"

The above questions are among a few that are usually asked by Arab officials who are suspicious about the idea of reform in the Arab world, and are wary about the potential consequences.

But if we are to arrive at a real conclusion, we will indeed end up seeing that Arab regimes fear change and reform because they fear being ousted from power. They are able to analyze the situation and realize that allowing reform, especially political reform in the fields of human rights, freedom of the press, and enforcement of the law on all, will lead to a weakening of their authority and power.

The central rule now recognized in all the Arab world, (except perhaps in the United Arab Emirates), is that reform and power are inversely proportional, in other words, more reform equals less power for regimes. Hence, don't they have reason to panic?

But on the other hand, Arab regimes are also witnessing a decline in their economies, their security situations, and the levels of income and prosperity of their citizens. They realize that crime rates are rising as poverty rates soar. They see more unemployed people in the streets, and realize the failings of past strategies. This has also been confirmed in the Arab human development report 2004 issued by the UNDP. The fact is that if things continue as they are, people of the Arab world will continue to starve, be unproductive, and all of the Arab nations will continue to regress. This in turn will not be a source of pride for the regimes, which will have to struggle to maintain power by even more excessive use of power. But this form of ruling is doomed to failure and democracy has to prevail sooner or later, because it has been proven that it is the remedy for our social, economic, and political problems.

But can our regimes realize this before it is too late and before we slip further into poverty, illiteracy, poor productivity, and weaker enforcement of law? I believe that we have a golden opportunity to allow Arab regimes to change the way they think about reform and its implications.

The ability to accept the waves of change needs to be demonstrated by our leaders. Accepting reform is not at all an indication of weakness, but rather a sign of courage and a willingness to build a better future for the next generation.

But it remains to be seen whether the fear of change will persist or not, there is no doubt that this change is coming, whether regimes want it or not!

The Editor



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First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Comments on the
reform program

BY ABDURRAHMAN
BAFADEL
PARLIAMENT MEMBER
FOR THE YEMEN
TIMES

The government came to parliament on Wednesday 22nd of September 2004 looking for approval to continue its claimed program of reform!

But after nine years of application, the program has amounted to a complete failure, if not having made things worse by regressing reform in the administrative and financial sectors. We reject vigorously what the government claims due to following facts from their own statistics:

- 1) Customs Smuggling 60%
- 2) Tax evasion 70%
- 3) Unemployment 30%
- 4) Poverty 50%
- 5) Individual revenue US\$350 per year. Meanwhile, in 1996 US\$650 per year.
- 6) Corruption has increased, as is evidenced by the latest oil agreement, which had to be cancelled by the parliament.

ment. Another example is the additional credit of 20% to the budget every year, always spent before parliamentary approval, and in continual violation of the constitution.

7) No serious action has been taken towards administrative reformation by putting the right man in the right place, and not even a single case was taken to court to prosecute a single senior person from the government for corruption.

8) The continual rise in the prices of all commodities and services, although individual incomes continue to decrease.

9) The humiliation of and harsh attacks on syndicates and civil work organizations.

10) The humiliation of and harsh attacks on the press.

11) Wrong privatization procedures devoid of transparency, and the firing of laborers.

12) The degradation of health services.

13) The degradation of basic and higher education services, for women in particular.

14) The degradation of the situation of teacher's, including university professors and lecturers.

15) The degradation of electricity services, with the highest tariff in the Arab world, and the neglect of the parliament's commitment to decrease tariffs for hot governorates like Hodeidah, Aden, and Hadramout.

16) The water crises and shortage in different governorates, in particular in Sana'a and Taiz.

17) Local councils elected without any authority, or power and no financial means, according to their approved laws.

18) Finally the proposed removal of the subsidy on Diesel fuel, which will more than double the price, will lead to the demise of agriculture, an increase in transportation costs, an increase in the price of bread that will be coupled with a reduction in its size and weight. More than that, the price of the dollar will shoot up, which will cause an increase in the price of all services and commodities.

The question for both the government and the World Bank is: what is left in the so-called reform program? That is why we reject it all, and (as one GPC parliamentary member said in that session) we request the government to resign.

Terrorism is not unique to Muslims

BY PAUL KOKOSKI
paulkokoski@mountaincable.net
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Pope John Paul II said that terrorism is and always will be a show of inhuman ferocity that, precisely for this reason, will never be able to solve conflict among human beings. Only reason and love are the valid means of surpassing and resolving disputes between people. No situation of injustice, no feeling of frustration, no philosophy or religion can justify such an aberration.

The recent chain of blind violence we are witnessing around the world is the result of scandalous injustices and imbalances that create conditions favoring an uncontrollable explosion of desire for revenge. When fundamental rights are violated, it is easy to fall prey to temptations of hatred and violence. Nonetheless, we must keep in check our base impulses and work together to build a global culture of solidarity that restores hope in the future to the young.

I am thinking not only of the obvious economic scandals that need our attention but of the various governmental laws which, under the guise of justice, violate the fundamental rights of individuals like the unborn and the aged, through abortion, genetic manipulation and euthanasia which need to be corrected. Such laws do not lead to freedom but are rather catalysts for aggression. They work to assault our moral sensibilities leading us subtly unaware into corruption.

To claim, for example, the right to abortion and to recognize that right in law, means to attribute to human freedom a perverse and evil significance: that of an absolute power over others and against others. Many are shocked at the recent massacre of innocent children in Russia but few seem concerned that millions more children - the most innocent of innocent - are being lawfully killed each day through abortion in ordinary hospitals and clinics around the globe - and in the most gruesome manner.

This is because today, in many people's consciences, the perception of the gravity of abortion has become progressively obscured. The acceptance of abortion in the popular mind, in behavior and even in law itself, is a telling sign of an extremely dangerous crisis of the moral sense, which is becoming more and more incapable of distinguishing between good and evil, even when the fundamental right to life is at stake.

Given such a grave situation, we need now more than ever to have the courage to look the truth in the eye and to call things by their proper name, without yielding to convenient compromises or to the temptation of self-deception. Terrorism is not only to be found in places like New York, Spain, Iraq, Israel and Russia but in our own home towns and in our families. This, ultimately, is where terrorism begins and where it must be curtailed.

Letters to the Editor

Bracing for another
term for Bush

Thank you for an excellent article "911 - Rescue".

I think that the Arab and Moslem world had better be prepared for another 4 years of Bush. The majority of Americans support war as long as it kills mostly non-Christians. As Mr. Bush stated "you are either for us (Christians) or against us. So, the slaughter of Iraqi civilians will continue for years to come. Make no mistake, Mr. Bush and his chief supporters, Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell want to destroy the Moslem religion and convert the Middle East to Christianity. With the destruction of Iraq, the U.S. is like the camel with his nose under the tent. Only until you see the entire camel in your tent will you understand what has happened.

There is but one solution. The U.S. can abide a war where the slaughter is 40 to 1. That is, 40,000 Iraqis for 1000 American troops. But if the death toll becomes, say, 10 to 1, then the U.S. politicians will be forced to abandon Iraq and their plans to invade Iran and Syria. And there is only one effective weapon available to the Iraqi resistance and that is suicide bombing of U.S. troops. It is a cruel alternative, but without fighting for your country and your beliefs, the U.S. will swallow you up. Mr. Bush is a tyrant and a brutal Christian Crusader - as 30,000 butchered Moslem Iraqi women and children would tell you from their graves. And Bush's slaughter of the innocent has only begun. I wonder sometimes just how many of you he will kill before you act in defense. Certainly we will have the opportunity to find out the next four years.

Letters to the Editor

tears, butchers, and barbarians when we write about the American invaders?

Hilal Banisad
abnisad@hotmail.com

Renouncing the hostage
incident in Russia

Firstly, I would like to say sorry to all Russians in the World for what happened in their country few days ago. It's very sad and the people who did that have got no hearts, they are animals, and for sure the people who did that are terrorists either with al Qaeda or other bad groups. My question is, what crimes have children committed? What wrong did they do? I mean kindergarten children have committed no crime, so why go and kill them like that? More than 300 children died, and more than 500 were injured. Why go and kill children like that? So will anyone support al Qaeda or any other bad groups or killers? Is this the way?

More than 600,000 people died 9/11 in New York and other places and now this, what possible crimes had kindergarten kids committed?

Secondly, when the American Government is doing their best to finish terrorism in the World, people say that Americans are terrorists. But what I know is that the American government is doing its best in the world, because everyday

innocent people will be killed in the world, so I support the American government 100%.

Thirdly, the Russian Government should not let the subject go, the Russian Government has to fight against terrorism like what the American Government is doing. I will always support the American Government because they are doing their best, we don't know when Al Qaeda is going to kill us. We are afraid for our future.

It's ok anyone can write me email regarding my letter.

L. Miss
lovely_miss666@
hotmail.com

Sorry Halyma,
thanks Samir

I am a very regular reader of Yemen Times. I do admire Samir's cartoon. I became very upset when I read Halyma's complaint about Samir's cartoon. Halyma alleged that Samir only focuses on Israel and the USA.

Why so, Halyma? You claim that all of Sameer's cartoon focus on bashing Israel and America and there is nothing about Yemeni problems. I am very sorry to be against you.

I think that his cartoons have the equal focus on both Yemeni problems as well as Israeli and American problems.

Ibrahim Mahfoodh
imahfoodh@yahoo.com

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

For Israel, it's
even all right to
spy on the US!

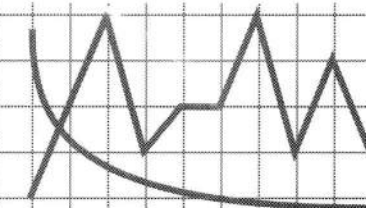
The observer is inclined to believe that even the advocates for the Zionist cause would take care not to compromise the national interests of their beloved country, the United States for the sake of the Hebrew state. But it seems that support for Israel should not be governed by any limits. There are indeed some supporters who are ready to go to the limits of even suggesting that Israeli spying on the United States is harmless and really not worthy of making any fuss about and even suggesting that the United States is just as guilty of spying on Israel: Lee Smith assures us, "it is almost certain that, despite official denials, Israel spies on the United States—just as U.S. clandestine services in turn spy on Israel and other allies". On September 22, 2004, Lee Smith, supposedly a "writer, who lives in Brooklyn wrote an article for Slate Magazine (a Microsoft web publication) titled, "Enough 'Likud' Bashing. Already! It's time to focus on policy, not its proponents". The article seeks to play down the latest disclosure by the Federal Bureau of Investigations of Israeli spying at the highest levels in the Department of Defense in the United States by a Pentagon analyst, named Larry Franklin, working for Douglas Feith, "the third highest ranking official in the Pentagon" (See Common Sense YT Issue 768 of August 30, 2004). Part of this playing down can be seen in the very subtle hint to the connection between Franklin and Feith, which never implies that Franklin was in fact a subordinate of Feith. Thus, Smith draws Feith out of possible association in the case. Of course, other sources are cited as already alluding an innocence to the case: "According to CBS, law enforcement figures were unsure whether the investigation, under way for a year, would eventually lead to 'charges of unlawful disclosure [sic] of classified material or espionage.' Smith then goes on to dismiss any idea of any wrongdoing by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee: "it is improbable that AIPAC would knowingly entangle itself in espionage. AIPAC is one of the most powerful, and most scrutinized, lobbies in Washington, and it is unlikely to risk its reputation and access to U.S. decision-makers for a document that has been described as a 'glorified Op-Ed.'" Therefore, people shouldn't waste their time with such irrational thought! Needless to say, AIPAC is implicated in the John Pollard case as well, if anybody cares to remember! Then Smith goes on to play water down the significance of the information that Franklin "allegedly passed" to AIPAC: "Apparently, however, the information was not so sensitive that officials refrained from sketching for the Post some of the directive's main topics and noting that competing parties in the administration disagree over the direction of Iran policy. Some of the directives main topics is not the same as passing over the whole document, Mr. Smith, and thus your man Franklin did indeed deliver classified information, which is by law and conscience an act of treason on any book. Then Smith delves into the document's treatise on US policy on Iran and again suggests that "No one is currently pressing for military action against Iran", so there is no danger in such slip of information.

Of course, Mr. Smith then makes a suggestion that an unfound rumor is being circulated of a tie up between some US officials and the Likudniks of Israel and many conspiracy theories are arising: "while the research into the neocons' ideas about the region and their connections to Israel might have begun as a partisan exercise in aggressive political journalism and speculative intellectual history, it has now come to resemble an old narrative in Western culture that engenders rumors of a 'cabal,' a secret government within the government, run by people whose loyalty to the state that harbors them is dubious. The word 'Jew' isn't used, but 'Likud' is tossed around with an alarming facility". There we go again, the anti Semitic shame. Do people who follow this thought have any factual evidence to draw on?, asks Smith, referring to those who suggest that the Neo-cons and the Likudniks are so intimately attached. Mr. Smith forgets that he himself has noted that Douglas Feith is one of the strongest advocates for an American invasion of Iraq, way back in 1996, for the sake of the security of Israel. The danger of suggesting this to Smith is that "some of the talking heads they're hearing are advancing conspiracy theories and accusing U.S. government officials of dual loyalty verging on treason". God forbid that anyone who spies for Israel should be a traitor!

Then, Smith goes on to suggest that it is really 9/11 that has driven the neo cons towards advocating the present White House Administration's policy in the Middle East; "The fundamental issue is that had it not been for Sept. 11, the neo-cons' ideas that would win the day—among them, the push for democracy in the Middle East—would have remained fodder for policy papers. Up until 9/11, the premise of U.S. Middle East policy was to maintain stability in the region in order to secure our national interests". Come on Mr. Smith, for a year and a half, the White House literally relinquished itself from doing anything for the sake of peace in the Middle East and allowed the Intifada to mushroom into an ugly hell for the Palestinians, thanks to Israeli prodding, well before 9/11. In fact, this closed eye attitude may have been the cause d'être for 9/11, if not its driving influence. Nevertheless, why roam into disparate fields to cover up for a clear case of treason (against the United States), which for people like Mr. Smith is almost honorable, because they themselves are more keen on defending the illegitimate interests of Israel than the legitimate interests of their very own homelands?

It is worth noting that Lee Smith has written several misleading articles and books on the Qur'an, the Arabs and the Middle East, all of which show a clear effort to misinform the American public about the Middle East culture and religion, with a view towards enhancing Israel's image. This includes the outrageous lie that "beheadings are Quranic ordinances" (The Qur'an never mentions the word!).

YT Business



Participation in tourist exhibition

BY ABDU LUTE OTHMAN
MARKETING MANAGER AT TMC

Tourist exhibitions are one of the main tools to facilitate the promotion of tourist products and enable exhibitors to communicate directly, establish relationships, and sign agreements, with tourist companies. During such exhibitions, exhibitors can get acquainted with thousands of visitors as well as sell their commodities (ie. tourist services) such as foodstuffs, hotels and transportation services.

The exhibition process is not based on directly selling commodities; rather it intends to indirectly promote products through providing information and news to attract a great influx of interested visitors, keen to embark upon a tour of a certain country. The exhibition wing, its look and style, plays a vital role in attracting visitors and attaining a great deal of interest.

What matters most is that the visitor should be impressed by the product, and their treatment, when leaving the exhibition. A higher degree success will also be achieved by keeping in contact with those who have visited the exhibition through correspondence, for example on special occasions.

The importance of these marketing means motivated our country to participate in several exhibitions of international tourist markets, that send tourists to Yemen. Yemen's presence in prominent European exhibitions, such as Milan's in Italy, Berlin's in Germany, as well as the tourist market in Dubai and the tourist exhibition in Japan, have become traditional. Yemen's participation in the Russian exhibition, Tourist Marketing Council (TMC) and preparation for others, also continues.

Besides this, Yemen will participate in the Travel and Tourism Exhibition in Japan and in Top Resa in France, the former from September 24th-26th and the second from September 30th - October 2nd. During this period, the TMC will organize the group participation of several tourist agencies and Hotel proprietors, to advise them on how to improve their performances. The crises, effecting tourism over the last few years,

and resulting in the halting of some tourist functions, is well known. As a consequence, many tourist establishments resorted to changing their major fields of work into other trade activities.

Nowadays, tourism is on its way back to vitality according to current indicators, and some countries have given up advising their subjects not to travel to Yemen. Clear evidence of improvement is the outcome reached by the conventions between the TMC and the Yemeni Interior Ministry, to encourage the influx of tourists to Yemen. Both sides approved granting direct visas to nationals from the countries referred to on their arrival at Yemeni ports. This encourages optimism and provides opportunities to entrepreneurs to capitalize on the tourist market - and in so doing - to develop the Yemeni economy.

Participation in tourist exhibitions proceeds as follows:

• Registration:

Registering for a wing of an exhibition representing our country, or any official side, is preferred to be through group participation. Individual participation is possible either through an official side, to facilitate the procedures, or in the absence of group participation. Individual participation can be for the purpose of occupying an entire wing.

Contrarily, the cost of group participation is lower, since it is under the umbrella of an official organization, and the participant can be recognized through marketing and media coverage.

There is another form of low cost participation, which is requesting a smaller wing within a larger one occupied by a dealer abroad. A standing relationship or trade exchange, will introduce the exhibitor with the dealer, who merging their exhibited articles. So, after the wing had been guaranteed, the plan should be designed one month before participation as well as a plan for the required days of staging the exhibition, assessing, and observing the participation.

• Pre-participation procedures

There are some marketing proceedings and functions that often precede participation, as well as preparation of



Yemen tourist attractions displayed distinctively at shows around the world

www.yementourism.com

the relevant documents, and arranging the wing in advance. These routines aim at accentuating the participants and exhibitions so that visitors are attracted to his wing. Exhibition success is primarily ascribable to marketing propaganda and the exhibitors' personal efforts.

While registering, the following points have to be taken into consideration:

1- Submitting the required information, which includes wing arrangement and marketing manual, to the exhibition management. This can be subdivided into:

a- The management has to be informed of the size, design and decoration of the wing, and its components.

b- The exhibitor needs to subscribe to the exhibition's main manual, and send a database to the management about his

company and partners in the wing.

c- Having an online website by which the exhibitor will be recognized by the people visiting his website. Therefore, Yemen's participation in Top Resa Exhibition in the French City of Do Fiel, is a chance for convincing thousands of readers of tourism websites in the country.

Visiting the website is through (www.topresa.com), and pressing on "exhibit" after the exhibition page appears. The third step should be preceded by "language selection", and then pressing on "exhibitors 2004". To visit the exhibitor, for example Yemen Tourism Promotion Board, or any MTC, press on the name of the council, number of the wing, and address of the council website.

Thus, after pressing on (www.yemen-tourism.com), information about

tourism in Yemen will appear.

d- Publications about the exhibition like pamphlets, identity cards, tourist programs, and stamps need to be published.

e- Sending, post, or emailing to tourist companies that are potential clients or suppliers is recommended.

f- Booking a hotel for stay early, guaranteeing the means of transportation and getting a card from the exhibition management to enter with.

2- Exhibition Functions

Booking in the exhibition should be as early as possible, otherwise the exhibitor is advised to contact some of the companies so that they know about his commodities. Decorating the wing in an attractive way, receiving visitors well

and keeping appointments, all play a pivotal role in the success of the exhibition. The participants in the wing can exchange shifts with each other, between staying at the exhibition and taking field tours and visiting exhibitors from other countries in order to make business contacts.

Allotting a time other than exhibition hours to meet with an adequate number of company representatives, is significant in arranging appointments.

3- Making the participation more effective

The exhibitor is recommended to write a detailed report about his participation and arrangement for future reference. Although, this demands effort and time, it will nevertheless facilitate the task of the exhibitor in future.

Yemen during 42 years: from deterioration to entire economic planning (1-2)



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
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Yemen is these days celebrating the 42nd anniversary of September 26 revolution of 1962 that destroyed the autocrat monarchic system in the northern part of Yemen. This revolution has paved the way for October 14 revolution in the south part of Yemen that erupted against the British colonialist rule in the following year, 1963.

This celebration comes under many economic, social, and political changes on the ground. The country had been living miserable economic conditions before the revolution and the establishment of the republican system in the two parts of Yemen.

When the revolution erupted in 1962, there was not a state of institutions or apparatuses working out development plans, the situation had changed as the state started to organize its resources and scheme development plans and programs and securing food for the citizens. Thus, the state took care of productive sectors, particularly

the agricultural one.

We are in this report presenting features of the development of economic and social development Yemen has been seeing over the past 42 past years.

The starting point for planning was by establishing institutionalised structures

For the sake of making plans, the efforts, both in the northern and the southern parts, were directed towards founding structures and frames aimed at preparing general plans for executing development and services programs reviving all the production sectors.

In the southern part, the Higher Council for National Planning headed by President of the Republic was formed. The duties of the council were specified clearly in 1968 in light of the overall frame of the plan and all the assigned procedures. Ministry of Trade, Economy, and Planning was established to be in the institutional, organizational, and administrative frame of the process of planning.

On the other hand, the political development at the local and regional levels in the northern part of Yemen played a role in ending the war that targeted the revolution. Then the govern-

ment established the Central System of Planning in 1972 to start in founding an organizing system based on safe scientific foundations.

Availability of planning and development factors

In the beginning of 1970s, the essential constituents for requirements of planning for the economic and social development in both the parts of Yemen were as follows:

First, the political atmosphere was available and relatively stable and it found accordingly a tendency towards solving the social and economic problems based on scientific methods.

Secondly, the country leadership and its systems believed in the significance of adopting the strategy of economic planning in accordance with the political determination that sought the change and facing difficulties and challenges like poverty and unemployment.

Thirdly, the organizational and administrative systems, laws and legislation that organize the process of planning were available.

Fourthly, there was specialized cadre capable of preparing for the process of modernization on analyzed scientific bases.

Therefore, the process of planning for economic development went on depending on many interrelated plans during different periods of time in the northern and southern part as well.

Economic development in the south

Priorities of development plans in the southern part were embodied by issuing the Agricultural Reform Law in 1970 and granting the public sector the chance to lead production in the industrial and services field. That happened because the government system was following the scientific socialist Marxism that focused on the central planning.

There was a three-year plan, 1971-73, including developing the agricultural production. It was followed by two five-year plans, 1974-85, during which a variety of organizational structures of production sectors were established.

The third five-year plan, 1986-1990 took place, stressing on increasing of the production processes and doubling the agricultural production. It also concentrated on improving the workers' conditions and launching production of food industries. A great attention was

paid to producing, manufacturing and exporting fisheries.

Economic development in the northern part

The government policy in the northern part of Yemen was taking care of sponsoring many projects that belonged to the public sector. It founded the development program for making the main bases of the agricultural sector. Various studies took place under the supervision of this program; those studies were on the development projects and preparing them as the backbone of investment in the first five-year plan.

The second step, 75-1986, included the implementation of the two five-year plans, which achieved a great success for the organizational structures and made progress concerning the basic services. The third step, 87-1991, compromised implementing the third plan that mainly aimed to increase the contribution of the agricultural sector and investing the available sources to reduce the budget deficit in the balance of trade, raising farmer's income and promoting investment in this sector. Besides that, researches on veterinary

services were done.

Yemen achieved a lot during this period in the fields of planning for economic and social development, forming a firm base for the infrastructure of the Yemeni economy making this development higher by what is made after the unification.

To be continued in the next issue.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.8700	185.0500
Sterling Pound	333.5800	333.9000
Euro	226.8900	227.1100
Saudi Rial	49.3000	49.3400
Kuwaiti Dinar	627.3200	627.9300
UAE Dirhem	50.3300	50.3800
Egyptian Pound	29.7200	29.7500
Bahraini Dinar	490.3600	490.8400
Qatari Rial	50.7900	50.8400
Jordanian Dinar	260.7500	261.0000
Omani Rial	480.2100	480.6800
Swiss Franc	146.7500	146.8900
Swedish Crown	25.1100	25.1400
Japanese Yen	1.6684	1.6701

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Modern poetry:

Did you know stones are frozen white clouds

BY IRENA KNEHTL
iren_knehtl@maktoob.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

*Change perhaps lay in our silence.
And silence was also in flowers.*

*Where are the cities that buy and sell,
merchants of raw silk, glided brocades
and, Damasc linen...*

Traveling with clear power in the sun. Sunlight entered my hands for the purple blue water. I yearn for a sound that is missing. Life seems so fragile, and all its shadows are seasonal, including pain. I saw how my shadow detached itself from a horizon that linked me with others. My shadow has preceded me. How could it recognize that light to which it was attached? This port "World" rose with its terror in an era of defeat and degradation. Terraces after terraces, slope after slope. It named impossible mountains. There was fear and pride in age before beauty. I know not whether lands are grazing ground, or yet home. We think of the past as better forgotten than fixed with stony regret. There were pillars that fell, leaving a blue space where the old Gods stood before. Clouds were rising like leaves from green shade. Then far out at the sea in a sparkling slower arrows of rain arched from the emerald breakwater of the reef. The rivers envying the sea tired of being crossed. I remember this sun burn river and hours drowned like centuries. The fisherman hearing the cries from the ochre shore as they would be the only fisherman left to the world using old ways and who believed their work was prayer to the changing rose of light. The breeze trashed the palms of the cool road. Change perhaps lay in our silence. Have we come to the bend? The names bent like trees in the anchor of sorrow. While others rise from the other direction. With its unsettling shadow but the right journey is motionless. Where the trees are waged by wind and the cliffs. In the sun behind then stood villages and hoisting their arms to the light. Worried by the salt wind. And weather night. Between dawn

and dusk. Who glowed and swung like a lantern on the sea. Each boat as capacious as those. Crossing the lowland at dusk of the sea lace. The blue ridges of waves. Then one afternoon, the Ocean lowered and clarified its ceiling, its emerald net after centuries of walking. Choked with old leaves, old wounds, by blue silent bay. After a night of rough wind rolled over the eyes like pots left out in the rain. A beach now burns their memory copper almond leaves with a stunned summer going. Grass that is going brown. Faces in salad landscapes. In the blue distance as summer winds. Great clouds of rising dust. And butterflies sail in their yellow odysseys. The shadows everywhere wear the same size. The night will say its stars for the first time. I mistook them for lakes. I look through the glass for a land that was lost and a man who was gone. The grass by the river shore is silvery green with its white lace. Where is the light of the world. The packets to tea stirred with our crystals of sweet. Cities that buy and sell. Merchants of raw silk, glided brocades, Damasc linen. Silence was in flower. The weight of the place, its handle, its ancient name. A cloud hangs a branch in the orange hour to the changing rose of light. The dead were singing. The pillars, crossed geometric terraces on the ruined hills and were quiet as the sail. The pink blossoms of an oleander and hum. Villages with cracked plaster walls. The flutes in the square cling like a butterfly to the elbow. An olive branch, freeze from change. Sometime my heart is as hard as that mast. You dream of Africa and pray to your God. Since the rain was shining and the sun was raising my eyes were clear.

Palm-stripped pavilions, Arab dhows and tea brown rivers. Sandstorm seaming their eyes, horizontal monsoon, and mimosa memories. Everything was forgotten now. The Ocean has changed around every name, tress, men. Because the Ocean had to live, because it was life. Time perhaps - even in its on-rush, even as it moves on - doing new things, repeating old ones. Even further.

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A documentary book has recently been issued by Mr. Rashed Muhammad Thabet. The book divides the 226 medium sized pages into four chapters. In the first chapter, the author discusses the facts of the British Colony and the People's resistance against its existence. In the second chapter, he speaks about the British Colony's terrorism (its forms and methods) in and outside the city of Aden. In the third chapter, Mr. Rashed Muhammad Thabet discloses testimonies and documents on the methods of torture used against captives in the British prisons in Aden. This includes divulging methods of torture leading to the deaths of detainees, and includes details of detainees' health and psychological sufferings. Finally, in the fourth chapter, the book illustrates a number of documents, photos, and the names of some of the former detainees of British prisons.

Foreword of the book

In the Foreword of his book, he says that the memories of history never forget the glorious deeds of the people or the suffering of the victims, as long as the historic struggle is recorded and the sacrifices and victims authenticated by blood and souls. The struggle of the Yemeni nation will not cease to exist nor will it be forgotten by the passing of time, nor will the subject be avoided, or dismissed as reckless, or its underlying ethics underestimated - it was a struggle of noble and glorious

New Book by Rashed Muhammad Thabet

History of the South Revolution against the British Colony

deeds.

The noble history of our people's combat will not be established, nor eternally recorded, unless brought out into the field of research and put into the hands of all, for discussion, analysis, and interpretation.

The history of Yemen's fight against British colonialism is full of evidences and facts, that provide us with enlightening lessons towards building a future more prosperous than our past.

In his book, the Author unveils the fierce means of torture which were practiced within British prisons. And as clarified by the Author, they are the most cruel and terrorizing means adopted by British

part of what was snapped up by the detainees from within the prisons, and

Mr. Rashed Muhammad Thabet lived his childhood in Aden City, and has obtained his preparatory and secondary studies in Aden.

He obtained his Bachelor degree in Philosophy, Social Science, from Damascus University, Syria.

He joined earlier in political and union tasks. Had shouldered leadership responsibilities during the course of the liberation, among the group of the National Liberation Front.

He was arrested twice by British Intelligence. He was finally arrested in June 1965 and was released in November 1967.

After Independence, he occupied several journalistic positions, before becoming the General Manager of the Radio & Television Station. Later on, he functioned in the following positions:

- Minister of Information.
- Cabinet Affairs Minister.
- Minister of Culture & Tourism.
- Minister to the Re-unification Affairs.
- State Minister to the Deputies Assembly Affairs.
- As well, worked as ambassador to Cairo, Morocco, and Tunis.
- He is a founding member of Authors Union & Yemeni Writers.



Intelligence, to lower the nationals, as well as to destroy the spirits of those who severely resisted against the Colony and its supporters.

The documents which he relies upon in confirming the torture practiced within the British prisons, are

also official memorandums which were directed to the British Administration on the status of the detainees in the fearful Colony's prisons.

Marriage customs in Tarim

BY HASSAN SA'ED BA-UDAN
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The first step for a man to get married in Tarim is to choose for himself a girl, and propose to her family. Then, he sends some of his female relatives to have a look at the girl and provide him with an accurate account of her details. The description includes complexion color, height, face, etc. If the fiancée-to-be consents to the engagement, he commissions someone else to speak to her father and fix the marriage time.

The marriage takes place usually between six months to one year after the engagement party. Sometimes it is put off for more than this period, depending on the readiness of the two sides.

The religious city of Tarim has a unique dowry system, of only about YR 30,000. But this does not mean that the youth have easy access to marriage as there are other obstacles that stand in the way of their marriages. The appalling requirements of the concerned families is by far the biggest obstacle. These requirements usually come from the mothers of the couple. Local women believe in a common proverb that says: "Appear good even if you borrow money."

The mothers usually have an unfailing ability to fool their husbands and sway them into blind obedience and silence dissent. Nowadays, families vie with each other in terms of the size of marriage expenses and the number of invitees.

But in comparison to other areas, marriage expenses are very little. It is worth mentioning that most families in Tarim live below the poverty line. Consequently, some people have several children but still owe the debt amassed by their marriage.

In my opinion, the effective solution to eradicate this repulsive phenomenon is that the rich should be a model for the poor. They should make their marriages as economic and as frugal as possible.

A few years ago, bridal gold, jewelry and clothes were hired. The bridegrooms attire (a traditional Yemeni outfit, consisting of a sort of a green

cloak with a white turban put around a stiff colored cap) was also rented. Nowadays, a few conservative families still use this costume while the majority have abandoned it.

Bridegrooms now buy their clothes from the market. This increases their burden as they are compelled to try to get the most fashionable clothes.

On the unforgettable occasion of marriage, three main meals are served to guests, two of which by the bridegroom's family and the third by the bride's. Each meal costs a lot. It consists mainly of a typical dish of rice with goat meat. These three meals have sometimes been reduced to one, which is cooked beside the wedding house.

There is a two-night ceremony, "Harawa dinner", that takes place in the bride's house before the nuptial night, or just before having the meal, during which Sesame is distributed to attendees. Instead of holding this session in houses, people now prefer to hold it at mosques since houses are too small to accommodate all the attendees.

On the wedding night, the second meal "Marria dinner" is served to intimate friends and close relatives, while the third meal "subha" is served the next day.

A ceremony in celebration of the wedding night starts one or two hours after having the marria dinner, and lasts until the early hours of the morning. In the past, each clan had its favorite folk dance to celebrate that night. However, now all of the clans have begun to exchange these folk dances among themselves.

During the celebration the bridegroom dances with his friends and folks. Presents and congratulations are given to him on this occasion. At the end of the celebration, the bridegroom sits on a chair or stretches his legs on a bed with the invitees standing around him clapping, dancing and chanting. They also dye his legs and hands with henna.

Women do the same thing with the bride at her house. The bride's female relatives are then given a chance to see her and offer her presents in a private room. After finishing the celebration, the bride is taken by car in a female procession to her husband's house.

Artists from Dhamar captivate audience in Sana'a



Irena Knehtl
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For the Yemen Times

Yemen is a country with a diverse landscape, an unique climate, and a fascinating cultural heritage. It is rich in natural wonders with its terraced mountains and fields, scenic dunes, wadis, waterfalls and lush orchards. With each generation it lives and imbues a vigor that is exceedingly

rare. Commonly known as the Dhamari group, several artists from Dhamar have created some of the most distilled images, and are famed for capturing the essence of the landscape.

Their series of paintings, exhibited last week at the House of Culture in Sana'a, shows a thorough acquaintance with their environment, and desire not to pay tribute to it. They depict landscapes and images unique, and intrinsic to their home place Dhamar. The area of Dhamar, a Governorate south of Sanaa, offers some beautiful combinations of ter-



raced mountains, fields and plains. The main protagonists, however, are the local Yemeni people whose passages of life are celebrated through the art.

The artists - not schooled in art in the traditional sense - have absorbed and practice different artistic styles. They rely only upon a resource that is rich and ancient, which springs from their hearts, minds and highly skilled hands.

The exhibition of Dhamari artists in the House of Culture in Sana'a occurred within the framework of the festivities celebrating Sana'a - the Arab Culture Capital 2004. It was opened by His Excellency Mr. Khaled AlRoawshan, the Minister of Culture, and drew many local and foreign visitors.

The Dhamari artists are:

Ali Mohammed Abdo Hamza, b. 1976, in Ans, Dhamar, holds bachelors degree in art education from University of Dhamar, teacher and writer.

AbdulRahman Mohammed



AlKahida, b. 1973 in Dhamar, holds degree in social studies from Educational Institute in Dhamar.

AbdulKhalq Mohammed Rada'i, b. 1974, holds bachelors degree in art education from University of Dhamar.

Abdalla Mohammed AlHamli, b. 1968, is an employee at the local government office in Dhamar.

Sanaa, 19th September 2004
Irena Knehtl

Indonesians make most of porous Philippine border

By MANNY MOGATO

GLAN, Philippines, Sept 27 (Reuters) - From behind a pair of binoculars that have seen far better days, Amancio Wagwag searches the sea for intruders.

There is no shortage of activity. For the next 12 hours, the 30-year-old skipper of a Coast Guard gunboat will play a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse with hundreds of boats shuttling between North Sulawesi in eastern Indonesia and Mindanao in the southern Philippines.

But if a fruitless first three months on the job are anything to go by, his chances of making an arrest are slim.

"This is a very lonely and difficult job," Wagwag told a guest on his small, noisy boat, loaded with two machine guns and three other crew members.

"We only have one gunboat patrolling a 100-mile (160-km) long coastline and our old boat is no match for high-speed outriggers carrying contraband, including illegal entrants, from Indonesia."

Complicating the situation are the thousands of Indonesians who have migrated to the southern Philippines, and many go back and forth across the water border with virtual impunity.

Just about anything that can be bought cheaply in Indonesia is smuggled into Mindanao, from pirated DVDs to ceramic floor tiles and even exotic birds. More worryingly for Wagwag, pirates also sail these seas and they are often better armed and equipped than the coast guards.

These days, thinly stretched Philippine security forces are also under pressure to keep a watchful eye on a more deadly export — Muslim militants from Indonesia.

The links between Mindanao and Southeast Asian militant group Jemaah Islamiyah were highlighted once more by reports that one of the two main suspects in the recent bombing outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta had trained on the island.



Philippine born Indonesians sing their national anthem inside a church in a coastal village in southern Philippines in this picture taken September 9. Officials estimate there are between 10,000 and 15,000 Indonesians in Mindanao, most of them concentrated in islands off the coast, villages around cities such as General Santos and Davao, and the plains of South Cotabato. More than 5,000 cast their votes in the first round of Indonesian presidential elections in July although only a handful of Indonesian residents are legal under Philippine law. Picture taken September 9, 2004. REUTERS

Security officials believe hundreds of Jemaah Islamiyah operatives have used Mindanao as a training base and refuge, drawn by its lawless jungles and mountains home to four separate Muslim rebel groups.

Tracking down the militants has been made more difficult by their apparent links with elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Philippines' main Muslim rebel group.

Blending in

But they are also able to blend in with

thousands of Indonesians who have made Mindanao their home.

Officials estimate there are between 10,000 and 15,000 Indonesians in Mindanao, most of them concentrated in islands off the coast, villages around cities such as General Santos and Davao, and the plains of South Cotabato.

More than 5,000 cast their votes in the first round of Indonesian presidential elections in July although only a handful of Indonesian residents are legal under Philippine law.

Indonesia has been the source of cheap farm labour since the 1920s when illegal migrants from North Sulawesi worked in coconut plantation, rice mills and as servants.

Later, many were employed in the tuna industry.

The island, home to the poorest provinces in the Philippines, is viewed as an economic promised land by Indonesians from remote parts of North Sulawesi. Many are Christians, helping their assimilation into the mainly Roman Catholic Philippines.

"Life is much, much better here," said Mamasi Mendumba, who left his home in Sangir island off North Sulawesi in 1966 after a powerful volcanic eruption.

"We're better off here because it's easy to find a job and the pay is much higher than in Indonesia."

Only one home

For those with an entrepreneurial spirit, the opportunities are abundant.

Cheap consumer products from North Sulawesi are brought in by Philippine-born Indonesians operating small boats, hopping from one island to another peddling grains, pirated discs and kerosene and diesel.

"I can get a 4-litre container of kerosene for less than half of the going prices here," Mendumba told Reuters. "But I can only bring in small amounts because my boat is small."

Mendumba has two boats, operated by his two sons, that shuttle between Mindanao and Indonesia's Sangir island, a 14-hour trip in fair weather.

Numerous moves over the years to get the Indonesians to register or send them home have failed.

Immigration officer Ernesto Mercado said the government had no clear policy on how to deal with the growing number of undocumented Indonesians.

"These people have nowhere to go home in Indonesia," he said. "They know only one home — that's here in Mindanao."

Sweden haunted by fear of new Estonia ferry disaster

By SIMON JOHNSON

STOCKHOLM, Sept 27 (Reuters) - Ten years after the Estonia ferry sank in Europe's worst maritime disaster since World War Two, passengers crossing the Baltic may still be at risk, say Swedish lawmakers who want a new inquiry.

The roll-on roll-off ferry, en route from Tallinn, Estonia to Stockholm, capsized in rough seas off the Finnish coast early on September 28, 1994 with the loss of 852 lives.

The 13,600-tonne vessel rolled on its side in minutes. Many doubted the accident investigators' conclusion that a design flaw allowed heavy waves to knock the bow door ajar and flood the car deck.

Five members of Sweden's parliament — among them Kent Harstedt, who survived the disaster — are the latest to call for a new investigation.

"The risk is large that another shipping disaster like the Estonia can happen again," the five lawmakers said in an open letter published in the press in Sweden, home to 551 of the victims of the tragedy.

"Even after 10 years we don't know the cause of the sinking and what led to the loss of at least 852 lives. There are reasons to believe that we haven't taken the right measures to avoid a similar accident in the future."

Inquiry

Harstedt and his parliamentary colleagues said in their letter that the speed at which the ship sank pointed to more than a fault with the doors. It could mean there was a hole below the waterline, or that the doors were actually already open.

"Throughout the years, even from the very start, I was confident there was something wrong with this investigation," Harstedt told Reuters, speaking ahead of remembrance ceremonies this week in Sweden and Estonia, its neighbour across the Baltic.

"We who were actually there cannot understand how they (the inquiry) described the sinking of the ship. It is not our experience of it or how we saw it."

Part of a group of 23 travelling on the Estonia, only Harstedt and a Danish colleague survived.

"I am one of the blessed people who came back and were given extra time," Harstedt said.

One expert agreed there were questions about the inquiry's findings.

"The obvious false conclusion was that the ship was seaworthy," said Professor Anders Ulfvarson, head of the department of naval architecture and ocean engineering at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg.

While Ulfvarson believes the risks of a similar accident recurring have diminished, he said a new report would help restore confidence in the investigating authorities and help improve safety further.

Sweden's parliament will soon debate whether to hold a new investigation into the sinking. Harstedt believes there is growing support for the motion.

"There is a lot to learn for European and worldwide sea safety," he said. "There will definitely, definitely be a new investigation. If it is not now, it will come for certain."

Catastrophe

Ferries on the Helsinki-Stockholm route still come within a few nautical miles of the accident area, though few have time to brood over the disaster.

"Nowadays it comes to mind when the weather turns rough," Magnus Thornroos, captain on the Viking Line passenger ferry Gabriella, told Reuters in an interview in his cabin on a crossing from Finland to Sweden.

Once jogged, however, the memories are strong.


Remembering that early morning a decade ago, Thornroos said: "It took a long time to realise that 800 people were missing. It was unreal, it just could not be true."

Colleagues who took part in the desperate search and rescue operation told him "the worst was feeling powerless, of not being able to do very much".

Thornroos's brother was captain of the Viking Line ferry Mariella, the first vessel on the scene of the accident.

In Sweden, the Estonia sinking has scarred the national psyche.

"We are not used to catastrophe on this large a scale," said Goran Lindmark, director of the information department at Sweden's National Board of Psychological Defence, which has put together an archive of material for victims and researchers.



26


سبتمبر

نوف أحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات للأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
والرابع عشر من أكتوبر و ذكرى الإستقلال يوم الثلاثون من نوفمبر
ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني، ومزيداً من التقدم والإزدهار في
ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة، وكل عام والجميع بألف خير.

وكلاء وموظفي هيئة استكشاف وإنتاج النفط
عنهم : المهندس / نبيل صالح القوسي - رئيس الهيئة



**Petroleum Exploration
& Production Authority**

*Presents its warmest compliments and
best congratulations to*

Ali Abdullah Saleh

*On the occasion of 42nd anniversary of
26th September Revolution day,
14th October, and Independence day
the 30th of November
and to
all Yemeni people, wishing them more
advancement and prosperity
under the shadow
of our wise leadership.
Many happy returns*

**Deputies and staff of
Petroleum Exploration
& Production Authority.
On their behalf**

**Eng. \ Nabeel Salah al-Qawsi
Chairman of Authority**

Yemeni Press,

A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Main headlines

- UN demands the release of journalist al-Khaiwani
- Brothers of al-Houthi and Nouasi lead a new rebellion
- New York Times: FBI agents conspire on Yemenis
- International Federation of Human Rights protests and Americans propose his release; Al-Khaiwani imprisonment complicates international support for Yemen
- Journalism ethics charter in a seminar
- Yemen to host meeting of the Senate and Shoura Councils League in Africa and the Arab Homeland, Abdulaziz Abdulghani: The League represents an important form for building balanced international relations
- Parliament and Shoura joint meeting rejects price reforms concerning the lifting of subsidy on oil products
- In his speech on Yemeni revolution days, President Ali Abdullah Saleh says the revolution is to remain a torch lighting the roads before coming generations
- President Saleh: We renew emphasis on enhancement of Arab solidarity and joint Arab action to encounter challenges
- 100 heads of state and government discuss human rights
- UN Security Council resolution flagrant interference in Syrian-Lebanese affairs
- Killing the innocent overshadows legitimacy of the Iraqi resistance
- Yemen observes the 42nd anniversary of the 26 September Revolution
- \$ 1.8 million, American-Danish support for local decentralization and development
- During his meeting with the Kuwaiti cultural delegation, PM Bajammal calls for consolidation of cultural ties and benefiting from successful experiments
- Yemeni FM minister in an address to the UN General Assembly: Bloodshed and violence in Iraq, a natural outcome of the invasion

Sout Al-Khodhr
weekly, organ of the
Yemen Green Party,
issue 17, Sep.2004.

Main headlines

- A draft resolution on control of ozone depleting materials in Yemen
- Al-Suwari Tannery, danger threatens life in Bani Mattar and Sana'a

Mr Abduwali Al-Bahr says in his article it is no doubt that what we are harvesting today of tragedies after 42 years for the revolution forms the real fruit of the seeds of mistakes the revolutionaries have made, whether aware or unaware, since the eruption of the revolution in 1962.

The writer lists a number of what he views as mistakes.

- The first mistake lies in the limitedness of the revolution men vision as they were a group of low-ranking army officers.

-Weakness and limitedness of the role played by the Yemeni revolutionaries and leaders in steering the political situations in the country and the field supervision on the support forces that came from Egypt, taking into consideration that the Yemenis are themselves the leaders of the revolution and experts in the country's situations.

- Insistence of some of the civilian leaders of the revolution on dealing with the military leadership without full knowledge and following outdated ways in buying stands of tribal leaderships.

The writer presumes that those were the outstanding causes that broadened the base of confrontation against the revolution and resistance of the extension of its political base.

26 September weekly,
organ of the Yemen
Armed Forces, 24
Sep. 2004.

Main headlines

- Shoura council and parliament continue discussion of the five-year plan and economic reforms
- British film on Yemen's approach in fighting terror
- A festival for Arab children in Sana'a

The newspaper's political editor says in his article maybe the worst of what the Arab and Islamic nation has

faced in her history and reality is that historical contradiction and the deep gap between what her state should be and what is actually being. This can be obvious in stances and behaviour of the nation's rich. It is the right of the brother on his brother and neighbour to have his brother standing by his and supporting him if he is in need. Humanitarian interaction, whether locally or regionally, a good humane characteristic and it should be like that among sons of the same nation having common blood, language, ideology and history.

A close look into the state of the Arab and Islamic reality reveals to what extent the nation lacks of such cooperation among her countries and peoples and between her rich and the poor, all this at time those rich are racing for expending generously for the foreigner from their treasuries in order to gain satisfaction of that foreigner. They spend millions of dollars and sterling pounds for building hospitals, universities and educational centers in American and European cities in addition to supplying them with modern equipment while their Arab and Moslem brothers in various countries such as Sudan, or Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Palestine, or Yemen or Djibouti and others are in grave need of such donations and funds.

Annas weekly,
27 Sep. 2004.

Main headlines

- Members of parliament and shoura accuse chair of the committee discussing price dose as confiscating their stances
- Al-A'nisi looks for witnesses for acquitting al-Mouayad and Zaid in America
- Members from Islah in local councils praise the president's promise of electing governors and district rulers

Dr Hassan al-Jawshaie says in his article all indicators and opinion polls in America point that president George W. Bush would be re-elected for another presidential term. The man seems to be confident of that and of the Zionist lobby that supports him strongly as the two governments in Washington and Tel Aviv are strongly supported by the extremist right in both countries.

In Israel the scheme led by Sharon for the liquidation of all peace plans and destroy the resistance movement, especially the Islamic and all the Palestinian cause has no been finished and this scheme is in need of president Bush.

On the other side we find many of Arab rulers, are counting days and hours to the date of the American elections in hope that the elections would topple Bush, so what they are going to do at a time the latest opinion polls reveal that president Bush is ahead of his competitor Kerry? Results of opinion polls are not satisfactory for those worried rulers.

The question is can the Arab rulers agree on a unified strategy for facing the American tyranny?

Al-Shumou weekly,
25 Sep.2004.

Main headlines

- YSP conspires on the Islah and its leaderships wager on external pressures, Al-Wahdawi studies to distance itself from the JPI
- Ethics charter for Yemeni press

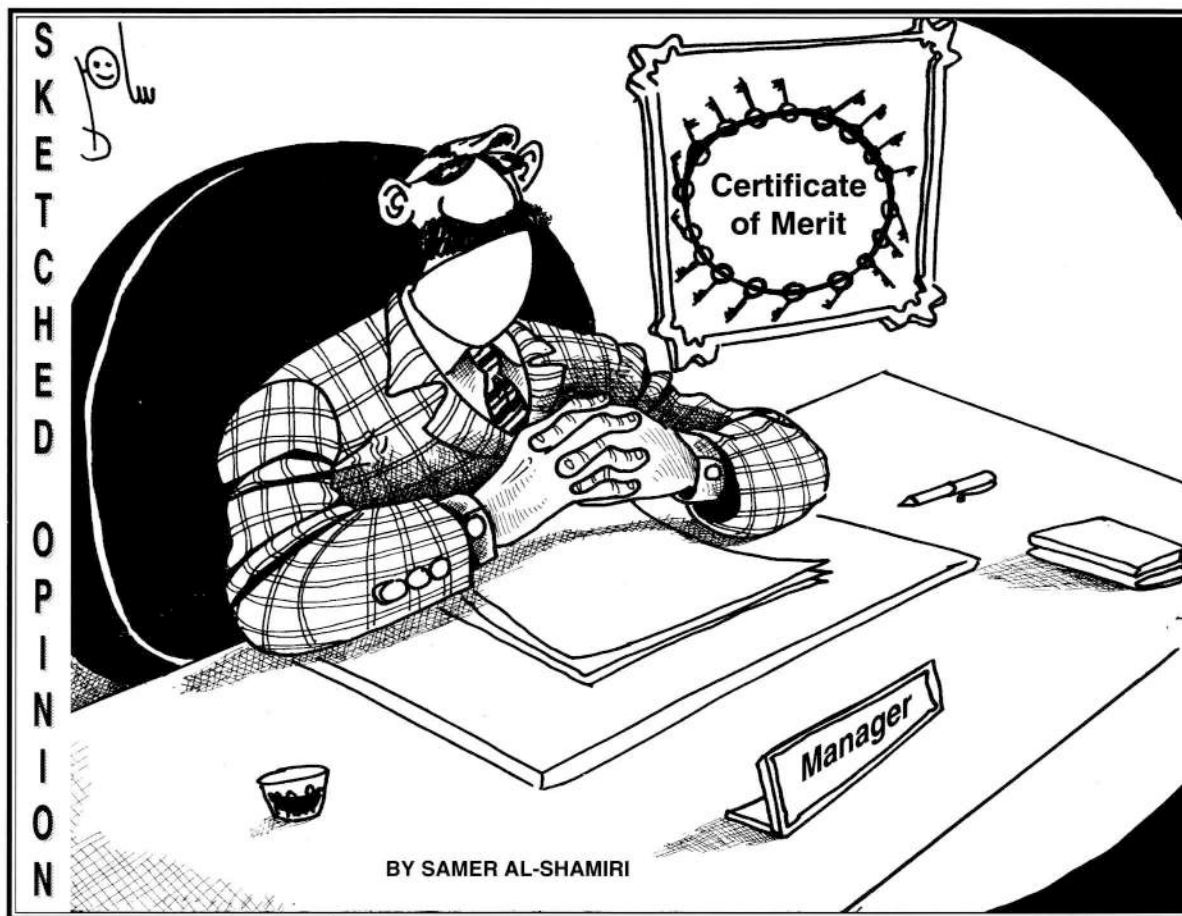
The newspaper political editor says I his article there is a confusing state dominating our reality and haunts our social aspects. It is a state so dark in its results and reproductive crises of subjective and objective reasons. They are also of conflicting motives. The parties of this state search for themselves in the debris of the homeland and dreams of the citizen, his security and stability.

Those who supported al-Houthi and his rebellion did that not for love for al-Houthi but due to a desire for settling political and personal accounts with the regime, without caring about the consequences against the homeland and the citizen and their stability.

Al-Tagamou weekly,
organ of the Yemeni
Unionist
Congregation Party,
27 Sep.2004.

Main headlines

- Aborting the policy of Bajammal, creates crisis with the World Bank
- A call for investigation with the ministry of agriculture
- Dubai bans importing Yemeni vegetable for not being good for con-



BY SAMER AL-SHAMIRI

sumption

- 16 activities and around 50 innovative personalities on sidelines of the Book Fair

Writer Rashad Salem Ali says in an article that the solidarity with al-Shoura newspaper and its editor Abdul Karim al-Khaiwani is taking a spiral curve despite that it has not taken its

aspired for social expansion. The journalists syndicate continuation and insistence on the course of its protest through the daily sit-in and addressing the parliament as well as the repeated protest letters, statements of solidarity and other means of protest by civil society organizations inside the country and outside. All this is a confirmation of the strength of the collective

solidarity and that it would, if continues, take broader expansion and change into a means of pressure forcing the rule to retract and put the will of the people into consideration and back down from the means of pressure on judiciary and politicize it. It will force the rule to reconsider violent measures and practices it is following against the opposition.

VACANCY

US NGO working in the field of educational development has the following position openings for Yemenis only on the staff of the Yemen Accelerated Learning Activity (YALA):

Basic Education Advisor

The Basic Education Advisor is a senior Sana'a-based position on the USAID-funded Yemen EQUIP 1 project reporting to the Chief of Party. Major goals of this project include improving and enhancing access to, quality of and community participation in basic education in Yemen. The project will work schools in five governorates (Sa'ada, Al Jawf, Amran, Marib and Shabwa) in Yemen, with an emphasis on rural districts in those governorates. The Basic Education Advisor will direct technical assistance activities related to the design and delivery of educational services to selected formal schools in the five governorates. Specifically, the Basic Education Advisor will:

- Liaise with the COP on all matters related to technical assistance to formal schools in the five governorates;
- Oversee the roll out of EQUIP 1 Yemen in-service teacher training initiatives;
- Conduct activity planning, implementation, monitoring, follow-up, and reporting for technical work related to formal schools, in collaboration with Chief of Party and MOE partners;
- Exercise quality control and provide leadership to staff working on the project in the provision of educational assistance to formal schools;
- Troubleshoot across governorates, identifying problems, interpreting project events (problems/successes) from a variety of angles, proposing "solutions" or responses to keep activities on track and remedy problem areas;
- Develop and maintain excellent and collaborative working relationships with local MOE officials in governorates and develop strong collegial relationships with relevant MOE officials in Sana'a.
- Develop the Formal Schools section of annual work plans;
- Assess staff performance on a regular, informal basis, identify areas of need or weakness, analyze staff training needs and develop and deliver program "solutions" or responses to build capacities of junior staff.

Qualifications for the position include:

- Master's degree (doctorate preferred) in education, in a sub-field field related to teacher training, and professional development;
- Substantial experience (10 years plus) working in the field of education, preferably in teacher training and professional development;
- Outstanding managerial skills, supervisory and communication skills;
- Fluency in English;
- Knowledge of/experience with USAID-funded projects preferred but not required.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialist

The qualified Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist information specialist will lead data gathering, input, analysis, and reporting in connection with a three-year program financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Yemen Accelerated Learning Activity (YALA) will undertake activities aimed at improving the quality and accessibility of basic education services in Yemen, both formal and informal, as well as mobilizing communities to get involved in local educational issues. Project activities will be focused in Sa'ada, Al-Jawf, Amran, Marib, and Shabwa governorates.

The M&E Specialist will be responsible for participating either on or obtaining information after the fact from multi-disciplinary teams going out to the field to gather baseline information in the education sector, work with local communities to identify local needs and priorities, and implement specific education-related interventions at the local level, including the physical rehabilitation of educational facilities. He or she will also be responsible for sharing information with and harmonizing procedures with other automated data systems operating in Yemen, particularly those already established by the Government of Yemen and USAID.

Qualifications for the position include:

- University degree in a relevant social sciences field;
- At least 3 years' experience managing information systems, ideally including experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS);
- Relevant training and experience working in the education sector in Yemen;
- Fluency in English;
- Experience working with existing information systems of other external donors or the Government of Yemen is desirable.

Interested candidates are requested to send CVs to

John Raleigh, Chief of Party,
AED/EQUIP, P.O. Box 22377,
Sana'a, Yemen

Team of hope crestfallen after the first game

By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The team of hope lost to Thailand 2-1 while the war-torn Iraq downed titleholder (South Korea) 3-0 in group four openers. The game between Iraq and Korea witnessed the first Iraqi goal in the last minutes of the first half. In the second half, two goals were scored to insure the grasp of the three points and make a pleasing start.

In the game that combined the

Yemeni Youth football team with Thailand, we could realize that the players were held responsible for their unconvincing performance. Thailand scored its first goal in the third minute of the first half and put itself ahead up to the 42nd minute when Abdo Al-Edrisi put the equalizer. Another goal for the Thais was scored through a penalty shot just 20 seconds after Al-Edrisi's goal to close the first half with Thailand ahead once again.

The second half witnessed no goal for either sides till the compensation time

when Jamal Al-Seraihi scored the second goal for Yemen but regretfully it was instantly cancelled without any reason by the Kuwaiti referee, who ran the match in high subjectivity and partiality towards the Thais. Instead of showing a yellow card against the goal striker (Jamal Al-Seraihi) for taking off his shirt after the score of the goal, as stated by the FIFA's by-laws, he (the Kuwaiti referee) violated that and issued a red card on the face of the player to send him out and stop him from playing the coming game. Instead of fairly administering

the match, he proved to be a real opponent of the Yemeni players.

Whom to blame, too?

The team played in a way other than what had been expected by the public especially in the second half when the players seemed to be gratified with result. Moreover, most of them committed an expected number of defense mistakes.

The Coach of the team cannot escape the accountability for the miserable performance that proved to be totally different from what he promised. His con-

ducting unsuccessful substitutions and exchanging the places of the two strikers (Akram Al-Sewi and Abdo Al-Edrisi) added more much misery to the miserable situation.

The wind blew against the will of ships

Sami Na'ash, the former Coach of the national team said that the performance of the team members during the second half of the meeting did not show that the players wanted to equalize the result. Enthusiasm on the part of the players

was entirely absent throughout the second half except for the seconds following the cancel of the goal.

Captain Khaled Affarah, a member of the senior team, stated that the events of the meeting went against the will of the Yemeni public who had been waiting with curious eyes to see the team crowned at the end of the scenario. The first game will be an unforgettable lesson for the youth footballers in the Asian finals as it revealed the weak points of the coaching staff who left the team playing haphazardly.

**26
SEPTEMBER
14
OCTOBER**



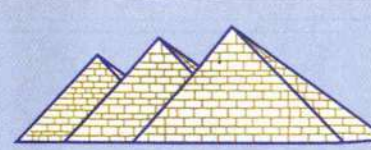
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Ali Abdullah Saleh

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والرابع عشر من أكتوبر.
ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني، ومزيداً من التقدم والإزدهار في ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة،
وكل عام والجميع بألف خير.



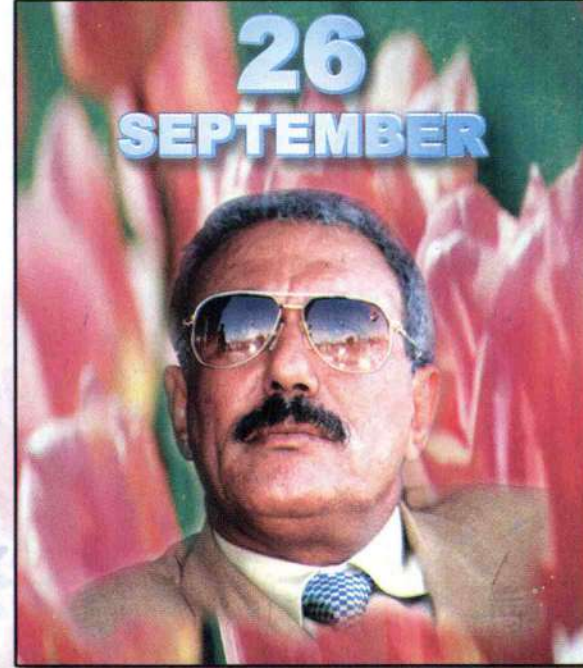
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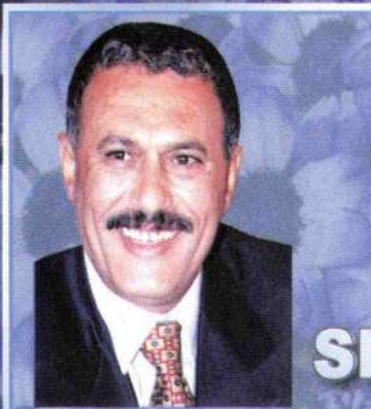


**26
SEPTEMBER**

شركة الأهرام للتجارة المحدودة كبرى الشركات اليمنية في:

• توريد وإنشاء محطات التوليد - توريد وإنشاء خطوط النقل - توريد وإنشاء محطات التوزيع - توريد المحولات والكابلات - توفير قطع الغيار لجميع المعدات الكهربائية (مولدات - محولات - شبكات توزيع) كما تم تنفيذ وتشغيل عدة مشاريع خلال العامين الماضيين ومنها:


(تنفيذ مشروع محطة كهرباء جزير سناء 32 ميفوات ، خور مكسر عدن 12 ميفوات ، عصفرة تمر ، توسعة الريان ببولد 10 ميفوات ، توريد مولد القاع 5 ميفوات).



**26
SEPTEMBER**

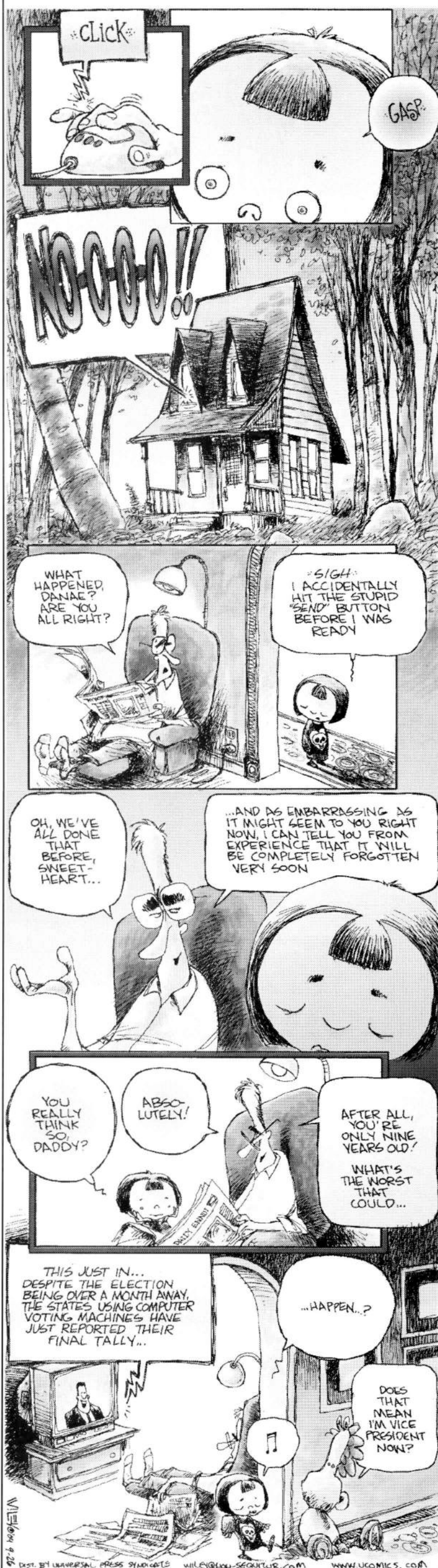
يتقدم مدراء وموظفوا وجميع العاملين في البنك اليمني للإنشاء والتعمير
بأحر التهاني القلبية وأطيب التبريكات
للأخ المشير /
علي عبدالله صالح
وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعين لثورة
السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر، ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني،
ومزيداً من التقدم والإزدهار في ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة،
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THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



BY Eugenia



Aries
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)
A lot will be up in the air today, making it important to be precise and detailed in all you do. Do not let personal problems interfere with what needs to be done.



Taurus
(Apr 20 - May 20)
Put your efforts into a job well done and you will avoid feeling anxious about matters that you have no control over. Your suggestions will help you make improvements.



Gemini
(May 21 - Jun 20)
Not everything will be out in the open, but if you rely on your own steam and knowledge, you will do what's right and best for you. Make personal or physical changes today.



Cancer
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Put your efforts into partnerships, group endeavors or travel. Someone you know through work may cause you grief. Keep your professional and personal life separate.



Leo
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)
You may have to rely on friends, relatives or neighbors to help you out of a sticky situation today. Don't trust someone you know through work.



Virgo
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Business trips or gathering information that can help you get ahead will result in financial gains. You may discover a new hobby through one of the people you meet today.



Libra
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Protect your health and your finances. Someone may try to convince you to spend too much on something that you don't really need. Offer suggestions, not cash.



Sagittarius
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You will be emotional about personal matters. Don't leave yourself in a vulnerable position. Secrets must not be revealed at this time.



Scorpio
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)
The way you interact with peers, colleagues or clients will make a difference to the outcome of a deal you are involved with. Don't take sides; diplomacy will count.



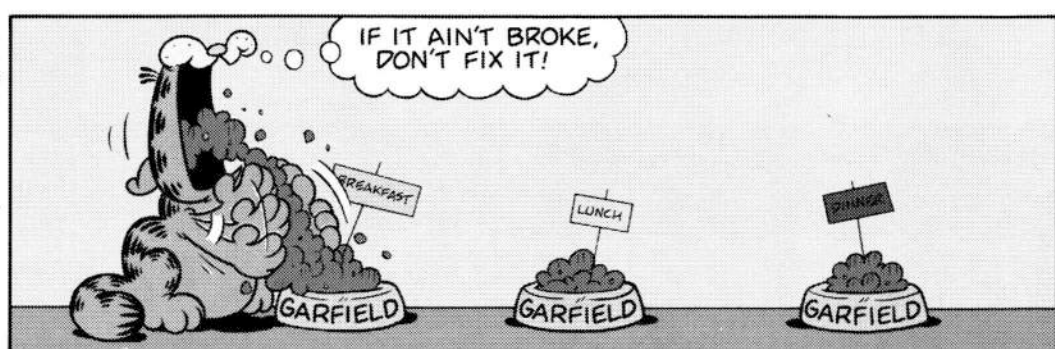
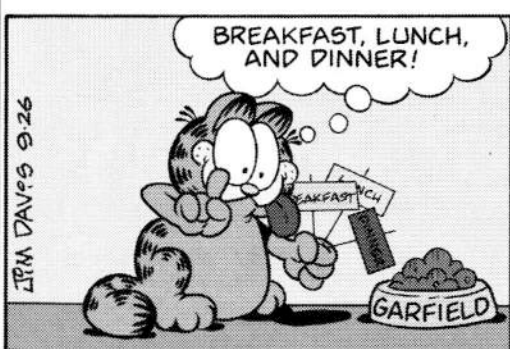
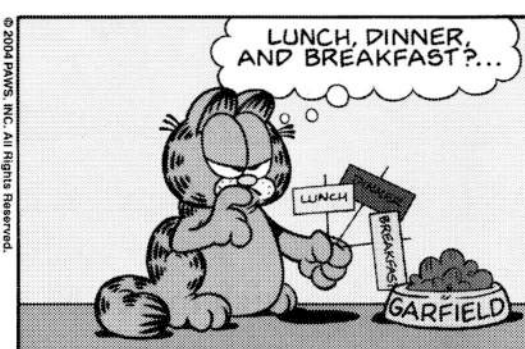
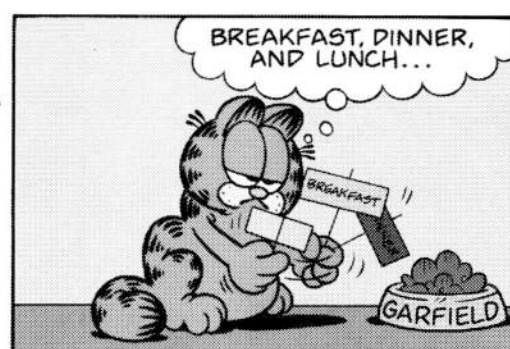
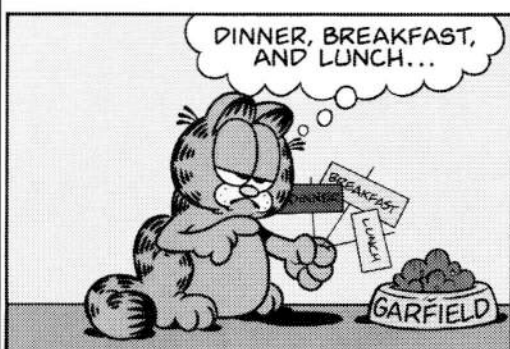
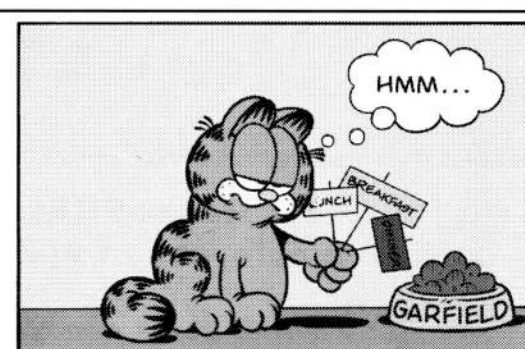
Capricorn
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Nothing will be too much trouble for you, however, if you do put yourself out on a limb, the backlash may be severe. Physical or mental changes will turn out well.



Aquarius
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You may feel uneasy about your personal life. Don't start a discussion that could end up fueling a fire. Play it safe and say as little as possible.



Pisces
(Feb 19-Mar 20)
Travel will bring about new friendships or business connections. You should be able to present and promote whatever you are working on.



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٢- إتاحة- اللغة الإنجليزية وتلفظ

٣- أن يتحاصل على مؤهل جامعي

المجال

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لسكرتير ذو مظهر جيد وخبرة للعمل

المعهد بتدريب المتقدمين في اللغة

للتواصل: ٧١٩.٠٨٢.٠٨٢ (رياض)

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يراتب جيد

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٣٣١٦١

مطلوب: موسيقين مسوقات للم

رائدة (٧/٢)

للتواصل: ٤٧-٤١٧.

مطلوب: فحار مساعد، **milmen**

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٥/٧٦٦٦١١

مطلوب: (٨ سنوات) عدد (٢) ف

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Sana'a hosts 21st book fair



By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The 2004 Cultural Arab Capital hosts nowadays the 21st international book fair, which, Vice-president Abdorabu Mansoor Hadi inaugurated last week. 326 local and international publishers participate in the exhibition with thousands of books in various languages.

The Vice-President was received by the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Khaled Al-Ruwaishan, Faris Al-Sagqaf, Chief of the General Book Authority, Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Secretary of the Authority and Abdullah Al-Wazeer, Chief of the Authority for Folklore and Museums.

After that, Hadi walked across the wings of the fair and exchanged views with publishers who congratulated him on the occasion of the Yemeni Revolution (Sept 26th). While visiting the wings, Hadi received a bronze present from the



Vice-President Abdorabu Mansoor touring Sana'a 21st Book Fair

Kuwaiti wing. He also expressed his regard for such effective and fruitful event that aims at raising the level of Arab cul-

ture, particularly by emulating modern technology.

Hadi also delivered a speech pointing out that the political leadership, represented by HE President Saleh, lavishly offers every sort of support for such vital functions, from which cultural development stems. He also expressed his pleasure over the organization and

participation, which both improve every year. The Vice-President said that he has been following up the inauguration of the book fair since 1997, acknowledging that it has progressed, however Arab publishers and writers are still recommended to translate what is newly issued from western and eastern civilizations.

"Where are we, what is our classification, and is it true that a single country excels the Arab World in supporting such activities?" Hadi wondered, whilst recommending universities, teachers, and students of various majors, to benefit from the fair that will remain for only a short period of time.

In a press a statement, the Minister of

Culture & Tourism, stressed that inaugurating the book fair on the occasion of the Sept. 26 Commemoration proves several things, among which is the unflinching care of the political leadership for books. The leadership considers them as the tool for change, and for shaping the future of Yemen, which increasingly suffers from the illiteracy and poverty inherited from the totalitarian regime of Imamate.

The Minister also confirmed that the increase in the number of participating publishers, the exhibition contents, and the facilities offered by the ministry, reflect the extent of freedom of expression permitted by Yemen under the umbrella of democracy.

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15th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989

When the Wall fell

On the evening of November 9, 1989, the Wall fell in Berlin – and with it the frontier that had divided Germany for 28 years. The very same night, thousands of GDR citizens rushed to the border with West Berlin. Although they had no official order, the border guards opened the crossings. Complete strangers from East and West fell into one another's arms laughing and crying, spontaneously celebrating the opening of the Wall together. Germany experienced a night of jubilation, a night that was to change the world.

Willy Brandt, the honorary chairman of the SPD who had also been a popular mayor in the western part of the city for many years during the period of division, appeared at the Brandenburg Gate the next morning and announced a little later in front of Schöneberg City Hall: "Now what belongs together will grow together." The newspaper headlines read: "East Berliners dance the night away on Kurfürstendamm," "Berlin is again Berlin," "Germany cries tears of joy – we reach out to one another."

In the days that followed, millions of GDR citizens headed westward in their Trabi and Wartburg cars – many of them travelled to the Federal Republic for the first time in their lives, visited relatives, explored cities and landscapes – as well as western "shopping paradises" with 100 marks of "Welcome Money" from the Federal Republic in their pockets.

What had happened? On November 9, shortly before 7 p.m., during an international press conference, Günter Schabowski, a member of the SED Politburo, had hesitantly announced a new, liberal exit rule live in front of television cameras. In reply to a question, Schabowski explained that as far as he was aware the policy would come into effect "immediately, without delay." This news, which had not been approved in that form by the GDR government, spread throughout the GDR at lightning speed and triggered the opening of the border crossings in Berlin – and the fall of the Wall.

This historic day had been preceded by mass exodus from the GDR during summer 1989 (via Hungary and Czechoslovakia) and remarkable demonstrations by the opposition movement within the GDR in which civil rights activists had publicized their criticisms and their demands for the first time (for example, during the Monday Demonstrations in Leipzig). Both these put a massive strain on the GDR's structures, especially when it soon became clear that on this occasion the Soviet Union did not have any interest – unlike in Hungary in 1956, Prague in 1968, or Poland in 1980 – in putting down the protest movement by force. The "gentle revolution" produced a kind of paralysis within the GDR government authorities. On October 18, 1989, the resignation of Erich Honecker, the man who had been SED general secretary and chairman of the State Council for many years, trig-



The German flag flying in front of the Reichstag, the German Parliament. © Bundesbildstelle

gered a collapse of the SED regime that his successor Egon Krenz was also unable to stabilize.

However, the collapse of the GDR and German reunification 11 months later, on October 3, 1990, would have been practically inconceivable without the changes that had occurred in the Soviet Union from the mid-1980s onwards. The new state and party leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, had introduced wide-ranging reforms in the USSR. Gorbachev also forswore the Soviet Union's hegemony over the Eastern Bloc and strove for greater cooperation with the West. Above all, Poland and Hungary seized the new

opportunities. In May 1989, the Hungarians began cutting a substantial hole in the Iron Curtain. The complete opening up of the Hungarian frontier to the West then followed on September 11, 1989.

Following the peaceful revolution in the GDR, the reunification of the two German states moved nearer – an event that many people had no longer believed possible. Before that, however, the first free elections to the People's Chamber were held on March 18, 1990. The main issues during the election campaign were the method for and the speed of the desired unification with West Germany. On May 18, 1990, the Treaty on Economic, Monetary and Social Union was signed. Since the GDR's economic system was no longer capable of reform, the GDR assumed the economic system of the Federal Republic on July 1, 1990. Soon afterwards, consultations began in Berlin on the future shape of a unification treaty. Even before these negotiations were concluded, in a special session on August 23, 1990, the People's Chamber resolved that the GDR should accede to the jurisdiction of the Basic Law on October 3, 1990.

Because of the rights and responsibilities of the four Second World War victor nations towards Germany as a whole and Berlin, reunification could not be accomplished without their consent. In February 1990, the victor powers agreed to joint negotiations with the two German states. The Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to



Opening of the wall. Nov. 12, 1989.

© Bundesbildstelle

Germany, September 12, 1990, regulated the international legal aspects of reunification. Germany thereby regained its full sovereignty.

During the evening leading up to October 3, 1990, thousands of people celebrated the GDR's accession to the territory of the Federal Republic in front of the Reichstag building in Berlin. Finally, after four decades, Germany's national unity was restored.

The Wall fell in Germany – and in the world beyond the Iron Curtain had fallen between East and West. At the end of November 1990, the NATO countries and the states of the Warsaw

Pact signed the first comprehensive disarmament agreement on conventional forces at the CSCE summit in Paris. The Charter of Paris for a New Europe declared: "The era of confrontation and division of Europe has ended" and that "a new era of democracy, peace and unity" had begun. East-West conflict was officially declared over almost exactly two years after the fall of the Wall, on November 7/8, 1991, at the NATO summit conference in Rome. The Cold War was finally consigned to the history books.

(Sources: DHM, dpa)

German Ambassador H.E. Mr. Frank M. Mann to Yemen Times:

"We tell Germans: Yemen has become a safer place"

Born in Friedberg, Hessen of Germany, H.E. Mr. Frank M. Mann, 56, is the current ambassador of Germany to Yemen. Happily married, with a son and a daughter, he is known to have integrated well into the Yemeni lifestyle. "I always try not to miss a qat chew I'm invited to," is how he puts it.

Mr. Mann obtained his bachelor degree from Germany in Law and has worked in the German Foreign Service for more than a quarter of a century, including posts in Rangoon, Sofia, Peking, and Helsinki. In July 2003, he was appointed ambassador to Yemen, and ever since has developed strong relations with both government and civil society and



H. E. Mr. Frank M. Mann

participated actively in promoting relations between the two countries.

In a meeting at the embassy

premises in Sana'a, Editor of Yemen Times, Walid Al-Saqqaf, had the pleasure to interview the ambassador.

Q: Your Excellency, our readers are interested in your personal experience as an Ambassador to Yemen for the last one and a half years. Could you tell us a bit about your impressions of the country and its people?

A: I'd like to start by thanking the Yemeni people whom I have met during my stay in Yemen. I have encountered such warmth and hospitality here that my wife and I felt at home from the first day. And my whole family shares this experience: My son spent a whole year working in Sana'a at the German House, and my daughter was able to learn and work as an intern at the Ministry of Water and Environment.

If you want to understand Yemen you have to travel, and as I am very fond of travelling by car I have covered, in most cases with my wife, some 20,000 kilometers in Yemen between Mareb and Mukalla, Hodeidah and Al-Jowf.

But these experiences would not be worth mentioning had they not been accompanied by hundreds of encounters with Yemenis who welcome you with open arms.

Q: How do you evaluate the work you have accomplished so far, and what expectations do you have to enhance relations in the future?

A: Yemeni German relations did not start with the term of my office and it is not only due to the achievement of a single ambassador if the bilateral relations between two coun-

tries can be assessed to be as excellent as they are between Yemen and Germany. These relations are carried by a sentiment of mutual understanding and respect for the cultural achievements of both partners. They are supported by the good intentions of the political leaders and last but not least by the active participation of many citizens of our two countries.

Q: What makes the relationship between Germany and Yemen unique is that they united in the same year and thus underwent similar challenges. Don't you think that there should be more cooperation and exchange of experiences between the two countries?

A: In 1990 our two governments were confronted with a unique task no country ever had to solve before. There was no blueprint for reunification and in most of the cases it was a question of learning by doing. Nobody in Germany knew about the enormous costs involved in the improvement of a very deficient infrastructure in the eastern part of Germany. Nobody knew what effect it will have to confront a state run economy with government owned companies to the competition in a market economy. Nobody knew about the enormous social costs reunification will bring about.

There has been a proposal to organize a conference where Germans and Yemenis come together and compare their experiences and knowledge gained during this trans-

formation. I consider this a very good idea.

Q: Germany is well known to be a major donor for Yemen, yet it is still behind countries like the Netherlands, the USA, and others. Why?

A: (laughing) Your question shows that we have to work on our publicity. Germany has always been and still is the number one donor to Yemen. The figure for 2004 stands at 42 million euro in bilateral assistance, not including our major share in the assistance channelled through the European Union and international Organisations such as the United Nations Development Program.

This cannot be taken for granted, and especially so during times when the German government and the German taxpayer have to cope with budget deficits and the costs of necessary adjustments in our social system. Every year our Minister for Economic Cooperation has to defend the budget of her ministry in Parliament and has to justify the expenditures of her Ministry to a very critical public. The more progress Yemen makes in structural reforms and good governance, the easier it becomes for us to argue its case at home.

Q: Many governments throughout the world are beginning to focus more on cooperating with the civil society and bypassing governments. Is this a tendency in

Germany too?

A: Today there is hardly an international conference that does not include of civil society. A case in point is the regional conference on democracy, human rights, and the International Criminal Court of Justice, which was held in Sana'a at the beginning of this year. Participation of civil society in this event was very evident.

I do not see a conflict in interests in the cooperation with governments and the civil society. For the best results, we need all kinds of cooperation: government to government, government to civil society, and civil society to civil society.

Q: Unfortunately, Yemen's image has been portrayed negatively in the Western press because of past kidnappings and other security problems. How do you assess the security situation today? Is your embassy trying to help Yemen in clearing this negative image?

A: When I came to Yemen I realized that it is very easy to spoil a country's image but it is extremely hard to regain a good image once it has been spoiled. The German embassy seizes every opportunity to convey good news on Yemen to the German public. The good news today is that thanks to the efforts of the Yemeni government the security situation in Yemen has improved considerably. Government Security forces are more visible in the country and I do not fail to mention to anybody listening that since over two years there has not been a case of kidnapping comparable to former cases.

Personally I was very happy that at the end of last year we were finally able to lift our travel warning for Yemen. I sincerely hope that now that Yemen is back on the map of German tour operators, German tourists will rediscover your amazing country.

Q: The German Embassy has been active in introducing the German language to Yemeni schools. What do you answer people who say that in today's world it is much more important to study English?

A: Germany is one of the world's strongest economies. Besides, Germany looks back at a rich and productive culture of many centuries. Some of the most important works of literature, philosophy and science have been written in German. I think

this explains the increasing interest in the German language in Yemen. German is taught at three Yemeni highschools already, and lessons have just started at another three. 45 new students have signed up for German Studies at Sana'a University this year – a record figure. German is taught to adults at the German House with great success, and we have just opened German courses in Aden, too. English is important, yes. But a knowledge of German on top of that is a very valuable asset for the career of any young Yemeni.

Q: In the past few years there have been mixed reports about the state of the German economy. Is Germany going to lose its place as one of the world's biggest economic powers?

A: The German economy is strong and has maintained its number one rank in exporting. When I walk through the city of Sana'a asking about German goods, I get the impression that they are widely admired and valued. So, there is no worry about the German economy as such. The German society is undergoing deep changes. An increasing number of elderly people need to be supported by a constant or diminishing number of young working Germans. Our social system has to be restructured. These reforms are currently carried out by the government. They are painful, but necessary to keep our economy competitive on the world market.

Q: Ambassador, what has happened to German football? Will we ever see it return to its past glories?

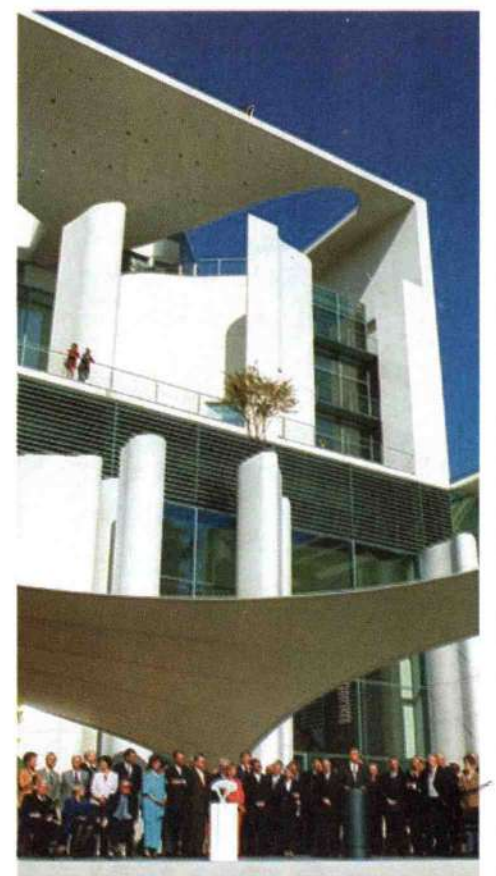
A: I watched the recent friendly game between Brazil and Germany, and what I saw was a very promising young team, which gives good reason for hope of good results in the upcoming world cup in 2006, which is to be held in Germany. We have had a period during which old players dropped out of the team and young players had to be integrated. We now have a new coach, Juergen Klinsmann, who has been one of the legends of football in his time, and he has just started his work with this young team.

So I am sure that the World Cup of 2006 will hold many surprises for all participants including Germany. And I would be extremely happy to also see a Yemeni team participate in this tournament hosted by my country.

3 October: The Day of German Unity

The German National Day recalls the reunification of the country 14 years ago. On 3 October, 1990, the Länder (states) of the former German Democratic Republic joined the Federal Republic of Germany, thus finally achieving what had been the goal of German foreign policy and the wish of the German people on both sides of the Iron Curtain ever since the end of the Second World War.

The historic opportunity for reunification had been brought about by the changes in the Soviet Union and the peaceful revolution of 1989 in East Germany. At the same time, success was only possible with the support of the former Allied Powers, who realised that after 45 years of division, Germany had ceased to be a threat to their security, but had become a reliable partner. For the first time in her history, Germany, situated in the heart of Europe, is surrounded by friends. It is thus natural that Germany as part of a meanwhile 25-member-strong European Union regards world peace as her main foreign policy objective.



The focal point of German government: the Federal Chancellery. © dpa

Envoys of the people

The relations between Yemen and Germany date back far into past centuries. The foundations of exchange between the two countries were laid by researchers, travellers and adventurers who brought back to Germany the news about the legendary empire of the Queen of Sheba. The traveller Carsten Niebuhr (1733 – 1815), a German who conducted land surveys in Yemen on behalf of the Danish king, was the most famous among them. He recorded the results of his research in extensive diaries express-

ing his admiration as well as his curiosity for this country. His book is a milestone in the early exploration of Yemen. For a long time it was thanks to scholars, cartographers, sailors and traders that the relations between Yemen and Germany were promoted. In the beginning of the 20th century a new mutual political interest emerged. This shared interest has grown steadily ever since. The first German envoys were sent to Yemen by the German Emperor at the turn of the century. Since World War II and particularly after the re-establishment of diplomatic links in 1969, the exchange of



Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and President Saleh
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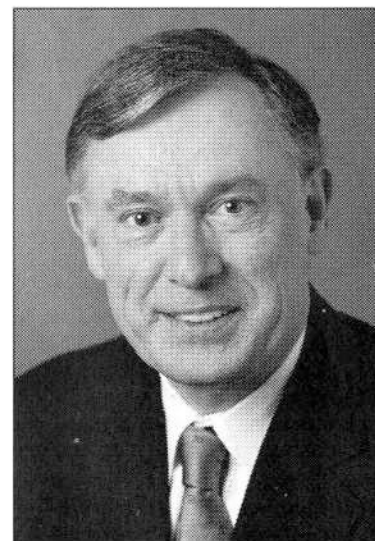
high-ranking official visitors between the two countries has intensified. Until the reunification in 1990 both North and South Yemen entertained close contacts to East and West Germany. The Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh travels to Germany for political talks on a regular basis. As the first German head of state, President Richard von Weizsäcker paid a visit to Yemen in 1992. Moreover, numerous German ministers and mem-

bers of the Bundestag came to Yemen. In February 2004 the Speaker of the German Bundestag, Wolfgang Thierse, stayed in Yemen for three days. The great number of state visits underscores the mutual appreciation and the value of the relations between Yemen and Germany. In addition to official contacts there is an intense exchange between scientists, businessmen, NGOs and on a private level.

Horst Köhler – the new Federal President

Horst Köhler was elected by the Federal Convention to become the new Federal President on May 23rd. The CDU/CSU and FDP candidate polled more votes than Gesine Schwan, the political scientist who had been nominated by the SPD and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen. Köhler succeeded Johannes Rau as the Head of State of the Federal Republic of Germany. His function is largely representative. As a neutral, reconciling force who transcends party politics, the Federal President is expected to comment personally on key political and social issues.

Horst Köhler comes from a humble background. He was born on February 22, 1943, in Skierbieszow, Poland. The same year the Köhler family, who were farmers, fled first to eastern Germany and then, then years later, to West Germany. Horst Köhler then studied economics and political sciences in Tübingen. He subsequently worked in different functions in Germany's Ministry of Economic and Finance from 1976 to 1989. He was Undersecretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Finance from 1990 to 1993. During this period he was closely involved in the process of German reunification, and was Germany's chief negotiator in the talks leading up to the Maastricht Treaty on European Economic and Monetary Union.



Federal President Horst Köhler was sworn into office on July 1, 2004.
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Moreover, as the Federal Chancellor's personal representative ("Sherpa") he prepared the G7 economic summits. From 1993 to 1998, Köhler was President of the German Savings Bank Association (Deutscher Sparkassen- und Giroverband). After two years at the helm of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, he took over as Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on May 1, 2000. He resigned from this post after his nomination for the Federal Presidential election in March 2004. Horst Köhler is regarded as modest and urbane.



Fifty years of Yemeni-German relations: Chancellor Adenauer and the son of the Imam of Yemen.
© Bundesbildstelle

Working to improve people's lives — DED Yemen



DED Development Worker Gabi Zeck and her colleagues at the Health Office Ibb, preparing for a supervision visit to rural health centres in Ibb governorate.

Ever since it was founded in 1963, the Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED) has been pursuing the goal of helping people in developing countries to improve their living conditions. DED, a non-profit organization funded by the German Government, employs professionals as development workers wherever they will be of maximum benefit. Cooperation between the German Development Service and local partners in Yemen commenced in 1979, at the moment 34 specialists are working in the following three fields: In health services, in support to economic development and economic reform, including vocational training employment promotion, and lastly in community participation.

DED offers its support to the partner organizations (governmental partners as well as NGOs) if there is a shortage of qualified specialists in the partner or

if local resources are insufficient to cope with development projects.

A main focus of DED's work in Yemen is water. German support concentrates on the financial cooperation in the urban water supply and sanitation, in capacity-building and the decentralization of operation and management in this sector.

One example of DED involvement are community participation activities in the water sector, in cooperation with GTZ and NWSA.

Information centers were set up in the provincial towns, where community mobilizing workers explain to the public the reforms of the new water supply and sanitation situation, the connection between clean water and health, the new tariff rates and especially how to save water in their daily actions.

So far, by the support of German

Development Cooperation, 22,000 households have been connected to reliable and safe water supply systems. About 7,000 households have been connected to centralized sanitation system including treatment plants. Thus, the hygiene for about 154,000 inhabitants as well as the overall environmental conditions have substantially improved in the following eight program towns: Bajil, Bait al Faqih, Al Mansouria, Zabid, Al Mocha, Yarim, Amran and Hajja.

The future will see more involvement in the water supply and sanitation in other towns. Much has been done to improve access to clean water, a lot still needs to be done. DED is looking forward to this challenge and the opportunity to work in this amazingly beautiful country.

35 years of technical cooperation – GTZ Yemen

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is one of the world's largest consultancy organisations for development cooperation. It is owned by the Federal Republic of Germany, on whose behalf the GTZ undertakes technical cooperation tasks. The GTZ operates on a public-benefit basis and primarily uses public funds. Any surpluses are used exclusively for development cooperation projects. The GTZ is a globally operating organisation with 11,900 staff. At present, more than 2,700 projects are implemented in 130 partner countries. The annual turnover of GTZ amounts to _ 875m. GTZ started its activities in Yemen in 1969. Since then, more than



Launch of water project in Amran

Financial cooperation: KfW Yemen

KfW, as the German agency responsible for the official financial co-operation, has been active in the Republic of Yemen for 35 years.

KfW's key sectors have been roads, water and sanitation as well as commodity aids for a variety of purposes. In recent years, there has been a shift from roads and commodity aids to poverty oriented sectors such as basic education, health care and family planning as well as economic reform and development.

The accumulated financial coopera-

tion commitments for Yemen are approaching EUR 0.5 billion. In spite of a substantial reduction in funding availability worldwide, the commitments for Yemen have been increased in the past years in recognition of the government's efforts towards governance and poverty alleviation.

This has resulted in additional challenges for KfW with respect to donor coordination, sector dialogue and programme approaches. In response to that, in early 2004 KfW has opened an official representation in Sana'a.

60 projects have been implemented at a total cost of _ 283m. The necessary funds were provided by grants of the German government. The overriding goal of Yemeni-German technical cooperation is poverty reduction, based on the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) of the Yemeni government. In addition, technical cooperation supports the efforts of the Yemeni government in the fields of decentralisation, people's participation, strengthening of civil society

and gender equality. Sectorwise, the priority areas of Yemeni-German technical cooperation are water supply, sanitation and water management; basic education; reproductive health, and economic reform/employment generation. At present, GTZ has seconded 20 international staff to Yemen, employs 115 Yemeni specialists, and implements 20 programs or projects in 15 governorates. The funds disbursed amounted, in 2003, to 12.6m.

More than just old stones

The German Archaeological Institute is the oldest of its kind in Yemen

By DR. IRIS GERLACH

German archaeological research in Yemen can look back on a long tradition that had its beginnings in the 1920s. This part of the ancient orient was by no means isolated from the rest of the 'World' known at that time, and it maintained relations with all its neighbours even as far away as the Mediterranean during the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

Since its foundation 1978, the work of the German Archaeological Institute in Sana'a has included archaeological, structural, philological and art historical research in

South West Arabia from the beginnings through to the Islamic period. In comparison with the long history of the whole German Archaeological Institute that will be celebrating its 175th anniversary this year in Berlin, more than 25 years of excavation and research does not seem to be much, but for archaeological research in Yemen it is quite a long time.

The success of the German Archaeological Institute is largely the result of close cooperation with local institutions, in particular with the Yemeni Antiquities Authority (GOAM).

One of the highlights of the work

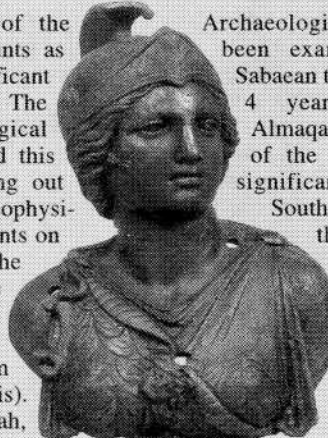
of the German Archaeological Institute Sana'a is its research into the advanced Sabaeen culture in the province of Marib. The cultural remains of the kingdom of Saba are one of the main tourist attractions in the country. Up to now various sanctuaries like the famous Almaqah Temple of Bar'an and the technically unique irrigation systems of the Great Dam of Marib have been examined by the Sana'a branch. Both ruins have been excavated by the German Archaeological Institute, consolidated with the help of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the GTZ and opened up to tourism.

Marib, the capital of the Kingdom of Saba, counts as one of the most significant ancient sites in Yemen. The German Archaeological Institute has prospected this ancient city by carrying out surveys, drillings and geophysical procedures. Statements on the burial rites and the death cult of the Sabaeans are supplied by excavations in the cemetery of the Awam Temple (Mahram Bilgis). In the Oasis of Sirwah, that lies 40 km to the west of Marib, the German

Archaeological Institute has been examining a further Sabaeen town complex since 4 years. The famous Almaqah Temple with one of the longest and most significant inscriptions in South Arabia written by the Sabaeen king Karib'il Watar (beginning of the 7th century B.C.) and other sanctuaries, as well as a palace and a monumental city wall are just a few of the most outstanding

pieces of architecture in this city.

Beyond the boundaries of the cultural area of Saba, individual examinations are being carried out on other periods and cultures in the region of South Arabia. Decisive for the choice of such projects is its exemplary for the culture in question: This applies, for example, to the pre-historic cultures by the Gulf of Aden as well as to its research on the Jabal al-'Awd. Here for the past five years the Sana'a branch has, at the request of the Yemeni Antiquities Authority, been researching an early Himyarite settlement dated to the 1st through 3rd centuries A.D. on the 3000 m high mountain massif.



Hellenistic-Roman import: Bust of Athena, bronze.

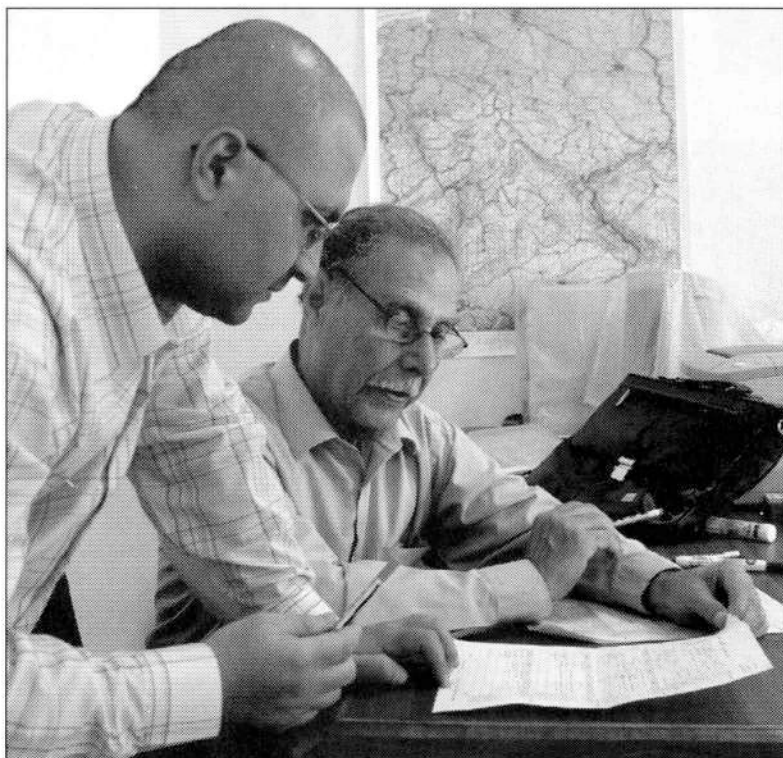
German-trained Graduate returns to Yemen DAAD: A road to excellence

Many Yemeni students dream of studying abroad. With the help of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) 28 year old Mohammed made this dream come true. Seven years ago, when Mohammed started as one of the first students of the newly established German department he never expected that one day he would become a teacher of the very same University.

Being fond of languages Mohammed had decided to take preparatory German classes at a language institute in Sana'a: "My first impression of the German language was that it is very difficult. I had to study, study, study to get an idea about that language", Mohammed recalls. Thanks to his intensive preparation, studying German at university now seemed a bit easier to him. However, the first year at university wasn't too much fun: Almost 90 students had registered for the first German classes and yet there was no library or other teaching material available: "In the second year the whole situation improved. Together with the German DAAD lecturer now we had two native speakers as teachers and I really started to enjoy studying German."

The dream of going to Germany became reality after his graduation at Sana'a university when Mohammed was awarded with a DAAD scholarship that enabled him to continue his studies in the field of *Teaching German as a foreign language* at Kassel University. What he liked about Germany was the green landscapes, cleanliness and nice people. What seemed most curious to Mohammed was that in Germany sunset would not be before 9 pm: "When I looked at my watch I realized that it was already 6 pm. However, it was still as bright as the day. At home in Yemen now it would already be dark. That was a bit of a shock."

Almost three years later Mohammed returned home with an excellent Master degree, a prerequisite that enabled him to teach *German as a foreign language* at Sana'a University: "Becoming a



Mohammed Al-Nasser (left) with his former teacher Prof. Dr. Ali Mansoor (right)

teacher at Sana'a university is a new experience to me. I know the problems students do face when studying German. And I think now as I have studied the methods of teaching in Germany I am able to help them."

Mohammed is one of many Yemeni academics who were supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). As one of the world's largest and most respected intermediary organizations it supports the qualification of the young international academic elite. In addition to that the DAAD encourages the establishment of partnerships between universities in Germany and Yemen. Since 1998, one DAAD-lecturer teaches *German as a foreign language* at the faculty of languages at Sana'a University. Besides instructing, the DAAD-lecturer informs Yemeni students about study and scholarship opportunities in all academic fields at German universities.

The idea of encouraging Yemenis to do further studies in Germany is to enable them to improve their level of qualification and experience. After returning to their home country they may contribute as qualified and well trained staff and managers in the development of their country's future. Thus they become crucial partners in the bilateral cooperation between Germany and Yemen.

The DAAD keeps in touch with its former long-term scholarship holders (Alumni) from Yemen – including those who studied in East Germany (GDR). The number of the Yemeni Alumni has steadily increased. Today they already form three Clubs in Aden, Taiz and Mukalla. In December 2004 the DAAD invites all Yemeni graduates from German universities to take part in the second Alumni conference at Sana'a University.

German culture in Sana'a: The German House

Mahmoud Al-Qasimi * (name fictive) has spent more than eight years of his life in Wuppertal, a German town near to the Cologne area where he pursued his masters studies in plastic engineering. Now back in Sana'a, he feels a bit detached from what has become his second home, Germany.

Abd'allah Al-Huraimi *, by contrast, has never set foot outside of Yemen. A young lad just arrived in Sana'a, he is now looking for new impulses on how to shape his future. Since his childhood, Germany has been a key word that kept raising his attention.

Where can they go, other than of course the internet, to obtain information about Germany and make German friends? – The answer is: the German House.

"The German House for Cooperation and Culture" has become a Sana'ani institution for all those wishing to get in touch with German culture and its reflection of Yemeni culture. Since its re-opening in 2003 on the current premises in Algiers

Street, more than 40 events have attracted Yemenis, Germans, Yemeni-German binationals, as well as the international community.

Typical events are lectures and movie nights, in addition to art exhibitions, literature readings, or events of the NGO-networking type. The relations of Yemeni family networks between Hadramout and the Maldives Islands or the Comoros, this is the place to hear about it. The results of a photographic journey with the aim of depicting a friendly image of the Islamic faith, this is the place to come to. German and international documentary films on the Yemen and the region, here is where they are. A new German feature film with a rejected Yemeni student who later turns to terrorism, this is the place where to discuss false images.

"Our idea is to give an input in every possible field. There are so many things in the field of culture worthy to inform our public about, and we feel the German contribution is very appreciated. At the same time, we would like to maintain our own viewpoint when it comes to the question of how to explain Germans to

Yemenis and Yemenis to Germans and what mutual understanding really is about," says Guido Zebisch, director of the German House.

Intercultural dialogue in fact is the key word: the future plans of the German House therefore are to deepen possible considerations in this regard and to offer workshops on comparative dress codes, typical Yemeni and typical German cultural cues, more inter-religious dialogue, regular bi-nationals' meetings. Also, in no time, there is going to be a re-launch of the institute's web-site with more interesting items like "Book of the Month", "German video club", "Books on Islam in Germany" and much more. "Merhaba" means "Willkommen"!

For a taste come and follow the English and German language documentaries on Oct. 4th 2004 from 4 p.m. onwards. Also on display a poster series of statements on Germany (East and West) now and then. Feature movies, both comedies, on the erection of the Berlin wall as well as the fall of the Berlin wall after 6 p.m.: "One two three" by Billy Wilder (engl. Subtitles), "Sonnenallee" (German).

Higher education in Germany

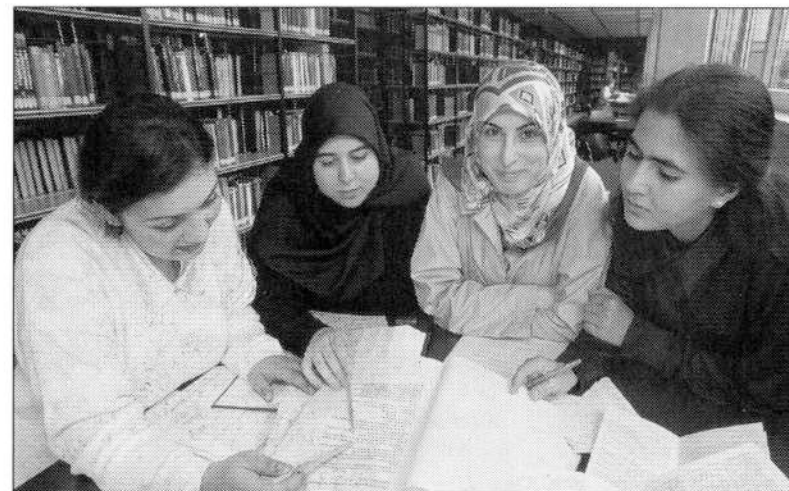
Germany is an increasingly attractive place in which to study, offering international degrees such as Bachelor and Master degrees, courses taught in English and a system which enables credits for attendance and examination passes to be accumulated and transferred.

As the language of introduction at German universities is German, foreign applicants are generally required to present formal proof of a high level of German proficiency. This may be the German Proficiency certificate "DSH" (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für die Hochschulzugangsberechtigung ausländischer Studienbewerber) or a language certificate issued by a Goethe Institute (www.goethe.de/deutschland).

A secondary school leaving certificate is a further requirement for being admitted to German universities. After an assessment test which includes a language test students have to take part in a preparatory course ("Studienkolleg") which lasts one year.

Some disciplines are so popular that students have to be selected according to the best qualifications.

German institutions of higher education do not charge study fees (only registration fees) as higher education is



Students from Turkey at the Essen Comprehensive University. © laif

financed through public funds. However, the standard of living in the Federal Republic of Germany is high and consequently so are the costs. Scholarships are not available for first time students.

Detailed information concerning university studies can be obtained through these websites:

www.campus-germany.de and www.gateway-to-germany.de
Information about scholarships is

available under: www.daad.de

For questions regarding appropriate visas, please contact our consular department. Processing can take up to three months.

For Students wishing to study in Germany the DAAD-lecturer in Sana'a offers a regular student guidance service. Consultancy hours are every Tuesday during the semester between 14.30 and 15.30 hrs in the German Embassy, Sana'a.

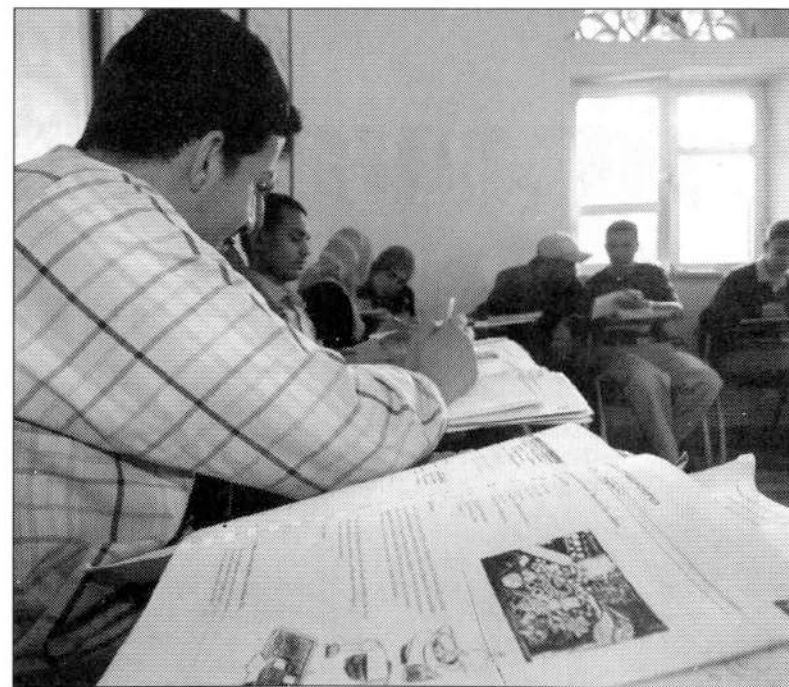
It takes an effort, but it pays off:

Learning German in Yemen

Selwa BinAhmed wanted to follow her father's advice: to learn the language of the country where he used to study. Traditionally, many Yemenis from both North and South Yemen have received their academic or vocational training in Germany, East or West. Over the last few years, however, competition with other Western countries or Malaysia, for instance, has become fiercer. Yet, the German university system still has the advantage of good academic quality, no or moderate study fees and a quota for foreign students – to most programmes, the only matter really is the language.

The German Embassy therefore has been operating at two levels: the German Embassy's Language Programme, and the implementation of German as a Foreign Language at Yemeni Secondary schools, a project in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. Both approaches are designed to prepare Yemenis for an academic career at German universities, as well as to cater for those interested in foreign languages as a means of broadening their horizon.

Courses, which are held at the German House in Algiers Street (Tel. 01-44 24 86, Sat-Wed 3-7 p.m.), cover a solid basic level of six successive classes (called D I – D VI) of 42 units of 45 minutes each. The total equals 250 units rounded off by an international examination called "START 2" (one step before the ZD Zertifikat Deutsch). Since the Language Programme closely cooperates with Germany's international cultural institute, the Goethe-Institute in Cairo, quality standards are strictly applied. All teachers are native speakers with a teaching degree (7 persons) or Yemenis with a teaching degree from German universities or the Goethe-Institute itself (2 persons). Constant monitoring measures for all old and new teachers are in place. Students usually feel comfortable studying here. As compared to German classes in Germany itself, costs are moderate: one level is US\$



German language classes at the German House in Sana'a.

75.

For greater flexibility, successive levels can be interrupted or postponed to any later moment, since all levels are offered during all terms. Also available are individual courses as well as business or conversation classes, and last but not least specialized classes such as German journalistic skills for Yemeni press translators, or, in the near future, creative translation for graduates of the German department of Sana'a university.

The Language Programme also contains Teacher Training: Graduates from Sana'a University's German department wishing to become German teachers at Yemeni secondary schools have to undergo an eight month training course covering a practical and a more theoretical phase in order to be well prepared when taking up their work at the schools. So far, six secondary schools (3 for girls, 3 for boys) with a total number of about 450 pupils are served.

For some of these pupils, the choice of German will pave the way for a more extensive involvement with the German language at a later stage and possibly studies at a German university.

It is worth mentioning that the German Embassy's Language Programme is now operating in the port city of Aden as well. Courses take place in the German Embassy in Khormaksar (Tel. 02-23 21 62, Sun-Thu 9-12 a.m.). "It has been more than a necessity to offer language courses with a recognized certificate in Aden. When young Yemenis apply for German academic programmes, their acquaintance with the German language is usually one of the main criteria for granting or rejecting an application. Up to now, the most successful candidates have been from Sana'a," says Guido Zebisch, director of the Embassy's Language Programme. Now, it is hoped, Adenis will be catching up.

Beethoven in Sana'a

The open air concert of the Europe Philharmonic Orchestra from Magdeburg, Germany, in the Old City of Sana'a was a premiere in many regards: The first performance of such an orchestra in Yemen, the start of the activities for "Sana'a – Arab Cultural Capital 2004", and the first time that Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms were heard in the walls of the venerable Old City of Sana'a. With the support of the Yemeni Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Bustan al-Amri was transformed into an open air stage. Against the backdrop of the Old City, the audience enjoyed one of the most beautiful views imaginable. In addition to the invited guests, hundreds of curious inhabitants of the Old City were attracted and listened in from the Wadi Salla. The German President of the Bundestag, who inaugurated the concert together with the Yemeni Minister for Culture and Tourism, called music a bridge and a language that is understood everywhere. The enthusiasm that was triggered by Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms proved him right – a musical dialogue between cultures.



Young musicians of the European Philharmonic Orchestra before the concert.

Dialogue of poets: Günter Grass in Yemen

Poets in Yemen are celebrated and admired. Günter Grass, a German Nobel Prize laureate, had a double opportunity to convince himself of this fact: His first visit in the year 2002 was entitled "In the Beginning there was Dialogue". Thirty Arab and German writers – among them famous names such as Adonis and Mahmoud Darwish – discussed and argued about literature, society and the influence of politics on writers. The echo was enormous. In January 2004 Günter Grass came back to the country that has given him "moments of bliss". He inaugurated the Centre for Promotion of Mud Construction in Wadi Hadramout that he had initiated himself. He met with indigenous poets on the island of Socotra and, finally, he continued the west-eastern encounter together with a number of



Günter Grass joins his Yemeni friends in a traditional dance.

other writers: "The dialogue continues." Together with his colleague, friend and host, Abdulaziz al-Meqaleh, Günter Grass epitomizes the dialogue which Yemeni and German writers must conduct. Both of them come from a country of writers and thinkers.

A Bear on the Playground: Berlin Garden Sana'a

As a further sign for the outstanding relationship connecting Yemen and Germany as well as the cooperation between the capitals Berlin and Sana'a, the "Berlin Garden" was inaugurated on 24 September, 2004.

The garden used to be a neglected place at Noqum Zone, where garbage and heavy water were accumulated. Now, the place has become one of the most beautiful sights of Sana'a.

The "Buddy Bear", representing the symbol of the city of Berlin, and decorated by the well-known Yemeni painter Dr. Amina Al-Nusairi, who has already painted a similar bear in Berlin, was set up as the finishing touch.

The German Embassy has contributed the lighting system. The inauguration celebration was connected with a "Children's Day" organized in collaboration with the "Hammer Forum" of Germany, who



Children playing on the Berlin Garden playground.

invited hundreds of Yemeni children who had been treated in Germany with the support of this charitable organisation.

The celebration was attended by the Mayor of Sana'a, Mr. Al-Kohlani, and the German Ambassador, Mr. Frank M. Mann.

2006 FIFA World Cup qualifying

Europe on the starting blocks

The players face a long and hard battle before the big kick-off in summer 2006. In Europe, FIFA World Cup™ qualifying

gets underway in mid-August, as 51 nations begin the gruelling task of claiming one of 13 places at the finals. Only Germany as hosts enjoy the privilege of automatic qualification.

The history of qualifying amply demonstrates the trials and tribulations suffered even by the so-called favourites. Drama, surprise and a roller-coaster of emotions from euphoria to despair inevitably lie in store.

The first matchday in the eight qualifying groups falls on 18 August 2004, with a number of the opening fixtures promising a mouth-watering treat for the European football community. Which of the big names is destined to stumble this time around? And which of the supposed dark horses can pull off a shock run to the finals?

Franz Beckenbauer speaks with the voice of experience as he recalls the events of 1990: "Qualifying can be



Wayne Rooney made big strides towards success

tougher than the tournament itself." Beckenbauer coached Germany at the time, but in qualifying they drew twice with arch-rivals and group winners the Netherlands before edging through in second place with a draw and a desperately narrow 2-1 victory over Wales. The Germans went on to claim the

world crown in Italy.

France fared even worse at the time, dropping points in a 1-1 draw with Cyprus before failing to progress after defeats to Yugoslavia and Scotland. Many of the greats have suffered the same bitter fate: England in 1974, for example, as the 1966 world champions failed to overcome both Poland and Wales at Wembley. Spain stayed at home too following defeat in a play-off against Yugoslavia. France were also absent from the 1974 finals in Germany after finishing last in their group against the Soviet Union and Ireland. Indeed, even the highly-rated and honours-laden French have an extremely patchy qualification history. The elite of world football gathered for the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the USA without the French, and the football community shudders at the mention of a disastrous qualifying round. Best not to mention the last two home matches in the presence of a "Blues" fan: On 13 October 1993, they fell 3-2 against Israel, the latter's solitary victory as they finished bottom of the group. The French had another



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo is set for a starring role in 2006

chance, but lost the decisive encounter with Bulgaria 2-1 on 17 November 1993, prompting talk of a national catastrophe. And the most recent example of spectacular failure in qualifying was provided by the fancied Netherlands side in 2002 as they missed out to Portugal and Ireland.

Tension and drama lie just around the corner, with the draw for the group stage throwing up any number of intriguing clashes featuring some of the biggest stars in world football, guaranteed to inspire hope and expectation in their fans and fear, or at least respect, in their opponents. Israel are again in a group with the French, but can Zinedine Zidane keep on supplying the inspirational drive? Poland and Wales stand in the way of David Beckham and his English team. Will it be Pavel Nedved and the Czech Republic or Ruud van Nistelrooy and the Netherlands who claim top spot and the guarantee of a place at the finals? Can Francesco Totti, silky and stylish figurehead for the "Azzurri", satisfy the incessant demands of the "Tifosi"? And who will



step in for Portugal when Luis Figo finally exits the world stage? Or will we see as yet undiscovered but potent talent from Sweden, newly crowned European Champions Greece, Turkey, Denmark and any number of others as the nations set out on the road to Germany?

The hosts will follow qualifying as fascinated spectators on this occasion, busy with preparations for the world showcase event. But even here, the saloon bar punditry is well underway, as committed fans discuss the relative merits of Kahn, Ballack, Kuranyi, Lahm, Schweinsteiger and Podolski. Let the drama begin.

Innovation through excellence

Innovation in the magic triangle of economics, research, politics

Gerhard Schröder is in a hurry. He waves, shakes hands, gives a short speech, praises. Then the limousine whisks him off to the helicopter. The next appointment is waiting. Again, he shakes hands, talks, moves on. Waiblingen, Tübingen, Munich, Leipzig – the Chancellor is touring Germany. He opens a research centre, visits a development centre, celebrates the anniversary of a major high-tech group of companies, speaks to sponsors and scientists. The topic this summer, again and again, is innovation. Germany, says the Chancellor, must again show more enthusiasm for science and technology, more curiosity, more creativity. Gerhard Schröder is promoting a new innovation culture and has made it his personal top-priority cause: together, he says, politics, business and science can get the innovation offensive rolling.

The Federal Government has raised the research budget by more than 20% since 1998, and the target is an increase

in its share of the gross national product from 2.5% to 3% by 2010. A venture-capital fund has been launched, a top-notch panel of experts created; these "partners for innovation" have been meeting regularly in Berlin since the beginning of this year. Together, these leading personalities from politics, business and science want to identify the all-decisive markets of the future.

The word is also getting around abroad that something is stirring in Germany. A survey conducted in the spring of this year of over 500 international companies by the independent accountancy firm Ernst & Young (which has more than 85,000 employees worldwide) ranked Germany third among the best business locations in the world – behind the United States and China. Germany is number-one in Europe. 40% of the companies questioned want to invest in Germany soon; 30% said that Germany would become even more attractive in the future. Good grades for Germany as a business location. "Stern" magazine even

put the story on its front page under the heading "Germany – Your Strengths" and came to the following conclusion: ideal infrastructure, excellent qualifications in the workforce, large domestic market, high productivity and efficient research and development – these are the decisive factors for foreign companies.

Positive Image, Potential Innovation, Potent Investors

And they appreciate these advantages. About 22,000 international companies, including the 500 biggest in the world, are already doing business in Germany. They employ more than 2.7 million people and invested over eleven billion euros in Germany last year alone, according to calculations by Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank. Headline-grabbing billion-euro investments – like the ones by the US chip manufacturer AMD in Dresden ("Silicon Saxony") or the American chemistry giant Dow – are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to investment by foreign companies.

But these news items also reflect a trend: it's not labour-intensive, but knowledge-intensive industries that Germany is increasingly attracting into the country. The country seems to have found a new position in the highly networked international division of labour: as a competence centre of the world economy. Investment is increasingly flowing into high-tech sectors, as well as research and development.

IBM alone invested 220 million US dollars last year in its German development centre in Böblingen near Stuttgart, the biggest outside the US. And the American technology group General Electric (GE) has just opened its first European research centre just outside Munich. 150 international scientists will be studying the technologies of the future in the 50-million-dollar complex.

Good Ideas, Successful Inventions, Favourable Location

Patents are a good gauge of inventive creativity. With 127 triad patents (i.e. successful patent applications in Europe, the US and Japan) per million inhabitants, Germany comes a close second worldwide to Japan. Germany is also second in the world – behind the US – in high-technology products with a 10.6% share of world trade in this field. Mechanical engineering, Germany's biggest industry, is the world champion as far as patents are concerned. "Germany is the lead mar-



Networks: The most modern telecommunication in Europe.

© Bundesbildstelle

ket in automotive engineering," says Professor Hariolf Grupp of the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems Engineering and Innovation Research in Karlsruhe. "Everything that happens in terms of technology in this field happens in Germany."

At the CeBIT, the world's biggest computer trade fair held in Hanover in March, the Federal Ministry of Research gave an impressive demonstration of how marketable innovations can grow out of research projects. 137 patents and 65 innovative products have emerged since 1999 with Federal Government funding. The astonished CeBIT visitors were able to view three-dozen global novelties.

The innovation initiative also seems to be attracting more people to study and engage in research in Germany. 163,000 foreign students registered for the 2003/2004 winter semester, marking a statistical "all-time high." Furthermore, 75 of the 278 Max Planck Society (MPS) institute directors come from abroad. And the Helmholtz large-scale research centres in such strongholds of science as Heidelberg, Darmstadt and Potsdam attract thousands of guest scientists every year. And the trend is continuing.

Wolfgang Ketterle is someone who knows the scene at American universi-

ties well. Eleven years ago, this young physicist from Heidelberg followed a call to the famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Eight years later he was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics; Ketterle had succeeded in merging atoms into a superatom at very low temperatures. In the meantime, he has had an offer to return

to Germany "that exceeded even the possibilities I have here." For the time being, the 46-year-old has decided to stay with his institute. "For purely private reasons," as he puts it. "It was a 51-to-49 decision in favour of the MIT." A very close decision. The air is getting thin at the top

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Volkswagen factory in Dresden.

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Tel. Nr.: 00967 1 464793
Fax Nr.: 00967 1 467544
e-mail: cameleers@y.net.ye



Yemen Hunt Oil Company

*Presents its warmest compliments and
best congratulations to President*

Ali Abdullah Saleh

*On the occasion of 42nd anniversary of
26th September Revolution day,
14th October, and Independence day
the 30th of November,
and to*

*all Yemeni people, wishing them more
advancement and prosperity
under the shadow
of our wise leadership.*

Many happy returns every year.

On their behalf

Mr: Wyndell Caviness

Vice President and General Manager

Mr: Khalid Ali Al-Khader;

Deputy General Manager



شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط

تتقدم بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات للأخ

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون
لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
و الرابع عشر من أكتوبر و ذكرى الإستقلال
يوم الثلاثون من نوفمبر
ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني،
ومزيداً من التقدم والإزدهار في
ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة،
وكل عام والجميع بألف خير.

عنهم

السيد / ويندل كافينس

نائب الرئيس المدير العام

الأستاذ / خالد علي الخضر

نائب المدير العام

YEMEN

HUNT

OIL COMPANY

شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط





The 42th Anniversary of 26th September the Revolution Day comes and Yemen has witnessed tremendous development in all various fields. Our celebrations today come in commemorating a historic event, the foundation of the Republic of Yemen, amid propitious signs of good welfare and prosperity.

On this occasion,

National Cigarettes and Matches Industry Limited - Aden

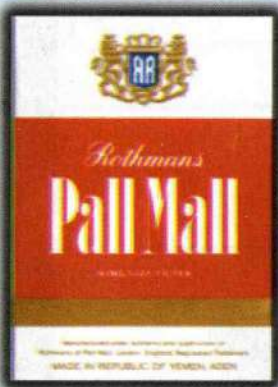
presents its highest congratulations and best wishes to

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

and to the Yemeni citizens, wishing them many happy returns and that Yemen continues to become more developed and prosperous.

Sheikh / Saleh Salem Bathwab
Executive Chairman



تطل علينا الذكرى 42 لثورة 26 سبتمبر وقد شهد بلادنا تطورا كبيرا في شتى المجالات فاحتفالنا اليوم بهذا الحدث التاريخي لثورة الجمهورية اليمنية والذي يهل علينا ببشائر من الخير والتقدم والعطاء، وبهذه المناسبة تتقدم شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة بأسمى آيات التهاني وأعطر التبريكات الى فخامة الرئيس / علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية وقائد المسيرة ورمزها الوحدوي وإلى كافة أبناء شعبنا اليمني الأصيل متمنين أن تعود هذه المناسبة وكل المناسبات واليمن في تطور وازدهار

الشيخ / صالح باثواب
رئيس مجلس الإدارة التنفيذي

National Cigarettes & Matches Industry Ltd - Aden

شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة

مرحباً بأعياد الثورة اليمنية



26
SEPTEMBER

تتقدم شركة أسماك اليمن المحدودة
بأطيب التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة
الأخ / علي عبد الله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية حفظة الله

بمناسبة احتفالات الشعب اليمني بجلول الذكرى 42
لثورة 26 من سبتمبر الخالدة و إلى جماهير شعبنا
اليمني العظيم ، متمنين دوام التقدم والازدهار
للوطن اليمني الذي يشهد انجازات
تنموية كبيرة في ظل رعاية فخامته الحكيمة
وكل عام واتم بخير

مهندس / عبد الله احمد بقشان

رئيس مجلس إدارة شركة أسماك اليمن المحدودة

Yemeni Fish

Presents the heartiest congratulations to the President

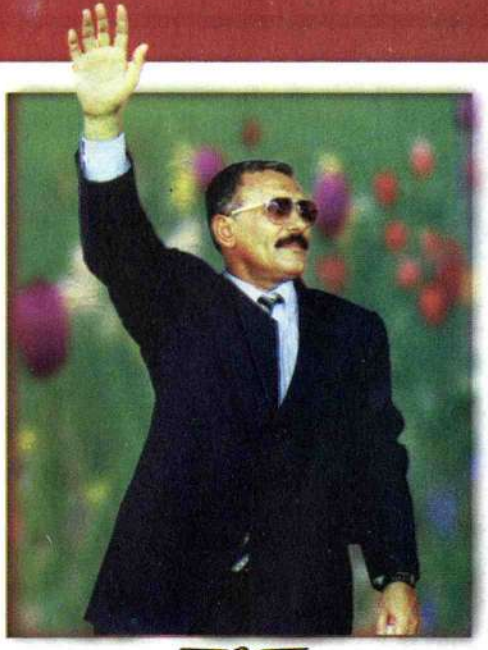
Ali Abdullah Saleh

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

eng. \Abdullah Buqshan
Chairman of the Board of Director,
Yemeni Fish Company

شركة أسماك اليمن المحدودة





26 SEPTEMBER



شركة فاس للتجارة والخدمات

FAS Services & Trading Company

*Presents their heartiest
congratulations to the President*

Ali Abdullah Saleh

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

شركة فاس للتجارة والخدمات
وجميع موظفيها والعاملين بها يتقدمون بأحر التهاني القلبية وأطيب التبريكات
للأخ المشير /

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية - القائد الأعلى للقوات المسلحة والأمن
بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني، ومزيداً من التقدم والإزدهار في ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة،
وكل عام واليمن بألف خير.

عنهم

رئيس مجلس الإدارة الأستاذ / فيصل أحمد شديوه

تقدم شركة دي بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات للأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني، ومزيداً من التقدم والإزدهار لليمن في
ظل قيادتها الحكيمة، وكل عام والجميع بألف خير.

Day Company

Presents their heartiest 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.*



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Project Manager : Eng. Tarek A. Barakat