

Yemen rejects EU decision on Hamas

Huge explosion rocks Jerusalem

BY REUTERS AND YEMEN TIMES STAFF

JERUSALEM, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Palestinian suicide bombers killed at least 10 people and wounded dozens in two attacks in Israel on Tuesday, medical workers and police said.

Four people were killed and dozens wounded in a blast in a Jerusalem cafe. The explosion tore through the Hillel cafe in Jewish west Jerusalem just hours after another suicide bomber killed six people at a bus stop near an army camp outside Tel Aviv.

The militant Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the two bombings in a statement to Al Jazeera television. The blasts followed a wave of Israeli strikes against Hamas leaders and field commanders.

"A suicide bomber entered the cafe and detonated his explosives," Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy said. "Two guards were stationed at the cafe, one at the entrance and one inside."

"Apparently the guard at the entrance saw him and tried to stop him from going in. But he got inside and there was a powerful explosion," Levy said.

A Reuters correspondent saw the bodies of four people on the blood-stained pavement. Medics confirmed the death toll.

"It was a fiery explosion, a great boom. I couldn't hear for a while and I saw people fleeing in all directions," Gideon Cohen, 19, who was working in a nearby restaurant.

"I saw several bodies on the ground. There was panic. It was crazy. The



The destroyed exterior of the Hillel cafe is seen following an explosion in Jerusalem September 9 in this frame grab taken from video footage. A suspected suicide bomber killed at least two people and wounded dozens in a blast at the cafe in Jewish west Jerusalem on Tuesday, police and witnesses said. The explosion occurred just hours after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed six people at a bus stop near an army camp outside Tel Aviv. REUTERS

tables were overturned. There was glass everywhere."

The violence has all but shattered a

U.S.-backed peace plan aimed at ending three years of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Hours before the bus stop bombing, Israeli troops killed two senior Hamas militants in a shootout in the West Bank

city of Hebron. "Innocent Israelis were targeted for a second time in one evening by

Palestinian terrorists," said David Baker, an official in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office.

"The Palestinian Authority is doing absolutely nothing to dismantle its terrorist infrastructure," he said. "This inaction is a direct cause of the terror activity against Israel."

Yemen rejects EU decision

On the other hand, Yemeni government demanded Tuesday the EU to consider its decision of naming the Islamic Resisting Movement Hamas as a terrorist organization. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the decision as unjust, pointing out that this condemnation of Hamas is against the Charter that legalizes resistance against any occupying forces and goes against the stand of the European countries that support movements of resistance to occupation. It pointed out that Yemen is not happy with this decision which, according to the statement, has come as a result of an Israeli pressure. It expressed surprise at the silence of the international community over Israeli aggression on the Palestinians. Yemen demanded also that the EU should take its own responsibility in pressuring Israel to stop violent acts against Palestinian people and that the two parties should start an immediate implementation of the Road Map.

The Yemeni government and opposition political parties denounced the Israeli attempt to kill the Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, considering this act as an escalation of violence.

Saudi Key suspect arrested

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, September 9—Yemeni security forces arrested the Saudi citizen Bandar Abdulhakeem al-Ghamidi, a government official source said Tuesday night. Al-Ghamidi is one of the prime 19 suspects of the al-Riyadh terrorist bombings. The source did not give detail of how he was arrested, where

and when. Al-Ghamidi fled to Yemen along with his wife some months ago. Saudi authorities informed Yemeni authorities of his escape to Yemen and that he should be arrested. Yemeni authorities launched a massive campaign to hunt down for al-Ghamidi and get him arrested. The official source said that preparations are underway to hand him over to the Saudi authorities as Yemen and Saudi

Arabia already signed a security pact on extradition of criminals and terrorists.

Reliable sources told Yemen Times that there is a link between the al-Riyadh terrorist operations and the attackers of the French Tanker Limburg as the Saudi authorities arrested some Limburg suspected attackers at the house of al-Ghamidi in Saudi Arabia.

Continued on page 3

Al-Jawfi to YT:
"The Americans have not asked us to reform school curricula"

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, September 9—Around five million students are supposed to have joined Saturday 14 000 schools in this new academic year. The Ministry of Education has around 240,000 employees, 135,000 of them are teachers and only five thousand of them are well-qualified while the rest are administrative staff. The ministry needs around 50,000 classrooms while the available ones are not more than 10,000.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Abdulsalam al-Jawfi summoned before the parliament last Tuesday to be questioned on his decision of transferring some school teachers and change among school masters which some MPs argued has caused chaos to both teachers and students.

Continued on page 3

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2 Yemenis killed on border

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, August 9 - Two Yemeni citizens were shot dead by Saudi Border guards last Friday when attempting to penetrate into the Saudi land, a local source said Tuesday. Hadi Salem Mastabani, 30 years old, was killed by the Saudi border guards at al-Mustabah area as he was trying to escape to the Saudi territories in the look out for a job. His dead body was taken to Jaizan hospital. Abdullah Mohammed Zuaif was also shot dead by the Saudi border guards to the north of Haradh city. He was using a donkey to carry some wheat to sell it in Saudi territories, making use of the price difference between the currencies of the two countries and getting a good price for his goods.

This is not the first case of its kind as several Yemeni citizens have been killed while trying to pass by the border check points seeking for better job opportunities in Saudi Arabia as they could not get jobs in their homeland. Some Yemenis face several problems at the border line as they fall into the trap of smugglers who sometimes

deceive them and rob them of their money. Even those who succeed in surpassing these check points are arrested in Saudi Arabia and deported back home.

Yemen last week said that two Saudi suspects were arrested by Yemeni authorities and would be turned over to the Saudi government.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia have exchanged the extradition of over 40 suspects, 17 out of them are Yemeni militants affiliated to some extremist Islamist groups including suspected attackers suicide bombing against the USS Cole in Aden on October 12, 2000 and the French Tanker Limburg last October.

Several Yemeni have been caught smuggling weapons to Saudi Arabia. Saudi officials said last month that weapons are smuggled into Saudi territories 'every hour'.

The Yemeni and Saudi governments signed an agreement some months ago to tighten security throughout the borderline and stop smuggling of weapons and other commodities as well as the movement of terrorist militants from the two countries.

Serious and outrageous violations presented in a parliament report:

Fish companies' scandal

Sanaa, September 9 - The report presented by the agriculture and fisheries committee of the parliament last Sunday has shown many violations committed by several companies working in the fishery field in the Republic of Yemen.

The report, which was a result of an extensive on the field survey that covered Aden, Abyan, Lahj, Hadramout, Al-Mahara, Al-Hodeidah, Taiz, and Hajja to seek information and facts about what the fishery sector of Yemen is suffering from, revealed names of five companies that committed violations in the Arabian Sea. Those companies that operated under the supervision of the Fishery Wealth Office of the Aden governorate have committed 181 violations. Those violations were in the form of having fishing ships and boats of the said companies throw

away around 93,250 tons of dead fish to the sea.

In the Abyan governorate however, 17 fishing boats have thrown on 13 April 2003 alone a huge amount of dead fish along the coast of Abyan and the approximate amount was estimated at 150 tons. The report said the boats belonged to local and foreign companies.

As for the Hadramout governorate, the report confirmed that it counted 195 violations by local and foreign companies. "Al-Mahara governorate however witnessed 40 violations by three companies" the report said.

The report confirmed that the violations are committed in similar fashion throughout the country in the form of throwing away dead fish to the sea or using illegal fishing nets that contain metal chains on their edges in order to grab the largest

amount of fish possible.

However, the report indicated the seriousness of the situation by saying that such violations would result in the diminishing of fish reservoir and depriving the state from potential hard currency income. Furthermore, they would also result in the inability of thousands of normal fishermen from fishing traditionally to earn their source of living. It would also result in increase in the price of fish in local markets because of their decreasing number.

The report recommended not to renew any contracts for commercial fishing companies and stopping the activities of the violating companies and forcing them to pay suitable compensation to traditional fishermen and to the state, which has suffered from the mentioned violations tremendously.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

Do you believe that the new Palestinian prime minister Qurai' will do well?
 - I believe he will do better than his predecessor. 39%
 - I believe he will do worse. 33%
 - It is hard to tell. 15%

LAST EDITION'S

QUESTION:

Do you believe that the resignation of Palestinian PM Abbas is better or worst for the peace process?
 • It makes no difference. 39%
 • It is definitely worse. 33%
 • It is definitely better. 15%
 • It depends on his successor and other factors. 13%

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

First General Women Conference wraps up

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 10 September - With the slogan "Towards activating Women's participation in development" the Yemeni Women Union (YWU) concluded its 3-day conference on Wednesday 10 September in Sanaa.

President Saleh attended the opening session and expressed his satisfaction for launching the conference, which is the first of its kind to be held after unification. The President considered the YWU the first and most active women civic society in the republic and thanked the former union for its efforts.

"We are looking forward to seeing women's efficient and successful participation and witness them take their key role beside their brothers towards developing their country. We want effective participation of women in elections just as used to be in the last three elections. Yemeni women have taken their place in Yemen's society as teachers, doctors, ambassadors and members of parliamentary. This is a clear testimony of Yemen's credibility to adopt women issues seriously and give them their rights. We believe that Yemen needs the participation of women, just as it requires the participation of men." Saleh said.

The President also called upon all political parties and organizations to give women their rights and promote them to become more active in the social, cultural and political arenas. "Obviously, we have

noticed that some political parties and organizations remember women only during elections and polling days," he said.

Ramzia al-Eryani, the head of preparatory committee of the conference said, "This is the first conference Yemeni women have had since unification. This conference comes to crown Yemeni women's efforts and to restructure the YWU and update its bylaws. I am proud to say that YWU has expanded its branches to include all 20 governorates."

She added, "Through this conference, we are going to evaluate the elections that were carried in 20 provinces to elect new executive and administrative staffers as well as allow membership to all Yemeni women."

She concluded "We thank President Ali Abdullaah Saleh for his permanent support for women and their issues and in defending their rights"

The conference also evaluated the activities of the YWU during 1999-2000 and YWU's financial reports were exposed.

Female delegates from different Arab countries represented their unions in the conference and talked about their experiences and achievements in their own countries.



1st workshop on money laundering wraps up



By Yaser al-Mayasi
Yemen Times Staff

Sanaa, September 9 - Organized by the Central Bank of Yemen and the Banking Studies Institute, the first workshop on money laundering concluded its activities on September 8.

The workshop, which started on September 6, had discussed a number of vital issues related to money laundering in some Yemeni banks and other financial establishments.

The workshop focused on three main standpoints:

1-Getting acquainted with money laundering Law No. (31) for 2003 as well as mapping out an applicable mechanism along with taking into consideration the Arab, regional and international efforts made to fight money laundering.

2-Reviewing means and ways of money laundering.

3-Gathering information related to money laundering using up-to-date technical ways.

During the 3-day workshop, most of the financial establishments, economists, and those who are interested in this issue

took part in the workshop.

The workshop came after the parliament had ratified the money laundering law on March 2003.

Yemen is among those countries, which have adopted strict procedures to fight money laundering and terrorism. As a result, a comprehensive report on money laundering was presented to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Yemen has been ranked as the 24th country in the world to present its report to the IMF in this regard.

On its part, a number of banking organizational procedures have been adopted by the Central Bank of Yemen to fight money laundering and other fundraising activities.

This also includes providing banks and financial establishments with lists of all clients according to the United Nations resolution No (1373) with regard to freezing banks' balances.

A leaflet was then published and distributed to all banking establishments operating in Yemen with the aim of making use of financial resources.

For more on money laundering see page 9

Announcement

Requires a registered Auditing Office/Consultant for a reputed organization on a short term contract, reviewing financial policy and procedures, Asset Management and financial administration for the year 2002 and requires to perform the Auditing statements both in English and Arabic Language.

A deserving Office can contact us for further details as early as possible either by Tel: 967-4-242306/7/9; Fax No. 967-4-242308 or by e-mail id:nlep@y.net.ye

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Arrest of Taiseer Alouni to be one of the topics of a lecture on: Al-Jazeera: Experience of an Arab free media enterprise

Sanaa, September 9 - A lecture will be hosted by the Institute for Media Training and Rehabilitation on "Al-Jazeera: Experience of an Arab free media enterprise" to be given by Mr. Samir Khader, media expert of Doha-based Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel.

The activity, which will be a side event of the regional conference "Role of the Free Media in Economic Development", will take place at 19:00 on September 14 at the Media Center in Sanaa, and will focus on the challenges and difficulties faced by Al-Jazeera because of its independent stance on political issues, especially after 911 events in the USA and the two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Furthermore, the activity is expected to focus on the pressure exerted on Al-Jazeera's journalists, especially those who are accused of links to Islamic organizations such as Taiseer Alouni, who is still in custody in Spain, and others who have been attacked or arrested recently.

Kuala Lumpur & Jakarta Package Special Summer Offer

Hotel Names	City	07 nights 08 days	Single room	14 night 15 days	Single room	Accommodation bed & breakfast
Istana hotel	Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia	\$680	\$890	\$910	\$1330	Category *****
Park Inn International	Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia	\$595	\$700	\$695	\$900	Category ***
Jakarta Hilton International	Jakarta/Indonesia	\$695	\$920	\$930	\$1360	Category *****
Aston Atrium	Jakarta/Indonesia	\$770	\$930	\$865	\$1185	Category ****

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Putrid goods and smuggled Panadol caught

Taiz, 9 September - Environmental Health Administration in the Cairo District of Taiz headed by Mr. Tariq Al-Ashwal carried out a massive campaign to stop any stores that sell outdated nutritious goods or smuggled medicine in the district. The campaign

was concerned with the damaged and putrid goods that had expired and yet being marketed to the local people. The campaign was also concerned with the expired medicines - especially Panadol, the common sedative, most of which have entered the market

through smuggling from unknown sources.

Sources at the administration said that pharmacy owners refused to buy these medicines hence they found a place in some groceries and supermarkets. The authorities have issued

instructions to trace all such products and confiscate and destroy them. It also issued a warning to pharmacies and commercial shops not to deal with these defected goods and with smugglers, who carelessly and invariably cause harm to the citizens carelessly.

Graduation ceremony held

A graduation party was held last week by the Attaqamul Charitable Society in the field of computer. This is considered to be the second batch within the society's educational program.

The former batch was in the field of the women's dressmaking.

At the beginning of computer course trainees graduation ceremony the chairwoman of the society Hana Shamsan delivered a short address congratulating the graduates and reviewing the society's activities. She confirmed that the society's message was serving women and offering them various experiences especially illiteracy eradication and

holding training courses on various useful professions and handicraft.

Several training courses are held in the fields of embroidery, sewing, first aids, as well as raising environmental awareness in order to enhance woman's role in society and taking care of family with regard to social, health and sport.

The graduation ceremony was attended by Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah, the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry undersecretary, and two assistant undersecretaries of the same ministry Ms Nour Babbad, and Mr Lutfi Allaya in addition to deputy of the capital Secretariat Abdulmalik al-Ridha.



Libyan office in Yemen celebrates AU anniversary

Sanaa, September 9 - The Libyan Arab Brotherhood Office in Sanaa celebrated Libyan Independence Day in a reception held on the 8th of September at the Taj Sheba Hotel. The event, which was attended by many diplomats, intellectuals, media people, and prominent personalities, marked the 34th Libya Revolution anniversary which dates to the first of September 1969.

The event was also an occasion to mark the fourth anniversary of the foundation of the African Union (AU), which Libya and its leader

Muammar Al-Qadhafi had a key role in accomplishing.

On 9.9.1999, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of AU issued a Declaration (the Sirte Declaration) calling for the establishment of the AU, with a view, inter alia, to accelerating the process of integration in the continent to enable it play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing multifaceted social, economic and political problems compounded as they are by certain negative aspects of globalization.

Important note

The name of Mr. Adel al-Hadi was mistakenly mentioned in the front page article of last Monday's edition as one of those people who were arrested in last week's Grand Mosque incident. We thank him for his correction and present our apologies to him and to our readers.

Training course on art of reportage

Media institute for media qualifying and training has begun Saturday a training course on the art of press reportage lasting till September 17.

17 participants represent a number of private and official media institutions are taking part in this training course.

The training course aims at getting trainees acquainted with required skills to prepare and make press reportages, specially field skills on scientific bases responding to developments of journalism profession.

Continued from page 1

Saudi Key suspect arrested

In addition, the Saudi security authorities are expected to hand over some Yemenis suspected of having links to al-Qaeda in a week time. These militants whose number is not yet known were arrested following the terrorist operations at al-Riyadh. Reliable sources said that the Saudi authorities got very valuable information while interrogating them on dangerous terrorist militants inside Saudi Arabia.

Yemen last week said that two Saudi suspects were arrested by Yemeni authorities and would be

turned over to the Saudi government.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia have exchanged the extradition of over 40 suspects, 17 of them are Yemeni militants affiliated to some extremist Islamist groups including suspected attackers suicide bombing against the USS Cole in Aden on October 12, 2000 and the French Tanker Limburg last October

Al-Jawfi to YT:

The minister defended his decision of having uniform dress for all school students starting this year. He told Yemen Times that his ministry distributed textbooks to schools and that

by the first week of October all textbooks will be available at all schools. He said that some teachers have been "redistributed teachers within governorates and districts in order to ensure that all subjects are covered by teachers in all schools." He denied that some of these teachers and headmasters were moved from their schools due to their political affiliation, indicating that his ministry has agreed on such criteria. "Never, never. That is not correct at all. We have put some criteria for this process. This is done according to the interest of students and schooling in Yemen at large. Hating and loving does not exist in our work," he pointed out.



World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP) Vacancy Announcement

The WFP is seeking to fill following vacancies in its Offices in Sana'a and Hodeidah.

Data Entry Clerk

Under the direct supervision of the logistics assistant and ICT assistant, the responsibilities of the Data Entry Clerk shall include but not be limited to the following:

- In accordance with established procedures, thoroughly check the information recorded in hard-copy documents for clarity and correctness.
- Enter data from documents, reports into the office's commodity tracking database system.
- Prepare reports as frequently and promptly as required.
- Maintain filing systems and archives for swift and easy retrieval of information.
- Analyze data from WFP's information systems and report any discrepancies or irregularities to the data manager.
- Send and receive data transmissions as requested to do so by the immediate supervisor.
- Travel within the country as required.
- Share knowledge and experience with other staff members and work to foster a team spirit.
- Perform any other related duties requested by the immediate supervisor.

Qualifications:

- Diploma in computer sciences or related fields.
- At least two years' experience as data clerk or equivalent in a company, national or international organization or NGO.
- Good working knowledge of the MS-DOS and Windows operating systems.
- Good working knowledge of Microsoft software applications, particularly MS Office.
- Knowledge of Oracle or another relational database management system.
- Fluent in English and Arabic.

The post is reserved for Yemeni nationals only. Female candidates meeting requirement are encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should submit their applications along with their detailed CV's in English to the **WFP Representative** no later than 20th September 2003 in closed envelope clearly marked from the top of the outside "Application for Data Entry Clerk Post" specifying whether applying for Sana'a or Hodeidah at the following address: **UNDP/WFP Building, Off 60 Meter Road, Sana'a or PO Box 7181 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Nexen Scholarships - Program III

As a reflection of their friendship and commitment to assist in Yemen's human resource development, Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen., and its Masila Block Partners, Occidental Petroleum and Consolidated Contractors International Ltd. (CCC) are pleased to announce a further 10 scholarships for post secondary study in Calgary, Canada. The Canadian Nexen PetroleumYemen scholarship program was originally initiated to celebrate their 10th anniversary in Yemen. This highly successful initiative received a third extension in 2002 to include an additional twenty scholarships (ten scholarships a year over a two year period) will be awarded by the Scholarship Steering Committee to deserving post-secondary graduates).

1. The final ten (10) scholarship recipients will commence their respective study programs in September, 2004 or September 2005.
2. Post-secondary study programs currently available for this scholarship competition:

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

4 Year Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree Programs

- B.Tech - Computer Engineering Technology
- B.Tech - Computer Technology
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University of Calgary

4 Year Degree Programs

- B.Sc - Oil & Gas Engineering
- B.Sc - Electrical Engineering
- B.Sc - Civil Engineering
- B.Sc - Chemical Engineering
- B.Sc - Mechanical Engineering
- B.Sc - Manufacturing Engineering
- B.Sc - Applied & Environmental Geology
- B.AccS - Accounting Science
- B.Comm - Business Administration
- B.A - Economics

3. To qualify for a scholarship all applicants satisfy the following requirements:
 - Must be a Yemeni citizen who has resided in Yemen for the past two years.
 - Aged 17-22 years
 - Must have good English language skills
 - Minimum of 80% overall average on secondary school certificate
 - Committed to undergo up to 400 hours of Yemen based English language training (if necessary).
 - Committed to return to Yemen after completion of his/ her studies in Canada .
 - Submission of all the required documents that are requested in this announcement .

Selection Process:

Candidate selection will be based on fulfillment of the above noted requirements, a personal interview and satisfactory performance during the Yemen based English language training sessions. Both the University of Calgary and SAIT will not grant formal admission to their respective institutions until the scholarship recipient achieves a TOEFL score of 220 (computer based exam) or 560 (paper based exam). Applicants who are in a position to sit for the TOEFL/ITP exam are encouraged to do so prior to submitting their applications.

Required Documentation:

- An application form completed in English
- Copy of the secondary school grades or transcript
- Copy of personal ID card or passport
- Six certified passport sized photos .

4. Scholarship application forms can be obtained from the following application distribution/collection centers:

AMIDEAST, Inc.
Algiers St., House No. (66)
Sana'a - Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 01-400279/80/81
Contact Person: Mr. Najeeb Al-Sharafi

AMIDEAST, Inc.
Khormaksar
Aden
Tel: 02-232345/236953
Contact Person: Mr. Shakeeb AbdulHamid

Mohamed Ali Othman School:
Near Road Constr. Authority
Taiz,
Tel: 04-223671/2
Contact Person: Ms. Samar Ahmed Moh'd

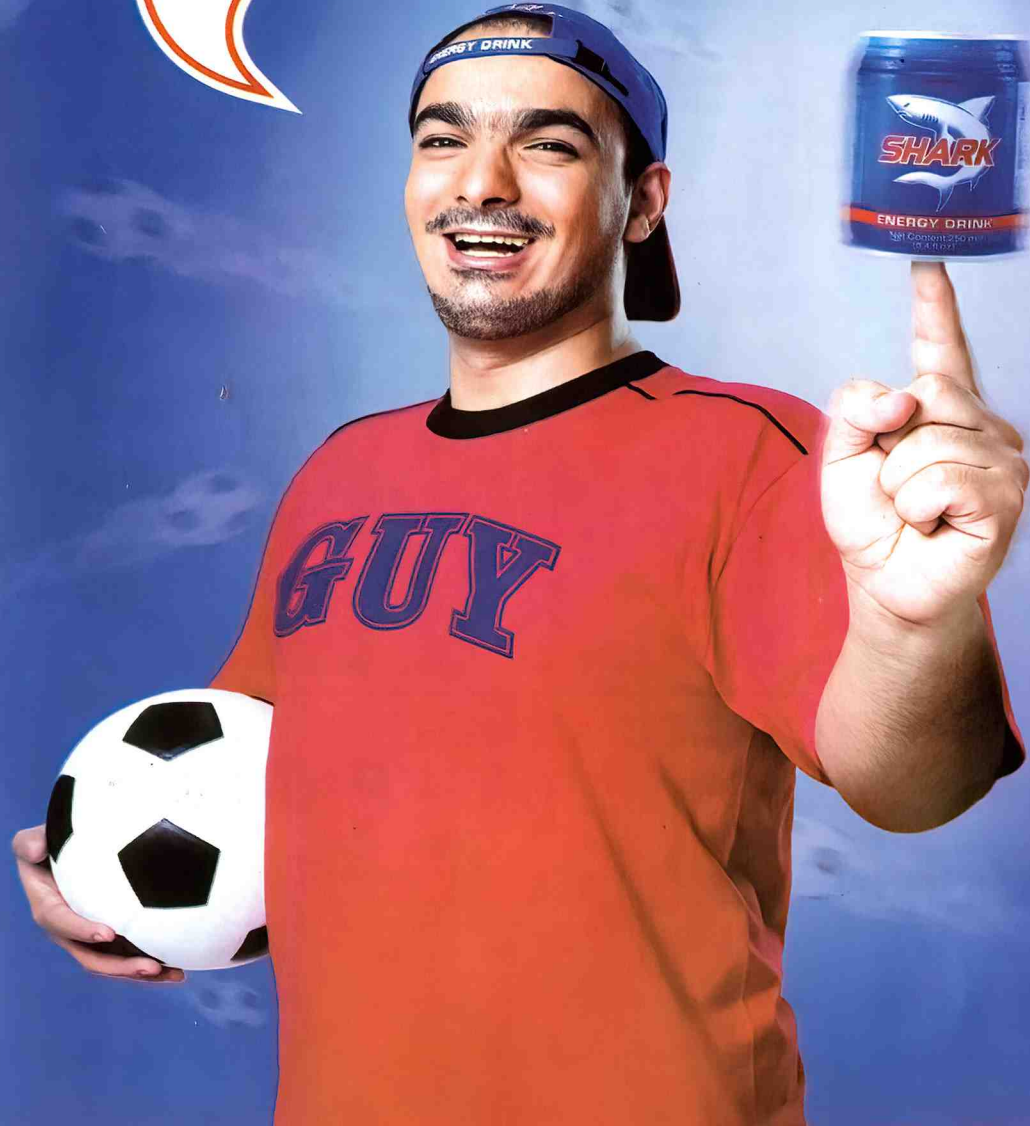
Hadramout University:
University Campus, Al-Fowah Area
Mukalla, Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 05-360867/8 Ext. 112
Contact Person: Mr. Anwar Khamis Bal'ala

Hodeidah University
Hodeidah
Tel: 03-227500
Contact Person: Ms. Maisa Al-Baidhani

5. Completed application forms and requested documentation must be returned in a sealed envelope to any of the above noted application distribution/collection centers. Failure to comply with any of the information requirements will result in disqualification.
6. The closing date for accepting applications is October 1, 2003. Under no circumstances will applications be accepted after that date.
7. The Scholarship Steering Committee acting on behalf of Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen and its Masila Partners, is committed to give all Yemeni scholarship applicants equal, fair and competitive opportunities.

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أوقات العمل : الشركة في خدمتكم من ٨:٠٠ صباحاً وحتى ٥:٠٠ مساءً من السبت وحتى الأربعاء
الخميس من الساعة ٨:٠٠ صباحاً وحتى ١٢:٠٠ ظهراً

شركة جرين بين للملاحة - الحديثة
شارع الميناء الحديثة
تلفون :- ٢٠٣٤٥٩ / ٢٠٣٤٥٩ / ٢٠٣٤٥٩
فكس :- ٢٠٣٤٥٨ / ٢٠٣٤٥٨

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Crime rate in Aden... sharp drop

BY MOHAMMED SAEED AL-MIKHLAFI
ADEN BUREAU

“**S**ince January and up to June 2003, statistics indicate that crime rate in Aden has seen a significant decrease, an achievement credited to security forces of Aden and their great success in detection and fighting of crimes.”

This was the statement given to Yemen Times last week by staff Brigadier General Mohammed Saleh Tareeq chief of security police of Aden governorate.

General Tareeq explained that the number of reported and registered crimes since January and until June 2003 had remarkably decreased, pointing out that the total number of criminal issues throughout the governorates were 1111 during the mentioned period, which is a relatively small number compared to the past.

Of most prominent cases were of bodily harm; 245 cases, taking alcoholic liquor; 309 cases and then the money pilfering issues which were 8 cases.

On other crimes registered in the governorate in the same period were 71 house burglaries, 51 cases of stealing things from cars, such as bags, tape-recorders and mobile phones, stealing of 34 cars, of which 28 had been recaptured and handed back to their owners. Other registered thefts were 27 shop thefts, embezzlement cases of public property and in companies amounted to 8 cases.

The total financial damage resulting from criminal issues during that period amounted to around YR 109,996,608 in addition to the value of the stolen cars.

General Tareeq confirmed that security forces were quite successful in detecting crimes and arresting criminals and the captured criminals perpetrated those crimes were 1818 persons and so far only 73 are still at large.

He said there were some incidents resulting from work injuries, suicide, drowning and fire were reported as totaling 127 cases while in the last year they were 141 cases showing a 9% decrease. Fifty seven death cases had also been reported which were 10 females. And 58

people were harmed out of which 9 were females. While incidents of work injuries were 24, 19 cases of attempted suicide were reported, only 6 were carried out.

Concluding his statement to the YT, general Tareeq said that through the statistical report on crimes there were 1516 arrested criminal cases reported, a 95.5% of the total cases while the number of cases that reached the general attorney was 1550 which constitutes 97.4%.

This decrease in crimes is credited to the increase in security awareness of citizens of the governorate and also to the efforts that are being exerted by the police as well as the support from the ministry of interior through its providing of a good part of security work requirements needed for combating crime and arresting criminals.

Colonel Abdulhadi Mohammed Ghalib, head of the criminal investigation department in Aden told the Yemen Times that: “There is continuous coordination between us and the international organizations for fighting drugs. And Aden is considered the most important city in Yemen due to its strategic location and because it is the winter and economic capital.”

Aden today witnesses a significant development in all aspects, for there is construction development and tourism-wise. Against those developments we must congratulate ourselves for accommodating and moving on with this rapid development and the development that comes through Arab and foreign labor which might bring unwanted behaviors to our society. And some might come through cases of fraud and illusionary companies, so in front of all those aspects the criminal investigation people and the security body must play a vital role in combating crime and in securing peace for the society and fighting crime before it happens.

Yemen Times has put some questions to colonel Ghalib to which had answered openly.

Q: What is the role of the criminal investigation officer in fighting crime before it takes place?



Brigadier General Mohammed Saleh Tareeq

A: In the beginning I welcome the Yemen Times and we are happy with its communicating with its readers. The criminal investigation body is a specialized security agency dealing with cases that concern citizen's life, property and honor. The criminal investigation team is present in all the police stations in the governorate and works actively through

the security instruments. Many precautionary measures are taken by the investigation body through regular security tours of some areas, some of them on foot and others in police cars. We work collectively with the health, education and al-Awqaf offices in order to put an end to the epidemic of crime.

Q: What is the relation between you and the health ministry office in Aden regarding medicines and drugs that contain stimulant and sedative components?

A: We have close connections with the health offices and we have arrested people of such cases and found out that most of them are committed by people from the African Horn countries. We have discovered some AIDS cases and homosexuals and drug addicts. All have been reported and sent to court and the general attorney, an example of which was a case where a Sudanese-Yemeni cross-bred man was caught red-handed in possession of 22 kg of hashish and deserved a 25 years imprisonment sentence.

Q: Carelessness could be found in some health services establishments, what is your role in spreading precautionary awareness regarding carelessness in getting rid of disposables that might lead to infections and epi-

demical diseases?

A: As for medical waste and used disposables that might lead to infection, then there is a special section in all hospitals for such cases. Also there are medical procedures taking place in the health office and hospitals management and there is a representative of the criminal investigation present, all working on curing the patient. However in many cases it is a hopeless case and so secure and stern procedures take place in order to protect the society and other healthy people from this infected person.

Actually we realize that there is some carelessness in some health associations such as the non commitment of some pharmacies and medicine stores that sell off medicines that are harmful and could be considered as drugs without medical prescription, seeking profit. But those are liable to legal accountability and health inspection authorities.

Q: Economic and social straits might lead to spread of crime. How do you deal with them?

A: As for the economic and social conditions which our society and the Arab world in general are living, we realize there is a great economy down fall and in such situations crime is a natural consequence regardless of the type and form. But here we in Yemen are still doing fine relatively and the crime rate is relatively low. We don't suffer from any alarming phenomena and our statistics indicate a decrease in the crime rate especially in the governorate of Aden.

Q: A Saudi Arabian security delegation on combating drugs has recently visited Yemen, how is the two countries' cooperation in fighting drugs?

A: There is continuous coordination between us and Arab and international organizations through the Interpol in Sana'a. And lately we have been visited by a delegation from the KSA security body commander Sultan al-Harithi head of the drugs combating department at the Kingdom's ministry of interior. In his visit he discussed with the criminal investigation officers in Sana'a and he visited us in Aden and had a sightseeing tour of the city, especially tourist utilities and monuments of the city. There is continuous coordination between us and the KSA on combating drugs and limiting its spread and smuggling through neighboring countries.

Q: Last comment?

A: I would like to thank the wise political leadership represented by president Ali Abdulla Saleh and also leadership of the interior ministry. And I especially thank the great citizens who have displayed great cooperation with the police in many cases and investigations and have the greatest role in establishing peace and security.

Also that awareness that is present among citizens of this governorate would enable them to embrace order and law and absence of arms carrying phenomenon. All these are factors reducing and curbing crime and help prevalence of security and stability in the governorate.

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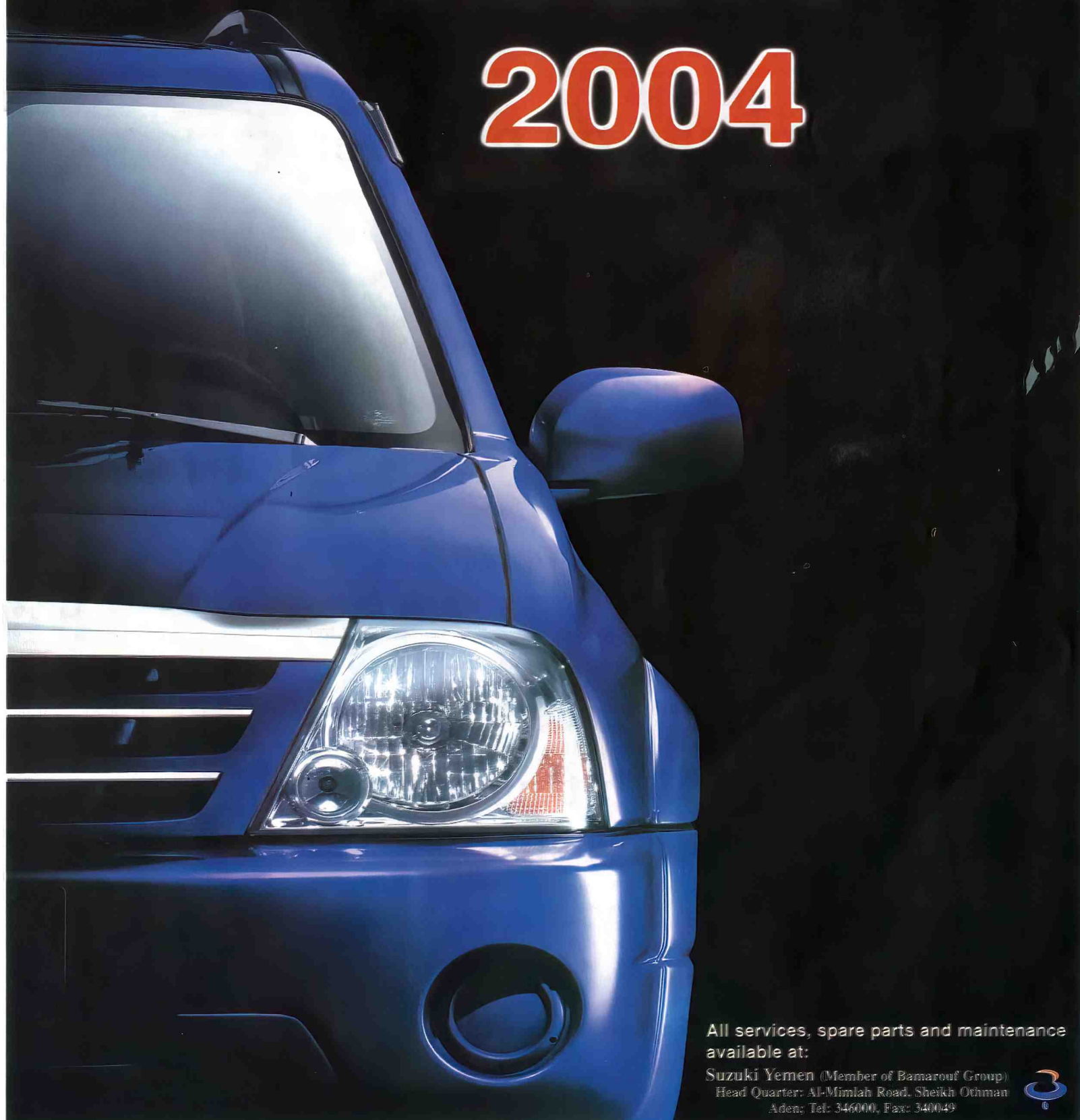
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US says Iran in breach of UN nuclear obligations

VIENNA, Sept 9 (Reuters) - The United States said on Tuesday Iran had clearly violated its U.N. nuclear safeguards obligations, but backed a resolution giving Tehran until October 31 to come clean about the full extent of its nuclear programme.

The United States — which labelled Iran part of an “axis of evil” with North Korea and pre-war Iraq — has been pressing the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) board of governors to demand at this week’s closed-door meeting that Iran enable U.N. inspectors to get to the bottom of its nuclear programme.

A draft resolution, submitted jointly to the IAEA board by France, Germany and Britain, set an October 31 deadline for Iran to demonstrate full compliance with international obligations.

“The United States believes that the facts... would fully justify an immediate finding of non-compliance by Iran,” U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna, Kenneth Brill, told the U.N. nuclear watchdog’s governing board.

Brill was referring to Iran’s U.N. Safeguards Agreement, a key part of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which Iran signed in 1970. A finding of non-compliance would require the board to report Iran to the Security Council for sanctions.

However, Brill said Washington had consented to other board member states’ desire “to give Iran a last chance to stop its evasions” and come clean about its nuclear programme, which the United States says is a front to develop an atomic bomb.

Britain’s ambassador to the IAEA echoed the U.S. comments and told the board: “This is their last chance.”

Washington found itself isolated when it tried to push the IAEA board to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council for violating its NPT obligations.

But diplomats told Reuters many governors on the 35-nation board agreed to support the new resolution, which said Iran must “remedy all failures identified



Iran’s representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ali Akbar Salehi, answers journalists’ questions after a closed-door session of the board of governors in the Vienna headquarters September 9. Iran faces tough questioning this week when the governors of the U.N.’s nuclear watchdog meet to discuss Tehran’s atomic programme, which Washington says is a front aimed at producing a nuclear bomb. REUTERS

by the agency”.

The draft, obtained by Reuters, added: “It is ‘essential and urgent’... that Iran cooperate fully with the agency to ensure verification of compliance... by taking all necessary actions by the end of October.”

U.S. Criticises IAEA

Brill also criticised the IAEA’s August 26 progress report on its Iran inspections, which he said was “less effectively organised and less clear” than the June 6 Iran report.

Several Western diplomats complained that IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei used gentle language that played down Iran’s failures to report about its nuclear activities in the August report.

For example, diplomats said, instead of saying Iran lied to the agency repeatedly, ElBaradei wrote: “Some of the information was in contrast to that previously provided by Iran.”

Brill said a peaceful resolution depended on the board doing the right thing and forcing Iran to comply with the

NPT.

“Finding peaceful resolutions to critical non-proliferation issues means, among other things, that relevant institutions must serve their intended functions,” he said.

The Non-Aligned Movement, which has 15 seats on the IAEA board, praised Iran in a statement for its “increased degree of cooperation”.

Iran’s ambassador to the IAEA, Ali Akbar Salehi, told reporters Tehran had no secret weapons programme and had fully cooperated with the U.N., even going “beyond our obligations”.

“It is as though we have already provisionally applied the Additional Protocol,” he said, referring to the NPT protocol that would allow the IAEA to carry out more intrusive, snap inspections.

Tehran has so far refused to sign the protocol, despite intense international pressure to do so, though Iran has offered to begin negotiations with the IAEA on signing it.

Palestinian suicide bomber kills two in Israel

JERUSALEM, Sept 9 (Reuters) - A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up outside a major army camp near Tel Aviv on Tuesday, killing at least two people and wounding about 30, police and rescue workers said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which came amid an Israeli campaign to kill leaders of the militant Islamic group Hamas, which has carried out dozens of suicide bombings in a Palestinian uprising for statehood.

“I saw someone running towards a soldiers’ hitchhiking station and blow up,” a witness said on Israel Radio.

The blast occurred at the entrance to the sprawling Tzrifin army base, southeast of Tel Aviv, where soldiers were waiting for rides home along a main highway at the end of their day shift.

Police said three people, one of them apparently the bomber, were killed. Rescue workers said some 30 wounded were taken to a hospital just metres (yards) away.



Israeli rescue workers search the scene after an explosion outside an army base near Tel Aviv September 9. A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up outside a major army camp near Tel Aviv on Tuesday, killing at least two people and wounding about 30, police and rescue workers said. REUTERS

An official in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s office said after the attack that Israel would “take the necessary steps to defend its people in the face of the Palestinian Authority’s

unwillingness” to dismantle Islamic militant groups.

Sharon received news of the blast while on a visit to India. He was dining at the time with his Indian counterpart.

Sudan denies violating truce with western rebels

KHARTOUM, Sept 9 (Reuters) - The Sudanese government denied rebel claims it had broken a ceasefire it signed with them last week in the west of Africa’s largest country, and blamed the violence on local tribes, a newspaper said on Tuesday.

“These operations have been conducted outside the context of the armed forces. They are undertaken by some tribes,” Major General Mazjoub Rahma said, as quoted by the independent al-Sahafa daily.

Rebels of the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M) in the western region of Darfur accused the government on Sunday of breaking the ceasefire, forged to end seven months of fighting.

They said the government had attacked an SLA/M garrison with helicopter gunships, but the SLA/M had not returned fire.

Rahma represents the Sudanese government on a three-way committee set up to monitor the ceasefire agreement. The other members are neighbouring Chad,

where the ceasefire was signed, and the SLA/M.

He said the issue was raised at a committee meeting on Monday and the government promised to resolve the problem.

Sudan is also currently in talks in Kenya to end a 20-year-old civil war with a different rebel group in southern Sudan. The Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) has been fighting for greater autonomy for the south since 1983. Some two million people have been killed in that conflict.

Arab League admits Iraqi delegate at Cairo talks



A general view of the Arab Foreign Ministers’ meeting in the Arab League headquarters in Cairo September 9. Iraq’s U.S.-appointed Governing Council took a step towards international legitimacy on Tuesday when its delegate took up Iraq’s vacant seat at an Arab League ministerial meeting. REUTERS

BAGHDAD/CAIRO, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Iraq’s U.S.-appointed Governing Council took a major step towards international recognition on Tuesday when Arab League foreign ministers allowed its delegate to represent Baghdad at talks in Cairo.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari, a Kurd newly appointed by the Governing Council, joined other Arab ministers at a regular meeting at the 22-member League.

The move could set an important precedent in determining whether the council will be allowed to fill Iraq’s seat at future League meetings, and in other bodies such as the United Nations and OPEC.

The decision was welcomed by U.S.-led occupation authorities in Iraq, in need of good news as guerrillas continued to harass American troops.

Guerrillas wounded five U.S. soldiers on Tuesday in two attacks west of the capital in the hostile “Sunni Triangle”, the U.S. military said.

Two soldiers were wounded in an attack using an explosive device in Ramadi, a spokeswoman said. Nearly three hours later, three soldiers were wounded when their vehicle was attacked in Falluja, she added.

Locals gathered near the scene in Falluja, chanting anti-American slogans such as “Burn, burn, you infidels”, witnesses said.

With the occupation imposing a mounting cost in American lives and money, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has launched a diplomatic drive to bridge differences between Washington and its critics over the

future of Iraq.

On Monday, Annan asked foreign ministers of the five permanent Security Council members to meet in Geneva on Saturday to seek a compromise on U.S. calls for international support to help increase security and speed reconstruction in Iraq. They are the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China.

Victory for moderates

The consensus agreement in Cairo to allow in Zebari was a victory for more moderate Arab states over hardliners who analysts had predicted would try to deny him access, to avoid legitimising the occupation of Iraq and the unelected Council.

Speaking to the assembly, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said the Iraqi people needed to receive greater powers and the United Nations had to gain a pivotal role in building Iraq’s political structure.

“This is the meaning which we have confirmed today in our resolution and which we have confirmed in inviting...the representative of the transitional government to sit with us,” Maher said.

Arab League chief Amr Moussa said it was “an occasion to welcome the Iraqi delegation in the context of moving towards restoring Iraqi sovereignty and ending the occupation”.

The U.S.-led administration in Baghdad welcomed the move. “This is confirmation by Arab countries of the important role the Governing Council is playing in the transition going on in

Iraq,” said spokesman Nabeel Khoury.

But the continuing violence in Iraq is stretching occupying forces thin. Washington is seeking 15,000 more troops from other nations and reconstruction funds to back its own commitment of 130,000 troops and billions of dollars in Iraq.

Britain, the closest U.S. ally in its March invasion of Iraq, said on Monday it was sending an extra 1,200 troops to bring its forces there to over 12,000.

On Tuesday, British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon hinted his troops could be in for a long stay in the bid to “stabilise” Iraq. “We are committed to the long-term support of the Iraqi people,” he said in a speech opening an arms fair in London.

Denmark said on Tuesday it would send an extra 90 soldiers to Iraq by the end of October to join 410 others near Basra. Romania, which has 687 peacekeepers in Iraq, said it was considering sending 56 more.

Critics of the United States, including France and Russia, who opposed the war on Iraq, want a greater role for the world body than Washington envisages.

But on Monday France offered Washington a ray of hope by saying a speech by Bush on Sunday, in which he urged the international community to settle its differences over Iraq, offered prospects for an agreement.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, Annan told a news conference he would be willing to consider a U.N. “political facilitating process” to help devise a constitution and plan elections in Iraq.

Frenchman on trial in Morocco says is French agent

RABAT, Sept 9 (Reuters) - A Frenchman suspected of being an Islamic radical linked to a network of suicide bombers told a Moroccan court he was a French intelligence agent and was innocent of the charges against him.

“French secret services asked me to investigate Algerian and Moroccan Islamist networks,” Pierre Robert, 32, told a hearing in the capital Rabat on Monday night.

The French government denied his claims.

Robert, a convert to Islam who was arrested in early June in Tangiers where he lived with his Moroccan wife, is accused of trying to set up a secret Islamic network in northern Morocco and organising training camps for Islamist volunteers.

If found guilty, he faces the death penalty on charges of terrorism, including undermining state security.

His trial began on August 25 and a verdict is expected this week.

Speaking in French, Robert told the day-long hearing that France’s DST (Directorate for the Surveillance of the Territory) asked him in 1998 to infiltrate Algerian and Moroccan Islamist networks in France and Belgium.

In Paris, the Interior Ministry said in a statement it was “very surprised” by Robert’s claims “and formally denies them”. The DST handles anti-terrorism work and counter-intelligence.

Asked by the judge why he had come to Morocco, Robert said: “I cannot tell you, it’s a defence secret”.

Investigators said Robert and his 33 co-defendants had no direct involvement in May 16 attacks in Casablanca which killed 33 bystanders and 12 suicide bombers.

The Moroccan government has

blamed an ultra-conservative Islamic movement, the Salafist Jihad, for the Casablanca attacks and said some of the movement’s members had indirect links to al Qaeda.

A court in Casablanca last month sentenced four Islamic activists to death and dozens to long jail terms for organising the suicide bombings.

The prosecution said Robert, who speaks fluent Arabic and used the aliases of Lhaj and Abu Abderrahmane, trained in al Qaeda camps in Afghanistan in the mid-1990s.

Robert, who spoke firmly and sounded confident throughout the hearing, admitted he had travelled to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey but denied having received any military training.

He accused Moroccan police of torturing him in detention but offered no proof.

Afghan Taliban blamed for four deaths in south

SPIN BOLDAK, Afghanistan, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Afghanistan's Taliban fighters killed four Afghan civilians, apparently mistaking them for government soldiers, an official said on Tuesday.

About 35 Taliban fighters attacked a minivan in Shorabuk district close to the Pakistani border in southern Kandahar province on Sunday, killing four people and injuring another five, district commissioner Fazl Mohammad Barakzai told Reuters.

He said the Taliban fighters probably mistook the civilians in the minivan for government troops.

The attack occurred around 30 km (18.6 miles) southeast of the border town of Spin Boldak, an area where Taliban militants are believed to be at large.

It was the latest in a wave of violence blamed on the hardline Islamic militia, which was ousted from power late in 2001 by a U.S.-led coalition for sheltering Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda, blamed for suicide airliner attacks on New York and Washington.

The Taliban has declared a "jihad", or holy war, on foreign forces and their local allies in Afghanistan, including Afghan soldiers and police serving the U.S.-backed government.

Around 11,500 coalition troops, most of them American, are hunting down Taliban and al Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan.



Afghan soldiers participate in a memorial service for the slain leader of Northern Alliance, Ahmad Shah Masood, in Kabul, September 9. Masood was killed two years ago today when two Arab men posing as journalists detonated a bomb during a mock interview with him two days before the September 11 attacks in the United States. REUTERS

Over 70 killed in Nigeria road crash-police

LAGOS, Sept 9 (Reuters) - At least 70 people were killed, most burned to death, in a road crash in central Nigeria causing an inferno possibly sparked by spare jerry cans of fuel, police said on Tuesday.

The crash on Sunday night involved a bus and three other vehicles near the Murtaala Muhammad bridge on the Abuja-Lokoja highway, 100 km (60 miles) south of the capital, police added. The bus had around 90 or more passengers and only about 20 people survived.

Police said they suspected one of the vehicles was carrying jerry cans of petrol which may have sparked the fire. Nigeria is struggling with its worst fuel crisis in four years and most long-distance drivers travel with jerry cans of petrol to avoid being stranded on the highway.

Central Kogi state Police Commissioner Samuel Adetuyi told Reuters the bus left the northern city of Kano with 59 people on board, but had picked up around 30 to 40 additional passengers.

The police chief said there were at least two people in each of the three other vehicles — a lorry and two minibuses — which were carrying goods and farm produce.

Police said the lorry, which was travelling from Lagos, was trying to avoid a broken-down truck when it was in collision with the bus. The other vehicles ran into them.

"Only about 20 people survived,

most of the bodies were burned beyond recognition, making it impossible to say exactly how many people died in the accident," Adetuyi said.

State television pictures showed rescue workers removing charred bodies and wounded survivors from the mangled wreckage.

Spectacular road crashes with high death tolls are common in the oil-producing country of over 120 million people.

The Abuja-Lokoja highway has become a death-trap since it became the preferred north-south route after the Nigerian capital was moved inland to Abuja from Lagos in 1991.

In April, 39 people died when two long-distance buses collided at an intersection at the Abuja end of the road. At least 55 people died in July last year when a commuter bus plunged into a ditch along the highway.

Police blame the high death rate on speeding by ill-qualified drivers, poorly maintained vehicles and a crumbling network of highways neglected during years of economic decline.

In August, President Olusegun Obasanjo directed that highways in southeast Abia state be repaired after regional legislators embarked on a two-week hunger strike in protest at the terrible state of roads in the area.

Last year, 7,769 people died in 12,954 recorded accidents in Nigeria, according to police figures.

Megawati too busy to meet Howard at Bali anniversary

JAKARTA, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Indonesia said on Tuesday its president will be too busy to meet Australian Prime Minister John Howard when he visits Bali next month to mark the first anniversary of bomb attacks that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians.

Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda told a regular parliamentary hearing that Howard had wanted to discuss terrorism cooperation with Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Wirajuda said Megawati would be tied up with a visit by the Algerian president the weekend of October 12. But the move could be seen as a snub to Howard, who is often perceived in Indonesia as lecturing the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"Because the president is busy with other heads of state in (visits) already

scheduled, the Indonesian president cannot fulfil the request of PM Howard to meet in Bali on October 12, 2003," Wirajuda said in prepared remarks.

He mentioned no others beside the Algerian visit.

Howard will bring 1,500 victims and relatives to Bali for memorial ceremonies being organised by Australia, Wirajuda said.

A palace official said Megawati, known for shunning the spotlight and sometimes accused of passive leadership, had no plan to attend the events. One local newspaper said she would inaugurate a memorial to the victims on October 12 in Bali.

In Canberra, a spokesman for Howard said the prime minister had known for some time it was unlikely Megawati would attend the Bali

commemoration.

The Bali bombings last October 12 were the worst act of terror since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. Most of those killed in Bali were partying in nightclubs on an island many Australians had seen as their own backyard.

The attacks were akin to Australia's own September 11, shattering the feeling that the huge island continent was immune to the arbitrary violence of terrorism.

Wirajuda said that on August 21 he conveyed the message that Megawati could not meet Howard. He said the Indonesian government was not making the Bali anniversary a national day of remembrance because such events had already been held.

Most recently Howard raised

eyebrows in Jakarta when he said he was disappointed judges had not ruled Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir led the Jemaah Islamiah militant group when an Indonesian court jailed him for four years on September 2 for acts of treason.

Howard did say he was pleased Bashir had received a jail term. Indonesia has blamed Jemaah Islamiah for the Bali atrocity.

Indonesia and Australia have often had prickly ties, although they have cooperated closely in anti-terrorism efforts since Bali. Hundreds of Australian police helped their Indonesian counterparts track down Bali bombing suspects.

(Reporting by Telly Nathalia in Jakarta and Michelle Nichols in Canberra).

Rebels seize Liberian town as peacekeepers arrive

KAKATA, Liberia, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Liberian rebels seized a town 50 km (30 miles) from the capital Monrovia on Tuesday in a gunbattle that sent civilians fleeing, just hours before West African peacekeepers arrived to deploy there.

Some 650 troops from the tiny West African country of Guinea Bissau rumbled into Liberia's lawless bush in a convoy of trucks and armoured personnel carriers to deploy in Kakata only to find it had fallen to rebel fighters.

It was the first time the Ecomil peacekeeping force had deployed outside Monrovia and the confusion they found underlined the complexity of their task to restore security in a nation crippled by 14 years of civil war.

The seizure of Kakata also marks a major advance for the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and

Democracy (LURD), until now believed to be at least 60 kms (37 miles) further up the main highway that leads to Ivory Coast and Guinea.

Under a peace deal signed last month, rebels and government fighters are supposed to observe a ceasefire but there have been numerous violations and both sides appear to have staged battles to scare off civilians and loot.

As the Ecomil troops set up base at the Booker Washington Institute in Kakata, about 100 LURD rebels gathered outside waiting to talk to the new arrivals.

Rebel commander Siaka Kamara said he had been forced to attack Kakata because of repeated government offensives against LURD's base in Tubmanburg, to the west of Kakata.

"We are willing to pull back once the Ecomil troops can assure us that

they are going to take full charge of security here," Kamara told Reuters.

Situation confused

Peacekeepers arrived in Liberia on August 4 and were greeted as heroes in the capital, where two months of bloody street battles had left some 2,000 civilians dead.

The deployment paved the way for President Charles Taylor to leave and a peace deal was then signed between the warring factions. But it has been slow to take hold outside Monrovia and until Tuesday Ecomil had been based only in the capital.

Ecomil chief of staff Colonel Theophilus Tawiah said he had heard reports of fighting between LURD and government troops in Kakata on Tuesday, but did not have any further details.

"We have reports of some fighting in Kakata. The troops are on the

ground there. Ecomil is not involved in the fighting," he told Reuters from Monrovia.

Aid agencies had urged Ecomil to deploy swiftly in central Liberia, where tens of thousands of people have fled their homes in the past week because of skirmishes.

Tuesday's fighting around Kakata sent more people onto the roads in search of safety, some disappointed that Ecomil's deployment seemed initially to have changed nothing.

"We were relaxed when we saw the Ecomil troops pass by us towards Kakata. We had thought that all was calm. But regrettably, we heard heavy shelling. This is very appalling," said Miatea Roberts, near Kakata.

The 3,200-strong Ecomil force is supported by U.S. troops on standby on warships off Liberia, a country founded by freed American slaves in the 19th century.

Next round of Sri Lanka peace talks tougher - PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Fresh peace talks between the Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebels will be tougher than the earlier rounds as the two sides get stuck into detail, Sri Lanka's prime minister said on Tuesday.

Ranil Wickremesinghe, visiting Malaysia to boost business ties and for a farewell meeting with counterpart Mahathir Mohamad before the latter retires, said he was confident the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels would soon return to talks that stalled in April.

"Whether it will start in September or October is still not decided," he told a news conference after meeting Mahathir, referring to a new round of talks.

"This round of talks is going to be a tough round, tougher."

The rebels have said they are considering a government proposal for a power-sharing body for the Tamil-majority north and east, aimed at bringing the LTTE back to negotiate an end to two decades of war that has killed 64,000 people.

Asked about a series of potentially provocative rebel actions, including the opening of the police headquarters in the LTTE-controlled area on Sunday, Wickremesinghe said these would be among the difficult issues to be tackled in talks.

"But I'm confident that they will come to the negotiating table. At the

same time, I would not be surprised if there were not one or two more breakdowns before we move forward.

"We have come a long way without fighting each other."

The Tigers suspended talks in April saying not enough was being done to rehabilitate war-torn Tamil areas, and boycotted a June donor conference that raised \$4.5 billion for rebuilding on the condition of progress in the peace process.

The government proposal offers the Tigers wide powers over rebuilding and resettlement of displaced people, but not control over policing and security.

Opposition groups in Sri Lanka's south say Colombo has ceded too much to the rebels, citing such developments as the LTTE police as proof their ultimate goal is still a separate state.

While Wickremesinghe was in Malaysia, the head of Sri Lanka's peace bureaucracy travelled to Switzerland, where he will share a stage with his Tamil Tiger counterpart, the first public meeting between the two sides since the talks broke down.

Bernard Goonetilleke, the head of the government's Peace Secretariat, and Pulithevan, the head of the LTTE Peace Secretariat, were due to speak later on Tuesday at a public forum in Geneva on power sharing and federal government models.

Britain's Iraq probe challenges culture of secrecy

LONDON, Sept 9 (Reuters) - In the hush of a London courtroom, age-old British traditions of government secrecy are being challenged by an elderly judge investigating the death of a softly spoken scientist.

Lord Hutton's inquiry into the death of weapons expert David Kelly, launched less than two months ago, has unexpectedly shone a piercing light onto the inner circle of Prime Minister Tony Blair's government and the shadowy world of intelligence.

In a country where sensitive documents gather dust for 30 years before the public is allowed a first glimpse, the private and urgent exchanges of top Blair aides — some just a few weeks old — have been flashed up on courtroom computer screens and posted on the Internet (www.the-hutton-inquiry.org.uk).

Defence intelligence staff have appeared — one of them speaking anonymously by audio link — and newspapers have speculated that the chief of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service may even be called to account.

Blair himself was summoned to give evidence, making him only the second prime minister to face a judicial inquiry. His defence minister and closest advisers have also had to surrender their diaries and correspondence to Hutton's gaze.

Campaigners for open government have been surprised and cheered by the unprecedented scope of Hutton's investigation, which they say would be unimaginable in many countries.

"Lord Hutton has done more in six weeks to advance the cause of freedom of information than this Labour government has done in six years," former cabinet minister Robin Cook, a vocal critic of the Iraq war, said last week.

Kelly slashed his wrist in July after being exposed as the source of a BBC report accusing Blair's government of exaggerating the threat of Iraq's banned weapons programmes — an



Britain's Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon speaks to delegates attending the DSEI (Defence Systems and Equipment International) exhibition conference in east London, which is showcasing a range of military hardware from around the globe, September 9. Europe's biggest arms show opened on Tuesday amidst a large security presence as police sought to prevent anti-arms activists from disrupting the event. **REUTERS**

accusation Blair has vehemently denied. Hutton, charged by Blair with investigating Kelly's suicide, has thrown his net wider than expected, trawling through his case for war with

Iraq and challenging the cherished tradition that Britain's rulers work best when free from prying eyes.

"It's underlined the fact that there is a legitimate public interest in seeing how public policy is formulated and developed. That's something that hasn't been accepted in Britain in the past," said Andrew Puddephatt, director of the anti-censorship group Article 19.

Even outside Britain, Hutton's probe has few precedents.

In Holland, where former prime minister Wim Kok was questioned in an inquiry into the failure of Dutch U.N. peacekeepers to prevent the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia, cabinet minutes remain secret for years.

"I have never seen this kind of deep analysis into government, into internal correspondence within government, in these inquiries," said Andre Krouwel, a political scientist at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was standing trial for corruption until winning immunity from prosecution in June, and several prime ministers have testified at inquiries. But Italian courts have rarely delved as deep as Hutton.

"Here, evidence in such an inquiry would probably quickly be declared a state secret and the truth might never come out," said Franco Pavoncello, professor of political science at John Cabot University in Rome.

Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, said British appetite for greater openness had been whetted but could still be disappointed once Hutton's inquiry closed down.

"I think it's an open question whether the government will retreat into its bunker... or whether they feel that the loss of credibility and level of mistrust is such that they cannot begin to address it until they are more open," he said.

U.S. investigators find phony identities work

WASHINGTON, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Two years after the Sept. 11 attacks heightened U.S. security concerns, congressional investigators said on Tuesday they were able to use phony identities to obtain valid drivers' licenses in several states.

Undercover investigators for the General Accounting Office were 100 percent successful at obtaining drivers' licenses in eight states using alias identities, according to a report by the congressional watchdog agency released on Tuesday by the Senate Finance Committee.

In a few cases where state department of motor vehicles employees noticed that documents were counterfeit, they failed to notify security agents. In some instances, employees gave advice on what paperwork was needed to obtain the license, the GAO found.

The undercover investigation was conducted at the request of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican, and Sen. Max Baucus of Montana, the top Democrat on the panel.

"We have to face the fact that drivers' licenses and the Social Security number have become the de facto national identifiers," Grassley said as he opened a committee hearing on the GAO's findings. "Without these, you can't really function in our society. With them, you can open a bank account, buy a gun, get a credit card, take flight lessons or board an airplane."

The committee heard from

Youseff Hmimssa, a Moroccan who pleaded guilty to fraud charges and testified in a case against four men in Detroit who were charged with being part of a "sleeper cell" of terrorists. Three were convicted and a fourth was acquitted.

Hmimssa, his face blocked from public view, described how he got phony identity papers to enter the United States and how he made false documents for the Detroit group, including passports and visas that would allow a person to obtain a social security number and apply for a drivers' license.

The committee also heard from Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino, the lead prosecutor in the Detroit case. He said Hmimssa was able to use simple equipment purchased at local stores to make "very accurate and very good false documentation."

Earlier GAO reports to the committee described how undercover investigators were able to use phony drivers licenses to purchase firearms and use false law enforcement documents to gain entry to a federal building with firearms.

Homeland Security Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson told the committee that law enforcement agents were working with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators to develop minimum uniform standards for U.S. driver's licenses. Hutchinson said that four states still do not require a photograph for their drivers licenses.

IRA disarmament unlikely without elections-Adams

BELFAST, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish Republican Army's political ally Sinn Fein, said on Tuesday there was little prospect of the IRA making moves towards disarming until Britain calls fresh Northern Ireland elections.

The peace process in the British-ruled province has been stalled for almost a year, since accusations by police of IRA spying led to the collapse of the powersharing government set up in Belfast under the landmark 1998 Good Friday peace agreement.

Efforts to restore home rule with new assembly elections were aborted in May when Britain called off the poll, accusing the IRA of not giving a clear enough commitment to renounce vio-

lence for good. "As someone from within Sinn Fein who worked to bring about initiatives, and we had a whole series of initiatives, and they were rejected by the British government and compounded by the cancellation of the elections for a second time," said Adams.

"I have to say no one would listen to me if I went to suggest to anyone that the IRA, or indeed anyone else, had any responsibility to do anything because there is no process at this moment."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart Bertie Ahern are expected to meet this weekend to discuss how to keep the Good Friday deal alive.

Dublin has been pressing for elections in the autumn but London has refused to set a polling date, arguing agreement between the province's rival politicians on sustaining a post-election administration must come first.

Protestant "unionists", who want to retain ties with Britain, have been refusing to return to government with Sinn Fein until the IRA — on ceasefire since 1997 — declares its long war over for good.

"The limbo land which the process inhabits is likely to continue until and unless the British government sets a date certain for elections," Adams told reporters. "Without elections I just don't see any prospect of resuscitating this process."

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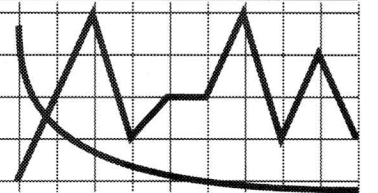
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YT Business



On conclusion of workshop on money laundering

Legislative and legal measures to combat the phenomenon

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

On 6-8 September 2003 a special workshop was held in Sana'a on discussing and combating the phenomenon of money laundering. Studies presented at the workshop had confirmed weakness of the phenomenon in the Yemeni banks due to absence of huge means that are needed in order to

explain the Yemeni law promulgated in this respect.

The workshop was organized by the Institute for Banking Studies and the Yemen Central Bank. The workshop targeted enhancement of Yemen's legislative and legal steps for curbing the leakage of illegitimate capital or trading with it. The workshop working papers had confirmed that weakness of national bank capital that is not exceeding \$14 million pushes away

the ghost of circulation and laundering illegitimate money.

Participants in the workshop that was concluded last Monday had recommended joining local efforts for confronting crimes of money laundering as the process needed mustering a collective work and not confined to the responsibility of one side than another.

The workshop also recommended the confrontation of organized crimes

and tightening the grip on perpetrators of money laundering and depriving them of benefiting from loopholes that the banking sector was suffering from before issuance of the law on combating money laundering.

According to a special study on these crimes Yemen is targeted by gangs of money laundering in order to render it a linking point between production centers of dangerous drugs, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan and

the consumer countries in Europe and America, due to Yemen's geographical distinguished position. The study has estimated the total verified income from world illegal drugs operations at \$688 billion per year, \$5 billion in Britain, 33 billions in Europe, 150 billions in America and 500 billions in the rest of the world countries. It has also clarified that information piracy operations' value exceeds \$200 billion, in imitating trade marks over

100 billion and in forfeiting and fraud more than 10 billions while pornography films yield about \$2.5 billion and sex activities 20 billion per year.

According to banking working papers presented at the workshop the available information on money laundering in Yemen has not reached a level of danger but in recent years it has been found out the presence of fears from illegal trade with money laundering.

Yemeni coffee,

Offers in world markets rise

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sources at Yemen's ministry of agriculture said there are three areas for investment opportunities for the private sector in production of coffee products. They are mainly in building factories for peeling coffee, marketing the surplus to foreign markets and in building agricultural nurseries for its seeds. The sources told Yemen Times that Yemen's yearly production of coffee is estimated at 20 thousand tonnes and the land area planted with coffee trees is 33,443 hectares.

The sources added that the value of Yemeni coffee offers in external markets has risen to \$7500 for one tonne this year compared to \$7000 per tonne last year, because of the good reputation the Yemeni coffee entertains worldwide.

A workshop held at Sana'a University in a first meeting with coffee farmers has recommended the increase of the farmer's income and helping him to develop his agricultural mechanisms and fighting plant epidemics and insects that affect the crop for the purpose of increasing production and quantities of exports.

Yemen's agriculture ministry has adopted two projects for preparing and supplying coffee harvest for exportation at a cost of YR75 million and the ministry also supports private sector agricultural societies for increasing production and export. There are about

five private societies producing around 75% of coffee total production in addition to the building of 18 nurseries producing 250 crops per year.

The increase in planting the qat trees has led to retreat in the volume of coffee production and that has also caused the exhaustion of 65% of subterranean water by the qat tree.

Coffee is planted in ten governorates out of 20 composing the country of Yemen. And for expanding the activities of the project for development of planting the coffee plant, the ministry of agriculture is working for building water barriers and dams. Farmers say that growing Yemeni coffee needs experience and mechanized units in the field of post-harvest processing and the help in marketing.

Till the end of the 17th century Yemen was the sole producer and exporter of coffee in the world because the country is well-known for its agricultural terraces extending from the central to the southern parts of the country.

Nevertheless agricultural sources affirm the receding of Yemen's position to a lagging position behind many countries producing coffee such as Brazil and Ethiopia that produce and market coffee to other countries including Yemen.

The center for developing agricultural research and studies at the agriculture college at Sana'a University is presently developing scientific research and studies on growing coffee and developing its production continuously.



Worker pensioner needs,

20-year service, 38-year old

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Minister of civil service Hammoud Al-Soufi has proposed a draft law amendment on establishment of Yemen Service Fund, determining surplus labour by the ministry before referring them to the fund.

The measure comes in context of administrative and financial reforms aimed at re-distribution of labour according to needs of administrative units that have completed re-structure.

tion and re-structure.

The project presented to the Parliament cancels role of the fund in tackling surplus labour by early pension and being compensation. The project sets condition for those wishing to get pension salary stipulating that surplus labour should have maximum 20 years of service and at in age of 39.

According to the project the fund sets condition of 20 years services as maximum limit for improving pension salary and for qualifying those who haven't 20 year service, in order to

encourage them for early pension. It gives surplus labour whose service ranges between 50 to 90 years, the right to choose suitable treatment, either by early pension or by compensation.

The project includes a form for calculating compensation and curbing personal opinions so that the fund could avoid any problems or pressures during implementation and payment of compensation to surplus labour. As for the maximum limit for surplus labour stay in the fund, it has been defined by 18 month.

According to the project the fund role's would be confined to being compensation so that the individual explains his need for training in response to requirements of labour market. The fund will be working on tackling situation of as many as surplus workers.

The project also aims at reducing proportion of employment inflation which is now more than 400 thousand workers and also to provide job opportunities for new graduated in the manner leading to reducing the proportion of unemployment in the labour market.

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Words of Wisdom



It is my belief that grass-roots level organizations such as unions and syndicates are vital contributors to the system because of their broad-based interaction. They give tangible meaning to popular participation within a democratic context. Therefore, any effort to broaden the participation base of decision-making in this country should, in part, involve the unions and syndicates. This means letting these organizations do their job.

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

OUR OPINION
What the West should know about Islam

Almost every Westerner I know has a negative impression about Muslim and Arab leaders. Many believe they are greedy and selfish individuals who only want their personal security and luxury and don't give a damn about their people.

"Is this what Islam teaches? Do those leaders represent Islam? Is this what your prophet taught you?" are some legitimate questions that they ask when looking at the weakness, poverty, illiteracy, and pathetic situation of Arab nations. It is as if Arab regimes get happier and pleased when their people are poor, captive, illiterate, and think only about how to make ends meet.

Here I seize the opportunity to clarify that our weak public relations and our inability to convey the true meaning of Islam have made the world take the rulers of Muslim states as images portraying Islam. They never were and will never be a reflection of Islam.

Islam is a religion of sacrifice and responsibility. It is the faith that makes a leader give rather than take, think and care rather than be selfish and demand luxury.

I find this time quite appropriate to tell a story, which I believe should be taken seriously by readers who have doubt about the true meaning of Islam.

Once upon a time, the second Muslim Caliph Omar bin al-Khattab, saw a light from a distance while he was walking at night, when he reached the fire he found a woman lighting fire trying to divert her children's attention from their hunger. Omar heard the children still crying with pain, because they could not find what to eat. Their old mother was sitting powerless, not knowing what to do, except to pray to God against Omar, complaining of him for not being just. Then Omar asked her, 'How can Omar know about your conditions in such a time? Then the woman answered wisely, 'If he doesn't know what we are going through, why then is he our Caliph?' Realizing how sinful he was, he understood what they needed. He himself went and brought a sack of flour, some water, and a container of oil, carried them on his back and refused to let anybody else carry them for him saying "Nobody will carry off my sins for me on the Day of Judgment." He went to the old woman, lighted fire for cooking, kneaded the dough, baked the bread, and prepared food for her children. He then fed them with his own hands, and remained with them until the children ate and played joyfully and went to bed. The old woman's gratitude was such that she said to Omar, not knowing who he was: "In the morning, I will go to Omar and tell him that if Omar had forgotten us, Allah had not, but had rather sent you to help us and save the children." Omar's response was nothing more than this: "When you go to Omar, you will find me there."

This story shows how true Muslims and particularly Muslim leaders once were. They demonstrated the true meaning of Islam and presented the world with a glorious example of sacrifice and responsibility. This is not strange to true Muslims because love, care, responsibility, and accountability, are all Islamic teachings.

But in today's world, Muslim leaders are so distant from true Islam that they do not represent it any more. They slaughter their people for the sake of staying in power. They let their cronies humiliate, devastate, and kill citizens with the justification that the opposition wants to take over power.

Where are our leaders from true Islam? Today's Arab regimes are the ones that horrify their people rather than serve them. They torture their prisoners, humiliate and destroy those who do not agree with them and smash any opposition.

There are countless killed Muslim souls they will be accounted for on Judgment Day. Will their military power, wealth, and cronies help them then?

I just hope the world realizes that those leaders are not representatives of Islam, which is a glorious religion that needs closer inspection to know its true and fabulous meaning.

The Editor

Never expected behavior of Al-Thawrah hospital employee

'Sorry, no need for journalists here!'

BY ABDUH M. ASSABRI
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Tough-worded language is muttered, new faces completely converted, signs of contempt appeared on their foreheads, eyebrows frowned disapprovingly and people have been still living in a state of suspicion whispering to each other, "We are still doubting him!"

"Sorry no need for journalists here," This is the state of a secretary at the training section at Athawrah hospital on September 7 when I was on a mission to cover a training course held for the hospital's staff.

I was taken aback by a female secretary's behavior, "Sorry no need for journalists here,"

I didn't expect such behavior verbalized by a female secretary at the reception office.

All of us know that reception offices reflect the positive aspect of any institution. I don't need her smiles or get involved in dallies. At least, a sense of respect and good behavior should be there.

They are like mirrors reflecting the positive aspect and admired image of the institution where they work. We do really respect female employees when performing their jobs in a complete but honest manner. I'm not going to blame this female employee for having bad-temper and rude behavior.

But the question, which poses itself, is why do people perceive journalists in this way? Why are they treated with contempt?

All of us know the status of the Al-Thawrah Hospital. We didn't expect such bad behavior from their secretaries. If this is the state of the robust and healthy people, what about patients, how do they treat them?

We perhaps see with our own eyes hundreds of unbehaved female employees. They don't have a sense of reverence or respect to visitors.

No sense of polite behavior or good moral is shown. Perhaps be they are in need for a training course in good morals and good behavior.

Offices where female employees work, turn to be market-like places. We can liken those places as that of swarm cells. Only women's giggling is heard from a distance as if they were in a theatre where a comedy play is performed. This is the state of some Yemeni female employees.

There are of course female employees, who deserve to be termed as "the salt of the earth."

They are an exemplary of true good morals and there is no room to talk here about them.

As the verb goes saying, "Brevity is the soul of wit".

9/11 and the need to reconsider fanatic culture

MOHAMMED HATEM AL-QADHI
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Two years have passed since the horrible and catastrophic event that all American and people all over the world will never forget, the terrorist attacks of the 9/11, 2001. It is an indescribable and real infamy. It is disgusting and awful. The consequences of the terrorist attacks will, of course, continue to affect the world as terrorism is not now restricted to a particular country; rather it is targeting and jeopardizing the world at large. It is a very expensive bill all of us will have to pay. It is very demanding.

This event has put the international relationship, mainly the relationship of Arab and Muslim countries with the world in a fix. The attacks have shown how much Muslim and Arab countries are suffering from the consequences of the culture of extremism, violence, and hatred that many factors nurtured throughout decades till it came out with that black infamy.

In other words, I believe that one of the drives of terrorism is the oppression, tyranny and lack of democracy in the Arab and Muslim countries. The political regimes in the Arab and Islamic world have been ruling their countries for decades with an iron fist. They have opened mass graves for their political opponents and left no room for freedom of speech and expression. Yet, they allowed clerics to spread their ideas of extremism and fanaticism as long as they support their being in power. This coalition between the political regimes

and religious institutions have created dictators who derive their power and rule from this religious institution that has puritanical tendency.

They have controlled with their cronies everything and channeled the revenues of their nations into their own pockets. The latest UN Human Development Report about Arab countries shows how they are lagging behind and backward in everything. We are amongst the poorest countries of the world. Half of the population are living under the poverty line while 12 million kids are out of school, loafing in streets.

To drive the people away from their own interests and concern of developing their countries, these political regimes have created enemies for their people even if they are in the cloud. They have pushed them to believe that we have the Kufar as our enemies and these Kufar or infidels are working day and night to destroy Islam and Muslims and that we should work very hard to face them. These views have made people believe that we are at enmity and hostility with Europeans and Americans and non-Muslims in general. Our education curricula and mosques preaching and sermons, which are very effective, have pushed forward such beliefs. Mosque preachers are keep on mobilizing such hostile sentiments. Therefore, some people under such sort of numb are ready to kill and carry out violent acts. Instead of draining their energy off in thinking about the way to develop their countries, they use it in violent acts either to kill the Kufar or even people who disagree with their ideas under the pretext of defend-

ing Islam. It is the responsibility of such dictators who produced nothing but frustration everywhere.

All these elements have encouraged the creation of terrorists who believe in violence as a sole means for changing the world. In other words, terrorists are a creation of the political regimes that should be held accountable for this even if they did not mean it but their acts have brought up this sort of people.

There is an urgent need that we review and change our school curricula and this culture of extremism and encourage the culture of democracy, tolerance and acceptance of others. People should grow up and be educated to accept the ideas of other people and believe that there must be a free room for all ideas to be argued and debated. There is a need to uproot the one way-track of thinking which we have grown up to respect and worship. A cleric is not a God; he is just a human being who can err and therefore, his ideas should not be taken for granted as something holy and infallible.

We need democratic regimes that come to power through fair and honest election only which can make use of the resources of their people in improving their living standards only. It is only such regimes that can bring about democracy into all aspects of life in our societies.

Besides, the US has to encourage the growth of such democratic values in these societies. It should always stand by the rights of the ordinary simple man if it really wants to improve its image in the Arab and Islamic world. It should push for more democracy and freedom.

Letters to the Editor

Are we fooled again?

I don't get what Al-Haifi wants to say in his column "The Trojan horse in modern Islam". It is true that there are demons among Muslims and so are they among every one else. There are demons among rulers, among soldiers, clerics, lawyers ... it does not mean you stop practicing law if a lawyer is evil. Same way, struggle for freedom and self-determination has to be continued even if someone in its name commits acts as horrid as the oppressor they were fighting. If Palestinians are blowing themselves up - Ask the Security Council why it failed to protect their rights. Why international laws are not enforced when they are in Muslims favor? Someone vetoes UN resolutions or the Israelis just ignore them.

So I would say it is natural to take law into your own hand when it fails your basic rights. But do you do it by blowing up other innocents? I invite you to make a suggestion. And I'll bet anything peaceful and civilized you could think of has already been tried by some Muslims, with a result of total failure and stone walling by the West. It is inherently stupid

to trust the West (US and UK) to do anything half decent for Muslims. Rhetoric remains but is all lies. Bush Sr. asked Iraqis to rise up against Saddam and at the end made a deal and let them get slaughtered at a stones throw from the great US armies. War crimes of Saddam -surely- would somebody please stand at the mass Iraqi graves and say with their hand on their hearts that Bush had nothing to do with this? Now the son talks about liberation. Why don't they ask their pals in the Gulf to go democratic? They won't ever. You know why? Because they feel they can control the Kings better than they can a government that can change every two / four years. May say no to them, so all this talk about bringing democracy to Muslims is a total lie, basically designed for American audience. No Arab or Muslim believes it anyway. Like Saddam, Regan/Bush went to war on his behalf, gave him biological weapons capability. If they really loved democracy for Muslims, they would not have deposed democratic government in Iran 50 years back and installed Reza Pehelvi. Even now why isn't an elected

Letters to the Editor

I was stopped by a traffic policeman because I was wearing the seat belt! I was shocked when he asked me why I was wearing the seat-belt, and I was like 'what in world is he asking me?' Then he gradually asked me for money. When I refused, he got mad and wanted to take me to the traffic headquarters. I started laughing and I asked what would be the reason, he replied 'Man, why don't you just give me some money & I'll forget about it.'

I got mad and just took off when the green light went on. He didn't do a thing but yelling in the middle of the road. I asked myself "Will Yemen ever get better than one day?"

*Abdul Haq
Virginia, USA*

Unpleasant experience in Yemen

I lived in the USA for the last five years, and I couldn't wait to go back to my homeland Yemen. I was so glad that at last I got back to my country. But during my first week I was driving across Hadda Street trying to notice what has changed in the last five years. Well, honestly speaking, not much changed to the better. But perhaps some things did change to the worse.

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

"Open up the borders"

Of all the leading Arab intellectuals of prominence that one listens to these days on television, Ghassan Salamah, the erstwhile Lebanese Minister of Culture (and thanks God a survivor in the UN HQ bomb attack in Baghdad) is perhaps one of the most impressive. In a recent interview in the Al-Arabiya Satellite TV Channel, Dr. Salamah was asked what he views as the most effective solution to most of the ills confronting the Arab nation in all spheres. With very little hesitation or thought Mr. Salamah plainly said: "open up the borders between the Arab states for the free movement of people, capital, expertise and assets". There is indeed a lot of wisdom in that. He confirms this by noting that the Arab states have so much in common between them keeping the sovereign status of the independent Arab states so rigidly defined by impregnable borders that do not allow the flow of people, assets and ideas between the states is baseless and inexcusable.

In historical retrospect it is well known, even our parents' generation that there were really no set borders between the Arab states and even Moslem states. This observer recalls the famous Arab poet, Ahmed Al-Hadhrami, the father of the famous Yemeni poet and patriotic personality, Mr. Ibrahim Al-Hadhrami (and grandfather of Ms Bilquis Al-Hadhrami). The patriarch Hadhrami used to travel from Indonesia to the Atlantic Coastline without any legal documents to speak of except his name. He was not subjected to any hindrances or obstruction as he journeyed from one country to another over the span of his 120 years of life. He was famous throughout the Islamic World for his dissertation of poetry of all the famous poets in the pre-Islamic and Islamic periods and of grandiose tales in the courts of the Sultans, Kings and Presidents that ruled the different countries he went to. There were also many Arabs who were able to relocate in other Arab countries, depending on the shift of the economic and or political tide at home. This general free flow of people was an important cushion against economic and social degradation and more importantly an important source for the movement of ideas and cultural heritage, as well as the propagation of Islam.

It is worth noting that even during the days when the colonial powers divided their influences or dominions in the Arab World and the Islamic World, there was still substantial free movement of peoples between the different areas of the Moslem and Arab World.

However, when the independence of most of the states that make up the Arab and Islamic World was attained, the achievement of sovereignty not only led to the closure of whatever regional breakdowns that might have been around in these areas, but set up newly drawn borders, which even led to further splits among peoples and tribes. This was a serious drawback to achieving uniform progress and development for the Arabs in particular and the Moslems in general. Much of the pain and social unrest that currently exists in the Arab and the Moslem Worlds is attributed to this rigid enforcement of borders. In addition these borders, in part, derived from imaginary lines delineating the spheres of influence of domination enjoyed by the former colonialists for the most part have nothing to do with demographic or ethnic considerations. Moreover they do not have any approval from the people that matter the most - the dwellers of these make-shift countries, who would have surely objected to the break-up of kin and clan and former regional economic and cultural ties.

Thus, Mr. Salamah hit the nail right on the head when he suggested that the Arabs in their present fragmented "sovereign" arrangements would never see any resolution of the problems they are facing. These sovereign arrangement do not serve any real tangible sovereign interests to speak of, and in fact encourage these sovereign states to look outside the Arab World for expertise, resources or capital when in fact these resources abundantly available within the Arab World. With the Iraqi and Palestine situations as clear evidence, it is obvious that the continued division of the Arab World into meaningless sovereign entities is actually working against the protection of our cultural and social heritage as well as the rapid depletion of the scarce valuable (and irrecoverable) combined resources of the Nation, before the Arab Nation is able to make any substantial gains in development by the proper utilization and allocation of these resources.

It is not meaningful anymore for Arab states to insist on maintaining rigid sovereign status, especially when that status can be so easily taken away, as Iraq and Palestine so clearly have shown. In fact, this status quo is bound to prove more painful than resourceful for the people involved and surely the Arab people from Mauritania to the Hormuz Strait will applaud any move towards the removal of these artificial and self-defeating lines. The Arab Leaders who diligently work towards the erasure of these imaginary lines will stand to be remembered not just by their own domestic constituents but by the Nation as a whole.

the Palestinians in Israel were to just stop the violence and blowing themselves up in busses full of people, they would already have a state called Palestine by now, and the Israelis and Palestinians would be living in peace by now just like the Israeli Jews and Israeli Muslims (which Israel has many of). Israel accepts Arabs. They didn't have to, but they did. They learn about Islam, they learn Arabic (It's even the second official language in Israel), Israel has a large Arab population which gets along fine with all of the Jews. But the Arabs never seem to want to accept the tiny Israel which you call an empire. Arabs dominate a huge portion of the world and outnumber the Jews by the millions. So I think that it's wrong for you Anti-Zionists to say things like that. Anti-Zionism is Anti-Semitism, because a Zionist is one who believes that the existence of a Jewish State is important, and that it should be in the location described in the Torah which was given by God to the Jewish people. This is a major part of our religion. For thousands of years we have dreamed of returning home, but all of a sudden when we get our dream, Arabs for the most part have no respect for us.

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Will the war on terror ever succeed?

LINDA S. HEARD
GULF NEWS

Thursday, September 11, 2003, will mark much more than that fateful day two years ago when 3,000 innocents lost their lives during an unprecedented attack on America's financial and military institutions. This was the day, which gave birth to Bush's 'War on Terror', or more precisely, a series of open-ended conflicts with the faceless enemies of America.

The question now is whether this asymmetric "war" with an ephemeral, abstract foe called "terror" has any chance of success. Has it enhanced America's security or left it more vulnerable to threats?

Has it provided a rallying bandwagon for world leaders to unite against the "enemies of freedom and democracy" or has it been, instead, divisive, engendering suspicion and anti-American sentiment?

Prior to September 11, 2001, we were all aware of America's status as the world's only superpower after the collapse of the Soviet Union, yet it was then perceived as benign, a country which aspired to policing the world for the benefit of global harmonious co-existence.

Invasions

Following two "pre-emptive" invasions - Afghanistan and Iraq - when collectively more than 10,000 civilians

are no more, while many more thousands have been injured, Uncle Sam is no longer generally viewed with affection. In the eyes of many the US has metamorphosed from an affable cop on the beat into a mega bully, browbeating and bribing other nations to do its bidding.

During Bill Clinton's term, a Palestinian state was much more than just a gleam in Arafat's eyes, although, admittedly, serious work still needed to be done; North Korea had warmed to the friendly overtures of its southern rival and its President's "Sunshine Policy"; China, once described by Clinton as a "strategic partner" was nominated "a strategic competitor".

At that time, Iraq was contained and, as we now know, was not seeking to manufacture weapons of mass destruction; the UN was a respected body; the EU relatively unified and Nato members largely in accord. In short, all may not have been right with the world, but we seemed to be heading in a positive direction.

Enter President George W. Bush and his hawkish Neo-con cabal and what do we find? The US proceeds to nullify the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia, leaving the door open for a policy of Star Wars.

Insults were hurled at North Korea and Iraq, while Iran, which was making tentative overtures towards the West and attempting to institute new freedoms for its people, was described as "evil".

The elected leader of the Palestinian

people, President Yasser Arafat, was ignored, while the Bush administration unashamedly displayed its pro-Israel bias.

Even the UN did not escape censure from the US president and was threatened with becoming a mere "empty debating society".

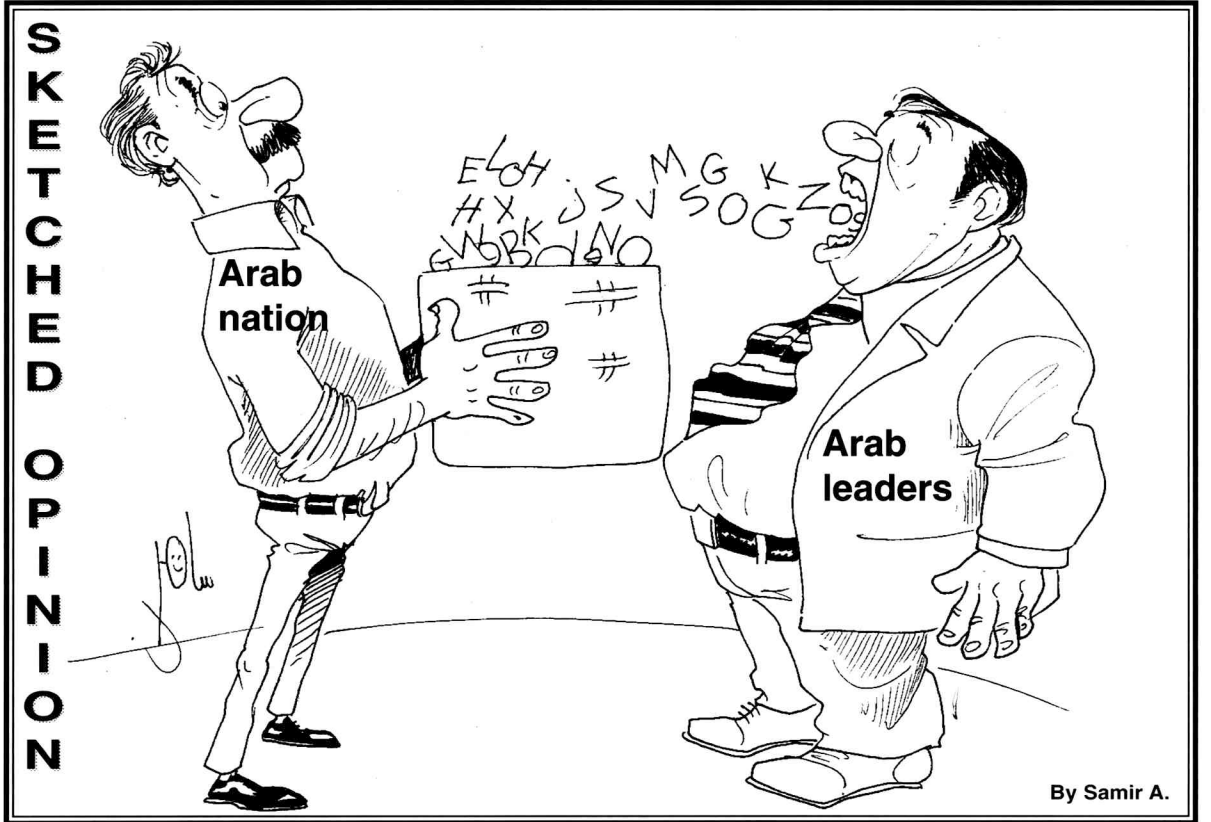
The result? The North Korean leader is aggressively pursuing the development of nuclear weapons.

Iranian moderates have lost their pro-Western platform while Iraq descends into anarchy and chaos. Bush's much-lauded roadmap is in tatters following the resignation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, rightly or wrongly perceived as a US yes-man.

The UN has lost credibility as a community of nations with a common goal of peace in our time, its members having succumbed to US threats and financial inducements. Osama bin Laden is still on the loose and, by all accounts, Al Qaida is signing up new recruits, eager to fight Americans in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Before the Iraq invasion, Saddam Hussain had few links with religious militants; now he may have joined forces with Al Qaida against common enemies.

On the plus side, from America's point of view, it now has bases in places it could never have hoped to access before 9/11. Without this earth-shattering tragedy, the US would not have been able to claim the moral high ground for its invasion of Afghanistan



By Samir A.

or Iraq. Neither would it have been able to freeze so-called "terrorist" assets, rattle its sabres against Iran and Syria, close down Islamic charities, or announce its intention to forcibly democratise the Middle East.

Two long years have passed since we dried our tears at the sight of people hurtling down from the Twin Towers, choosing the pavement over the flames, and those two years have provided time to reflect and ponder.

Since the tragedy, we have learned that a blueprint for Pax Americana was drawn up by Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz and Bush's younger brother, Jeb Bush, as long ago as September, 2000, titled 'Project for the New American Century'. Documents prepared by this right-wing body show that hawkish members of the Bush administration were long set on America's global domination.

British Member of Parliament and former environment minister, Michael Meacher, recently wagged his finger at

the Bush administration over its war on terror in an article published in The Guardian. He wrote: "The so-called 'War on Terrorism' is being used largely as a bogus cover for achieving wider US strategic geopolitical objectives," adding: "Tony Blair, himself, indicated this when he said to the Commons Liaison Committee: 'To be truthful about it, there was no way we could have got the public consent to have suddenly launched a campaign on Afghanistan but for what happened on September 11'."

Taking a lead

Nevertheless, for those who preferred the planet the way it was, there may be some hope at the end of the tunnel. The American public is taking a lead from its British counterpart and asking awkward questions. Critical Democrat voices are beginning to be heard while the once supine American media is starting to awake from its slumber.

Like his father before him, George W. Bush's approval rating is on the

decline, fuelled by his country's faltering economy and the woes of America's finest struggling against hate and heat in Iraq.

Ordinary Americans are wondering why the "Land of the Free" is so universally disliked... and feared. The Pentagon hawks are losing ground to the more dovish members of the State Department.

Barring another major terrorist onslaught, the reign of the Bush administration appears tenuous. Americans are beginning to view a future of endless conflict with jaundiced eyes, desirous of their nation rejoining the world community as an equal partner, not as an intimidating power. Will the peacemakers prevail or will the Neo-cons win through? With an election year on the horizon, it's the American people's call. The world looks to them to make the right one.

Linda S. Heard is a specialist writer on Middle East affairs. She can be contacted at lheard@gulfnews.com

'Arafat holds the key to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict'

HASSAN A. BARARI
JORDAN TIMES

It is not a secret that Yasser Arafat viewed the appointment of Mahmoud Abbas as the first Palestinian prime minister as a coup against his rather undisputed authority. The Israelis hoped that this move would drive a wedge among key Palestinian politicians, thus rendering the Palestinian National Authority nonoperative. The ultimate goal, however, was to deal a severe blow to the Palestinian historic symbol: Arafat.

Apparently Arafat is having a hard time letting go of power. Yet, until recently, he has managed to foil all attempts to get his wrangling with Abu Mazen to a showdown. His number one priority has been to tone down the damage created by this new reality. For this reason, he has demonstrated flexibility in facing the increasing pressure on him to help Abu Mazen. However, the events that have unfolded over the last two weeks seem to have changed the rules of the game. A face-off between the two leaders became inevitable.

After the failure of the hudna and the ceasefire, Abu Mazen's government was throttled by all sides. The standing of this government among the Palestinian public was always shaky. Arafat had not really conceded his control over the most important security apparatus, thus depriving Abu Mazen of the ability to effectively handle the Palestinian militants. Besides, this government was never in a position to

protect the leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad who went recently underground, fearing Israeli assassination. The latest failed attempt on Ahmed Yassin's life is a case in point.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders perceive Abu Mazen's as a puppet government and therefore do not trust his policies. Furthermore, Ariel Sharon's aggressive policies have further weakened Abu Mazen's political position within Palestinian politics.

The outcome of the interaction of the above-mentioned factors emasculated Abu Mazen's government and led it to stagnation.

Arafat feels these days empowered to prove that he is the only one who can do business. That was security chief Mohammad Dahlan's conclusion; he was reported by the Israeli newspaper Maariv as having told the Americans and the Israelis that Arafat has been spoiling the efforts to contain terror.

It is more than obvious that Arafat holds the key to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and it is within his capacity to wreck this government. Against this backdrop, one can understand why Abu Mazen resigned. It remains to be seen, however, how Arafat is going to calculate his interests in the coming weeks.

Yet, in my view, Arafat's victory is not necessarily an achievement for the Palestinians. One is rather struck to see how a great leader such as Arafat subordinates the immediate interests of the Palestinians to his need for political survival. It is legitimate, then, to reconsider the authenticity of such leader-

ship? In Arafat's case, this should be done without running the risk of being branded as one playing into the hands of the enemy.

Abu Mazen's resignation will certainly infuriate the American administration. It goes without saying that Arafat is to be held responsible for this rather unpleasant outcome. Accordingly, Sharon will cling to the mantra that Arafat is irrelevant, while concurrently ducking out of his commitments stated in the roadmap. Arafat then will not be able to deliver peace and independence and thus take the Palestinians back to square one where they continue their suffering under the ugly Israeli colonisation.

Some right-wing Israeli writers have begun to talk about the necessity and wisdom of the de-Palestinisation of the conflict. In other words, Jordan and Egypt should speak on behalf of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, respectively. It goes without saying that this naïve suggestion is irrelevant. Neither Jordan nor Egypt is interested in such tricky thinking. Moreover, there is barely an Arab who would accept a solution short of Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, a position that the Israelis do not accept. Therefore, whoever the Arab partner, the problem is an Israeli one.

With the absence of a just solution, the Israeli governments will always create facts on the ground that will determine the outcome of negotiations. Barring any new surprise, the Palestinians will be kept hostage to the wrong calculations of a leadership that has led them to failure.

What's at play ? and at risk ? in battlefield Iraq

LONDON K. THORNE
THE DAILY STAR

As opposition to the Anglo-American coalition presence in Iraq stiffens, so, too, does US resolve. Indeed, while he is still not planning to increase the number of troops in Iraq, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has implied he would support appropriate additional troop requests from General John Abizaid, the Central Command commander.

Similarly, a recent Rand Corporation study led by James Dobbins, a veteran US diplomat close to US President George W. Bush, concluded that Washington should cease framing the issue in Iraq in terms of an exit timetable. The study asserted that the US must dedicate its military to stabilizing the environment for incremental turnover of Iraq to the Iraqis. The report further affirmed that leaving too soon would assure failure. The US Congress continues to assess the long-term monetary cost, now measured in the hundreds of billions of dollars. The American people, sensing that they are squandering the goodwill of the world, stare stunned and uneasy into an uncertain, dangerous and agonizing future.

Even the campaign rhetoric of Democratic Party presidential candidates has shifted focus. The target of criticism is now Bush's arrogant rush into a unilateral war and his flexing of American military might without an appropriate international plan for peace. The cry is for an affirmative UN mandate and collaborative sharing of the military and financial burden. No matter where you come down on the semantic definitions of "quagmire" or "difficult times ahead," the reality is that the US has a real mess on its hands.

It remains unclear how the Bush administration will correct its errant

course. The stakes are huge and the future of the entire Middle East could hang in the balance. Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, comprising the secular Arab heartland, have every possibility of becoming strong, economically viable, socially stable and interdependent nations - of forming a true regional alliance for prosperity and peace. That potential lies at the heart of the struggle in Iraq. It is what polarizes the players.

The big game is really on now. The global "war on terror" is rapidly reaching critical mass on the Iraqi battlefield. Al-Qaeda and the full array of Islamic militant groups understand that should Iraq develop into a successful secular state, the jihad will have suffered a mortal blow. It is no accident that increased combat in Afghanistan has coincided with the recent horrific attacks in Iraq. Bombing foreign embassies, UN missions and devout Muslims at prayer reflects the intensifying brutality. The message is clear. Anyone trying to advance the cause of a free, secular and successful Iraq is a target.

Many regional actors are deeply concerned about their respective agendas. Iran is faced with either moving to the secular center or reinforcing its increasingly isolated form of Islamic statehood. The House of Saud must take a hard look at the viability of its austere and unbalanced social structure. Israel must have grave concerns about a strong and stable secular Arab alliance emerging in the region. Islamic militants see that the success of secularism would rewrite the political role of Islam. Iraq is the showdown, the nexus, the pivotal set-piece battle that will define the region for generations. Things are likely to get worse for everyone involved before they get better.

The Bush administration may be grasping that Iraq is critically close to getting completely out of hand. The enormity and scope of reconstituting Iraq is too much for a single nation to

take on alone. True multinational collaboration could change everything. Will the Bush administration recognize that now, as much as at any time in its history, the US needs friends? It also needs the support of Iraqis deeply committed to their nation's future. Perfunctory attempts to internationalize the effort without a true sense of partnership will not achieve the goal.

The forces opposing Iraqi reconstruction have made it painfully obvious that it can be extremely dangerous to be America's friend. Washington has some serious fences to mend both at home and abroad. How can the US ask the United Nations and the international community for assistance without offering a meaningful share of success? The struggle ahead is going to be Herculean and painful. Combatants and noncombatants alike will continue to suffer and die.

The current struggle is, in fact, a war between contending visions of the future. Will secular freedom prove more powerful a motivation than religious militancy or abusive autocracy? Does the US have a vision to share with partner nations who are willing to endure the required sacrifices? Are the newly liberated Iraqis prepared for the agonies that lie ahead? Will Jordan, Syria and Lebanon embrace the potential change in the regional center of gravity by fostering peaceful transition to a powerful, secular alliance?

If not, the US will be forced to go it alone until its current administration changes. In the meantime, it could be Good Morning Vietnam all over again, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Maya Lin may soon start planning for another wall.

Landon K. Thorne is an American businessman and recently retired Marine Corps colonel with extensive experience in the Middle East, Southwest Asia and Africa.

Minister of Education Al-Jawfi to YT:

“By the end of September about 30% of school principals will be changed”

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In an interview to Yemen Times, Education Minister Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi admitted that the educational system is facing some difficulties. He stressed however on his commitment as the Minister of Education to take the necessary measures to carry out the needed reforms.

When asked about the reason behind the fall of education standard and whether the ministry is producing ignorant graduates who can not read and write adequately, al-Jawfi replied “I do not fully agree with this question. Hundreds of Yemeni students are sent to study abroad for postgraduate studies and they are scoring excellent grades and are very meritorious. These students come from our schools. The educational system is not perfect but it is not that bad either. Of course, there are however some problems that need solutions through reform. Education is a dynamic, not static process, and has to be improved and changed every now and then. You have to remove something from here and add something there. Teachers and school principals have to be trained from time to time,” the minister said. He also denied reports that school principals sell certificates and rejected claims that cheating during exams has become very common. “If you are talking about one or two schools, I am not going to defend but I will disagree with you if you are saying it is a phenomenon. We are very strict with such law-breakers. I just gave orders that 20 headmasters in one province should be removed. By

the end of September about 30% of school principals will be changed for different reasons including corruption,” he confirmed.

Prioritizing teachers training

Al-Jawfi stressed that his priority as a new minister is training of teachers working in schools. “This is one of the most important points which we will focus on, we will supervise to make sure that the educational system is in good shape and that performance in schools is going on according to our plans and strategies,” he said, adding that “the ministry will take up the task of training teachers and that training will target their own districts and provinces. He said that a big workshop will start mid September in Sana’a to set up six programs to train around 60,000 teachers teaching mathematics and science. The course for this task has been planned and equipment to carry it out have been supplied by the ministry.

With regards to the process of merging the religious institutes that were controlled by Islah party into the ministry, Mr. Al-Jawfi said the process has succeeded and that his ministry is now controlling all schools in the country. “The educational system in Yemen is now one and unified. We have no problem with that, he stressed.

Need for Help

Al-Jawfi denied that the US has asked Yemen to introduce amendments in school curricula that some have accused of standing behind the culture of extremism and terrorism. The minister argued that curricula need reform not because of this accusation but due



Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi

to the need of the country. “We have never been asked by the Americans or others to do that; we have a committee for curricula which revises them from time to time in view of the need of schooling and of the country,” he said. But when I told him that the Public

Affairs Officer at the US embassy in Sana’a told me that the US is interested in helping Yemen reform its educational system, the minister said “helping is different from asking. We are in need of assistance not only from the US but from all donors and the World

Bank. They are supporting us and donate to enhance the educational system.” He appreciated the US embassy’s decision of introducing computer and internet network programs in some schools in Yemen. “We appreciate that but it has nothing to do with reform of education system,” he said.

He defended the government’s decision to set up three ministries for education, arguing that this is not a mess and that logic stands behind it as they all cooperate and work under the cabinet. He said that his ministry focuses on basic and secondary education and that the three ministries are meant to meet the need and expansion of education in the country. He pointed out that there is a need for expanding basic education to make it accessible to all by 2015; that needs hard work and strategies and a lot of programs convincing all people to send their kids to schools. He highlighted the importance of vocational education and technical training as they are linked to development need.

There has been a big fuss about the ministry’s decision to call off the work of al-Shawkani institute for teachers training as some teachers at the institute accused ministers coming from university of Sana’a of their interest to make use of the piece of land on which the institute is built, making it a part of the university campus. However, al-Jawfi defended the decision which he said it was taken by the cabinet two years ago, pointing out that his ministry is not a higher education institution, unable to grant diploma for it is mainly concerned with basic and secondary education. He said that they

will focus on training which will take place in districts of Sana’a which the institute follows. “We will have 3-4 training centers in the governorate of Sana’a. There are new students at the institute as we have stopped accepting new students in such institutes in all governorates which will become only training centers providing training in the districts and villages. They will be provided with all needed facilities and I think there is a philosophy behind this idea,” he elaborated. In addition, the minister said that the teachers of al-Shawkani institute will be “distributed according to their qualifications in Sana’a city or those who want to move to other institutes are welcome. It is our duty and I promised them that neither the teachers nor the students will be affected.”

Replacement of contracted Arab teachers

The ministry has contracts with over 5000 Arab teachers. Recently the ministry of Civil Service along with education ministry decided to abolish 2000 contracted teachers replacing them by Yemenis. Corruption was one of the main reasons behind keeping such teachers who can be replaced by Yemenis; they have even criticized such decision. Al-Jawfi said that priority should be given to Yemenis. However he said that there can not be a full replacement as his ministry still needs well-qualified and experienced Arab teachers mainly for mathematics and science. “We will evaluate the outcome of this step in order to stop or go ahead with it,” he said, denying allegations that corrupt crooks at the ministry of education are against this step.

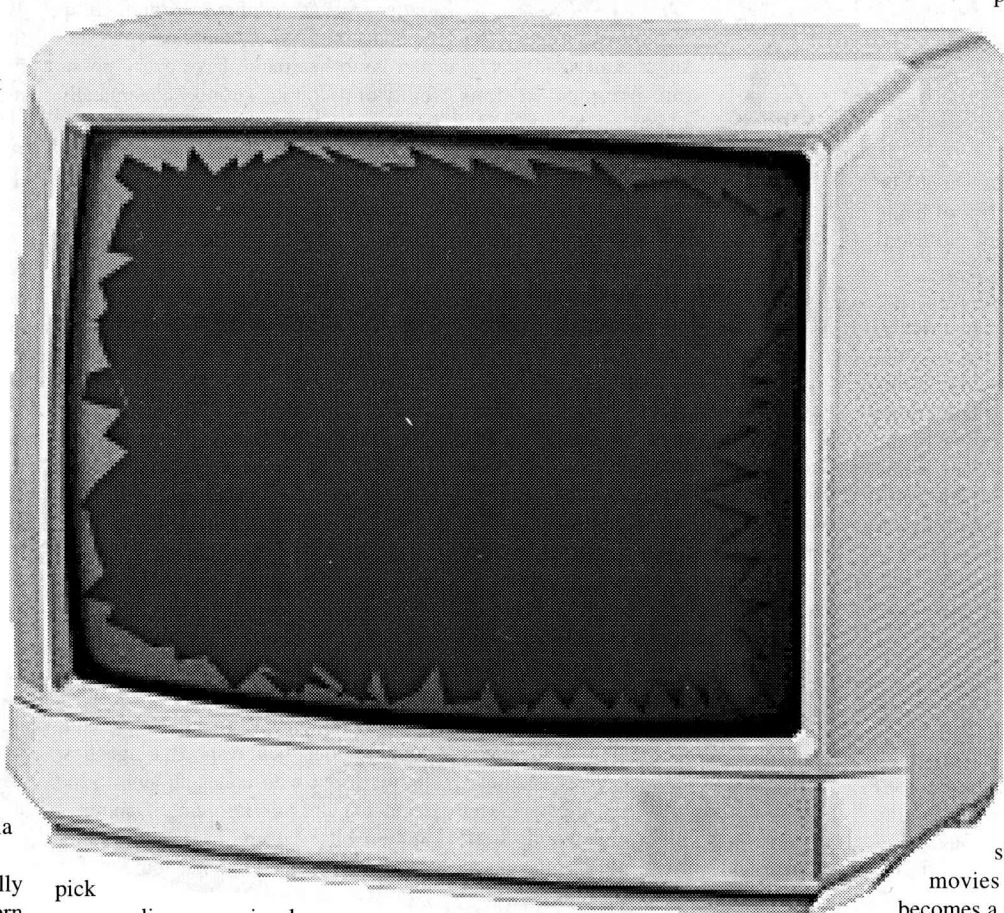
TV- Complete waste of time!

SAM ASHURAEY
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I recently took a close look at the activities of my life (as I believe all people do, or should, eventually) -that is- which ones I could benefit from and which ones were complete waste of time and would be better substituted with other activities. As I realized, like many people of my age in this culture, many, if not most, of my activities were indeed ridiculous and embarrassingly obvious wastes of time. However, I concluded that the most ridiculous and embarrassingly obvious waste of my time was watching T V. I choose this in particular because it is less esoteric and more generally relevant to most people.

Before you read on, I clarify that this article is about the popular media, and is not applicable to all television. Channels’ programs I do believe that perhaps some news, intellectual, and education channels do contain some programs not yet affected by popular media channels and can be benefited from.

For nearly two years I have faithfully watched Western and strongly Western influenced TV programs which unfortunately is what all television programs are gradually becoming. For these two years, I have followed the stupid, pointless, and redundant (which are generally the ideas of popular media) programs, only to receive this long delayed revelation, which I wish to share with you and convince you of. I can not deny that I have picked up little pieces of (surprisingly enough) useful information while watching TV, information that might be of some use to me; but not as much as one would



pick up reading a simple history book. Wouldn’t we be better off speaking with educated persons or just reading rather than spending the countless hours we do in front of that incessantly annoying screen? Obviously.

Yet for some reason we keep watching TV despite our knowledge that we’d be better off doing something else...anything else. Why? I ask you. Is it to learn if the ever so popular Ross and Rachel will get back together? Or to learn more news of the everyday, insignificant, and obviously staged

behavior of popular “musicians” and “actors”. I once asked roughly the subject of the latter two questions to a friend who lives abroad. He replied “you have to keep up; it’s part of the culture”. Although this particular friend lives abroad, it is obvious to see the rapid Westernization of Yemen and the growing interests of Yemenis in the West and, incidentally, their tendency to follow what Westerners generally would. Excuse my digression. Returning to the main point, I wish to pose a question to all watchers of

popular media: what kind of culture are we following, and consequentially becoming, one that is the pitiful audience of an industry that competes with itself by trying to have the most obscene, lurid, and outlandish programs on television? What is even more pitiful is that it is us, the viewers, who ask for the most obscene, lurid, and outlandish programs.

To clarify, I do not object to the occasional movie or sit-com. For as Baruch Spinoza once concluded, we must only indulge in the sensory pleasures to maintain our health. It is, however, when we follow these redundant sit-coms and watch movies frequently that it becomes a waste of our time.

For those who perhaps deem me a hypocrite- that is “I speak out against television but secretly must still be a faithful follower of it”, I am proud to say I am not. I have successfully stopped watching TV for the past few weeks. It was by no means difficult to stop this eventually soporific activity. For, when I thought logically, as I hope you see I have, watching television is not something that should be done.

In conclusion, when we watch TV, we are in a pitiful state of inertia which easily, and rightfully, should be avoided.

Address of power mother

By NASEER AHMED ALI NASEER
EMAIL: 863@HOTMAIL.COM

Address of power
To the nations under the sky
Don't open the eye
Against my tie!

Bomb blasts anywhere
Have positive result in try
Neither be shy
Over it nor cry

The voice of public
And enemy, friend or ally
Under the attack
Will have to die

Don't look up and down
And sequences March, July

So power comes up
And to humanity, good bye.

Address of bomb of mother
Don't say mother to other
Have all needs of life
Don't think more and further

Bush has the honor
For my selection
He will win
The next election

Rumsfeld- the best sample chosen
And I expert in blood collection
Whosoever wins
The noble prize?
I have no tension
If comes as reward
For my contribution and invention.

مبروك آل الشيباني وآل الصبري

أجمل التهاني أطيب الأمانى مكللة بزهور الورد والياسمين
تهديها للشباب الخلق

فارس الشيباني

بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف على ربة الصون والعفاف

ابنة محمد عبد السلام فآلف مبروك وعقبى للباري

المهنتون: إسلام عبدالله عمر السقاف، ماجد عبدالغني الصبري

وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء...

Stone age meets church in Indonesian Papua

By DEAN YATES

HEBUBA, Indonesia, Sept 9 (Reuters) - Against the backdrop of mist-shrouded mountains and a new brick church, tribesmen in Indonesia's restive Papua province grabbed their bows and began firing arrows into more than 100 pigs tied to stakes.

The dying pigs howled and thrashed madly. A few bloodied beasts broke free, sending women and children scattering until groups of men from the warlike Dani tribe brought them down.

One huge pig made it to the nearby Baliem river. Three youths jumped in and kept its head under the water until it drowned.

All this time, 2,000 villagers danced to mark the opening of a new Catholic church — celebrated with a traditional pig feast — keeping alive the customs of the central highland's Baliem valley,

a lush region hidden from the world until an American explorer discovered it in 1938.

Tradition still thrives in Papua, the Indonesian western half of New Guinea island where some tribes only emerged from the Stone Age decades ago.

But those traditions, especially in places such as the Baliem valley, have had to fight the forces of Christian missionaries, tourism and a government in Jakarta bent on modernisation.

Once, cannibalism was rife. So was tribal warfare. And despite the cold, Dani men wore nothing but penis gourds, a dried vegetable sheath held in place by a string around the waist.

The warring among Dani clans and the taking of heads has largely disappeared, although media recently reported two tribes in this region battled for days over a land dispute,

killing three. Fewer men wear the penis gourds.

But the pig feasts, such as the one at Hebuba village, remain and the Dani identify strongly with their culture and history.

"There is no contradiction between our religion and the ancient traditions," said church official Niko Lani, wearing black trousers and shirt and white tennis shoes. Several feathers were tucked into a band around his head.

"But religion helped get rid of bad things."

Pigs, painted faces and penis sheaths

At the pig feast, only a few old men wore the gourds. Many had war paint on their faces, or yellow and white feathers from Papua's famous birds of paradise in elaborate head-dresses.

Home to the highest peaks between the Himalayas and the Andes, few places are as remote or inhospitable as Papua.

The Baliem and its administrative capital Wamena — 3,500 km (2,200 miles) east of Jakarta — is accessible only by plane.

Largely Christian and animist Papua was incorporated into the world's most populous Muslim nation in 1963. In 1969, a U.N.-run plebiscite held among local leaders resulted in a vote to join Indonesia. The vote has been called unfair.

The Baliem is a 60-km by 15-km (38-by 10-mile) pocket of land nestled amid rugged mountains. It is home to 120,000 people, including migrants from other parts of Indonesia who control commerce.

Besides their farming skills, the Dani have few other ways to make money. That has forced many to cash in on their culture.

Photograph a Dani wearing a gourd and he will seek payment.

At several villages, great leaders of the past called "big men", who have been smoke-cured into a mummified squat, are brought out of thatched huts for \$6. In the same villages, bare-breasted women in grass skirts will pose — for 1,000 rupiah (10 cents) a photo.

Tribal fights can be commissioned, as can a pig slaughter.

Still, Dani leaders scoff when asked if their culture has been commoditised or might be dying out.

"We cannot be separated from our culture," said clan leader Jali Mabel at Jiwika village after emerging from his hut, his forehead smeared with black soot and wearing only a gourd.

Maybe so, but contact with the outside world has given the young a choice. At the church festival, their shirt of choice had the name Beckham or Rivaldo inscribed on the back.

Converting the cannibals

Another influence has been mainly American missionaries, who poured into the Baliem valley in the 1950s.

Two hours drive from Hebuba, over rickety wooden bridges and a pot-holed road, lies the Protestant village of Pyramid.

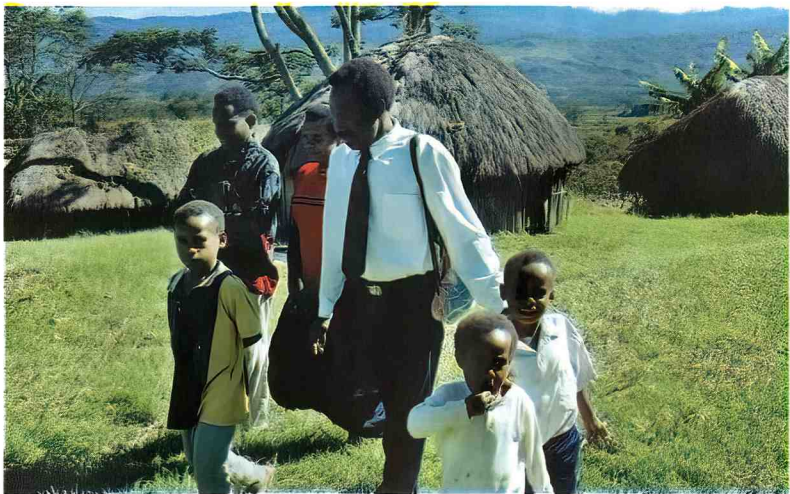
Here, white clapboard houses with brick chimneys stand in contrast to the domed thatched Dani huts. Most missionaries have since left Pyramid, handing over the reins to local priests.

Missionaries are revered by some Papuans in the highlands. But senior members of the Papuan church elite accuse the conservative evangelical groups of brainwashing.

Indeed, missionaries are treading an increasingly fine line when it comes to converting Papuans as Indonesia takes on a more Muslim flavour. Several missionaries approached by Reuters declined to speak about their work or status in Papua.

Prominent Protestant church leader Benny Giay slammed the conservative evangelical groups.

"Wherever they have gone, they have brainwashed I think maybe three generations of church leadership with



A family in the remote village of Pyramid in the restive Indonesian province of Papua walk past traditional Dani huts to church for Sunday mass on August 24, 2003. Many Papuans have converted to Christianity in the past several decades, especially under the influence of Christian missionaries operating through this huge province. But larger in area than Japan, Papua has had a largely unhappy history since Indonesia wrested control from former colonial ruler the Netherlands in 1963. REUTERS



Men of the Dani tribe in Indonesia's remote Papua province kill a pig using a traditional bow and arrow as part of a festival to mark the inauguration of a new Catholic church at the village of Hebuba, outskirts of Wamena town on August 25. Against the backdrop of mist-shrouded mountains and a new brick church, tribesman in Indonesia's rebellious Papua province grabbed their bows and began firing arrows into more than 100 pigs tied to stakes. REUTERS



Men of the warlike Dani tribe in Indonesia's remote Papua province prepare a huge pit for roasting around 100 pigs that have been slaughtered for a festival to mark the inauguration of a new Catholic church in outskirts of Wamena town, August 25. The feast took place in the village of Hebuba in Papua's highland region of the Baliem Valley, a lush piece of real estate hidden from the world until an American explorer discovered it in 1938. The festival shows that some customs of the Dani people — in this case a pig feast — are still alive, although they have had to fight the forces of Christian missionaries and a government bent on modernisation. What has largely disappeared is the warring among clans and the taking of heads in the largely Christian and animist province. REUTERS



A Dani tribesman dances and sings before he slaughters a pig at a major festival in the remote village of Hebuba on the outskirts of Wamena, in Indonesia's restive Papua province August 25. Against the backdrop of mist-shrouded mountains and a new brick church, tribesman in Indonesia's rebellious Papua province grabbed their bows and began firing arrows into more than 100 pigs tied to stakes. REUTERS

their own understanding of Christianity, which is not open to our culture, our wisdom, our history," said Giay.

Local officials have never really had a problem with the missionaries, seeing them as a bridge to the remote regions.

Back at the festival, pigs roasted

under log fires.

One fearsome looking Dani man, tusks through his nose and a spear in his hand, paced around the field, chanting a welcome to visitors. His only other attire — white Adidas tennis shorts.

"We will pass these traditions on to

our children, like our fathers did," said Josep Siep, watching the display, as he shared tobacco with two other men wearing nothing but a sheath and multi-coloured feathers in their hair.

Those who worship football superstars David Beckham and Rivaldo may think otherwise.

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Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Annas weekly, 8 Sept. 2003.
Main headlines:

- Israeli-Palestinian confrontations reach peak
- In Taiz a person commits suicide, one person killed

Columnist Ali al-Surari says in an article that the Arab regimes at last came realize playing a new game or rather a trick. The game began by Arab regimes embarkment on a new series of initiatives for the reform of the Arab league, the establishment of the Arab union. It seems that the regimes are trying to suggest that they are still keeping an ability to think and have initiatives and also can hold the reins of a historic initiative after more than half a century of defeats and setbacks.

These initiatives have been launched at the same time and each Arab regime claims that it has the solution for the crisis of fragmentation and humility perching on the Arab situation for more than half a century. As we have a long experience with the nature of Arab rulers in their sticking to their void ideas and projects we expect the eruption of disputes and conflicts and may be wars rendering the Arab entity into a wreckage.

Al-Isbou weekly, 4 Sept. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Al-Zaidi sheikhs transferred to interior ministry prisons, their companions released
- Unidentified gunmen shot head of al-Jumhuri hospital
- Drinking water bottles under strict inspection

Columnist Jalal al-Sha'rabi says in his article on the 15th of this month the Journalists Syndicate is to hold a meeting of its council and that means that any application to obtain membership of the syndicate would not be considered. The duty now requires that all should undertake their role and there should be the initiative of change and expression of stands with the election card at the hall of the third general conference. All agree that we are in need of a strong journalists union and the call for endorsing the law of the union as an introduction to journalists

rights.

Al-Sahwa weekly, 4 Sept. 2003

Main headlines:

- The teachers union reiterates sticking to the president's directives
- Members in women's union challenge legitimacy of the conference held in Aden
- Renewal of investigation into the case of Jarallah Omer

On the start of the new academic year columnist Zaid al-Shami writes saying this year some of headmasters of schools have linked registration to paying the price of the school uniform the matter that made many parents complain of that measure and some of them to announce that they would deprive their sons of education due to their inability to pay the expensive costs. At the beginning of each school year some teachers also force pupils to meet certain additional demands from the students. All those rather put block on the road of seeking knowledge and learning and innovate commitments against students incompatible with the level of the individual's income in our country.

All these concern and others I carried with me to the minister of education Dr Abdulsallam al-Jawfi and I found with him a great understanding and told me that he had given a circulation on not linking students' registration to the payment of costs of the school uniform.

Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP 4 Sept. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Politicians and researchers warn against continuation of violence
- In the capital, armed gangs kill and commit armed robbery
- Aden security bodies storm headquarters of women union

Columnist Mohammed Qassem Nouman says in his article that corruption is the other face of terror with its danger and impact on people and their life and security. Talking on terror's ugliness and harm cannot be separated from the danger and damage of corruption in different walks of life, political, social, economic and cultural.

Despite the expansion of the cam-

Main headlines

- Trade deal behind forcing girl students buy school uniform
- MPs demand investigation with planning ministry on uncompleted loans
- GPC threatens dissolving the YSP, Islah describes the talk reckless
- Falsehood and hypocrisy in war on Iraq
- Parliament members reject weapons draft law
- Arrangements for merging Tahreer party with the GPC
- Islah parliamentarians question the government about education and loans
- German ambassador: Yemen's government confirmed al-Mouayad case would not affect our relations
- Islah party condemns al-Hakim assassination
- Woman sit-in against abolishing schools for girls in the capital
- AIDS-polluted medical equipment
- Killer of American doctors sticks to legitimacy of killing
- YSP denounces Najaf bombing, sends condolences to martyrs families
- Upon their repentance, 70 suspects of being linked to al-Qaeda to be released soon
- FM al-Qirbi: Yemen with efforts for restoring security and stability to Iraq
- A Saudi wanted by KSA authorities captured
- Large-scale Arab praise of Yemen initiative

paign against corruption some began to interpret it as a one in favour of real corruption and a kind of protection of it and the corrupt. In tackling the question of corruption we have to mention about the role of political parties in fighting it, as it has revealed the diffi-

culty of political, economic and cultural reform to which the parties are yearning for and work for realizing it. It is also because corruption is the severest danger facing the society, development social security and living reality of the people.

We as citizens do not feel that the opposition political parties' stand in particular as actually changed into a political, economic, social and cultural task of these parties. We do truly read in press meetings and talks by leaders of the parties a stand attacking corruption but we mostly feel mere talk rather than action on the ground. We have not yet tangibly felt that these stands have changed into a joint working program of these parties for encountering corruption, disclosing its places and symbols.

26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, 4 September 2003.

Main headlines:

- The president lauds successes of security bodies in fighting crime
- Interior ministry source: No truth about presence of terrorist plots
- Education minister: School uniform at all stages beginning of this year

Ahmed al-Zubairi says in his article it is perhaps eye-catching that members of the parliament and ministers, which are the two legislative and executive institutions race for approving bills for themselves regarding obtaining allowances and financial privileges, in addition to protocol-related situations. It is as if these two institutions were effected for their members to reap gains for themselves disregarding what the people say about them or realizing that responsibility is a duty not a gain. If these people legislate for their gains who would then pass legislation for the benefit of sons of the armed forces and security and the rest of the state establishments?

If the people have elected their representatives in the parliament they have done so not to be representatives for their own personal interests but for the interests of the nation and keen to be loyal to the constitutional oath they have taken. Those in the legislative and executive institutions should be the leading good example in embodying the spirit of the constitution and encountering aspects of corruption and nepotism at the expense of public interest.

Such prestige seekers through keenness on being accompanied by groups of armed escorting men should realize that their behaviour and closeness to

people and serving them would provide them with security and respect of the people.

Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the People's Forces Union in Yemen, 7 September 2003.

Main headlines:

- Welcomed the new Iraqi government, Yemeni government recognizes legitimacy of American occupation of Iraq
- Chanted against America, were beaten and arrested in the Grand Mosque
- Under American pressure, 100 thousand expatriates deported from Djibouti, including 10 thousand Yemenis
- Military and sheikhs seize lands in the free zone in Aden
- HAMAS threatens to kill Sharon in retaliation for attempted assassination of its leader sheikh Yassin
- Several attacks by Iraqi resistance, British military reinforcements arrive in Iraq

Columnist Nassr al-Sha'rabi says the percentage of illiteracy is growing steadily in our country at a time the world is celebrating the world day of illiteracy eradication. The problems is aggravating in its impact on the life of workers and their unemployment accompanied with drop in number of those graduating from illiteracy eradication classes that this year did not exceed 25 thousand pupils. Official statistics indicate that the number of illiterate in Yemen reaches 10 million people most of them among women and children and work forces. This condition confirms that the economic, financial and administrative reforms in he nineties of the last century till now did not achieve positive results in the field of illiteracy eradication and did not guarantee progressing ahead in getting rid of this problem in the near future.

It could be affirmed that illiteracy eradication and adult learning at the two basic stages and the follow-up must be the national responsibility within organised campaigns along with opening the field to the private sector to offer its contributions in this regard. This would help growth of skills of the working people and their knowledge and benefiting from them in the productive side.

World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers Provided by Xinhua

Egypt

Al Akhbar
Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faiza Abul Naga expressed in a Monday statement Egypt's keenness on cementing relations with the Czech Republic, hailing the distinguished and historic relations between the two countries.

Al Gomhuria
The foreign ministers of 21 Arab countries on Tuesday are to attend the 120th session of the Arab League's council at the AL headquarters in Cairo.

The ministers will probe 16 items pertaining the joint Arab action, the most important of which are

conditions in Iraq and Palestine.

The Egyptian Gazette:
Ahmed Qurei, Yasser Arafat's nominee for Palestinian prime minister, said Monday he would accept the post only with US and European guarantees of support and Israel's commitment to ease its military crackdown.

Al Ahram
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday held talks with Czech Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla who arrived in Cairo earlier in the day, leading a 70-strong delegation on a three-day visit to Egypt.

France

Le Figaro
Who will help US President George W. Bush? The US president called for a "third multinational division" in Iraq on Monday. Only Britain, which has backed the United States since the beginning of the war, announced the envoy of some 1,200 men.

France and Germany, staying wary, did not give any comment on Bush's speech.

La Croix
The United States called for new international reinforcement and financial support for its operation in Iraq. But any eventual new force would remain under the American commandment.

Le Monde
The hope of peace between Israel and Palestine is in funeral and the roadmap peace plan became dead words. Ahmed Qurea (Abu Alla) is expected to be nominated as new prime minister of the Palestinian Authorities to replace Mahmoud Abbas who resigned on Saturday.

Les Echos
The European Commission did not give green light to the French government project to spend 3.1 billion dollars to bail out the near-bankrupt heavy-engineering giant Alstom. Brussels is still checking whether the funding breaches EU state aid rules.

Britain

The Times
British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chancellor Gordon Brown will on Tuesday confront the new generation of firebrand union leaders who are threatening to use their industrial muscle to challenge the government over pensions, workplace conditions and public service reform.

The Times
A vaccine to help smokers to quit could be available soon, as three companies jostle to be the first to tap a market worth more than 600 million pounds.

The Guardian
Public opposition to proposed student top-up tuition fees has deepened since the beginning of the year, according to the findings of a poll on

Tuesday which further undermines the government's attempts to win support for its controversial new higher education policy.

The Independent
British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw was implicated for the first time on Monday in the naming of government scientist David Kelly in documents freshly released by the Hutton inquiry. The documents also show Straw playing a part in the "sexing up" of the September Iraq arms dossier.

The Daily Telegraph:
Geoff Hoon's future as defense secretary was in renewed doubt on Monday night after he came under sustained attack in the Commons over the Government's handling of Iraq and his role in the David Kelly affair.

Pakistan

Dawn
US President George Bush telephoned President General Pervez Musharraf on Monday and conveyed his satisfaction over the state of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Nation
Former premier Benazir Bhutto and her spouse Asif Zardari could face three more judicial tiers in their trial and appeal process against the findings by a Swiss investigating judge who sentenced

them in a money laundering case.

The News
Islamabad has expressed its deep concern about the growing Indo-Israel defence cooperation, which was enabling New Delhi to acquire sophisticated weapon system.

Pakistani Foreign Office Spokesman Masood Khan while commenting on the visit of Ariel Sharon to India said if this axis was directed against Muslims there was cause for grave concern.

Japan

Yomiuri
The latest poll showed that Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has secured 182 out of 357 votes of LDP lawmaker electorate and majority support of rank-and-file party members.

Nihon Keizai
The fire on one of Bridgestone Corp.'s tire plants is likely to impose huge impact on Japanese automakers as the output in this plant accounts for

13 percent of the company's domestic production.

Asahi, Yomiuri, Mainichi
Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and three rivals announced Monday their policies for presidential election of the Libera! Democratic Party (LDP). The three noted the priority for government is ending deflation with governmental financial injection rather than pushing structural reforms as Koizumi is doing.

Germany

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
Wolfgang Schaeuble, deputy chairman of the opposition CDU party's parliamentary group, has questioned the logics of the German government's decision to send troops to Kundus.

Handelsblatt
The Japanese car industry has taken the European market into sight.

Die Welt
Germany and France on Monday reacted positively on the call by US President George W. Bush to overcome trans-Atlantic differences and be more strongly involved in the Iraqi reconstruction.

Philippines

Philippine Daily Inquirer
Invoking his right to privacy, Ignacio Arroyo, younger brother of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, evaded most questions from senators. The questions were all about the younger Arroyo's financial capacity, businesses as well as the circumstances behind his opening of two bank accounts under the name of Jose Pidal.

The Philippine Star:
President Arroyo and visiting Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra agreed to push for a fair deal for developing nations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Cancun, Mexico later this week. During a luncheon for Thaksin at the presidentialpalace, Arroyo said she had instructed the Philippine delegation to the WTO to push for a reduction in farm subsidies in rich countries.

An introduction to the Internet

Advanced HTML (4)

What is CGI?

In previous chapters you have learned how to mark up content for your Web site using the HTML standard. Now, we will begin our exploration of the CGI (Common Gateway Interface), which will greatly enhance the level of interactivity on your site. With the use of CGI scripts, you can make your Web presentations more responsive to your users' needs by allowing them to have a more powerful means of interaction with your material.

What is the CGI anyway? Well, in order to answer that, you are going to need a little background information first.

Each time you sit down in your favorite chair and start surfing the WWW, you are a client from the Internet's point of view. Each time you click on a link to request a new Web document, you are sending a request to the document's server. The server then receives the request, gets the document, and sends it back to your browser for you to view.

The client/server relationship that is set up between your browser and a Web server works very well for serving up HTML and image files from the server's Web directories. Unfortunately, there is a large flaw with this simple system. The Web server is still not equipped to handle information from your favorite database program or from other applications that require more work than simply transmitting a static document.

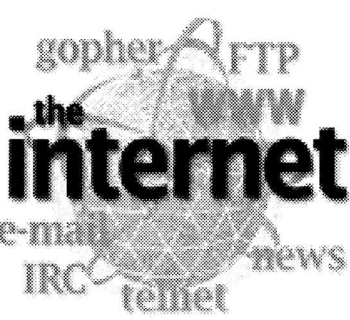
One option the designers of the first Web server could have chosen was to build in an interface for each external application from which a client may want to get information. It is hard to imagine trying to program a server to interact with every known application and then trying to keep the server current on each new application as it is developed. Needless to say, it would be impossible. So they developed a better way.

These wizened developers anticipated this problem and solved it by designing the Common Gateway Interface or CGI. This gateway provides a common environment and a set of protocols for external applications to use while interfacing with the Web server. Thus, any application engineer (including yourself) can use the CGI to allow an application to interface with the server. This extends the range of functions the Web server has to include the features provided by a potentially limitless number of external applications.

How the CGI Works

Now that you have read a little background, you should have a basic idea of what the CGI is, and why it is needed. The next step in furthering your understanding of the CGI is to learn the basics of how it works. To help you achieve this goal, I will break down this material into the following sections:

- The Process
- Characteristics
- The output Header and MIME Types
- Environment Variables

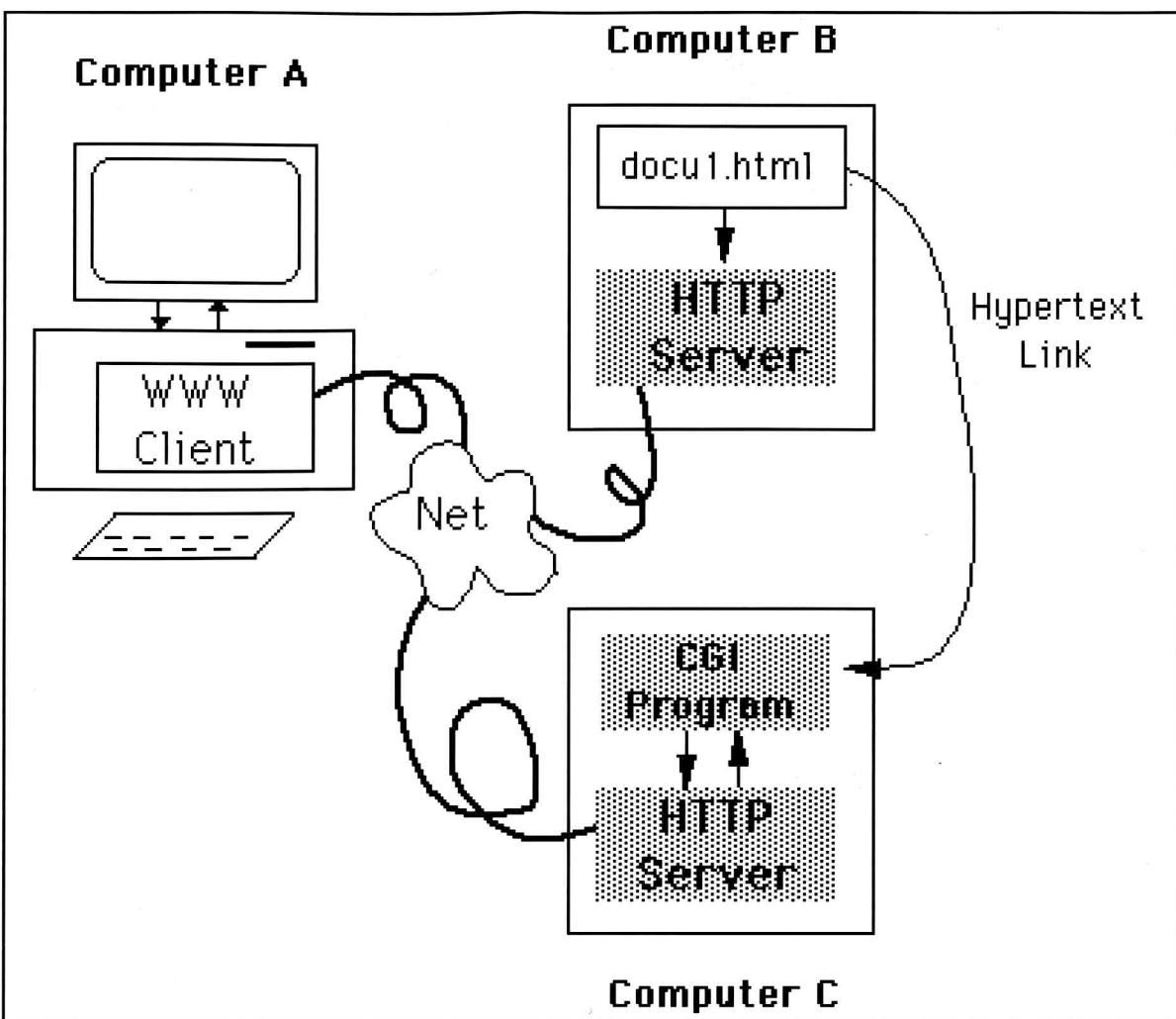


The Process

The CGI is the common gateway or door that is used by the server to interface or communicate with applications other than the browser. Thus, CGI scripts act as a link between whatever application is needed and the server while the server is responsible for receiving information from, and sending data back to, the browser.

For example, when you enter a search request at your favorite search engine, a request is made by the browser to the server to execute a CGI script. At this time, the browser passes the information that was contained in the online form plus the current environment to the server. From here, the server passes the information to the script. This script provides an interface with the database archive and finds the information that you have requested. Once this information is retrieved, the script sends it to the server which feeds it back to your browser as a list of matches to your query.

Next week: More on advanced HTML.



Writing need not to be a mystery



BY RIZG ALI AHMED AL-SANANI
LECTURER IN THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION AL-MAHWEET

Writing is the are of literate people and those who have clear thinking. So it is one of the four skills that is taught in English Department, Mahweet college and the rest of the colleges in Sana'a University. It is taught in four courses for first and second level. All of the four courses aim to make students able to write accurately. However, what I have noticed in my teaching this course is that most of Mahweeti students have low proficiency writing. Of course, anyone would agree that behind this fact many different causes are there some of them related to circumstances beyond the control of the student himself and others are under his control. If we come to the causes that are outside his control, they are so many, but let me mention some of them: firstly, there is low emphasis on writing strategies in Arabic and English in schools. You'll not believe me, my dear reader, if I tell you that most of the SS in secondary school can't write an Arabic composition. Once, I observed one class of secondary school students in their mid-year examination. They were asked to write a composition of ten lines in Arabic, but most of them could write only one to two lines and couldn't complete it. This is an example of their inherent inability to write a composition in Arabic, let alone in English. There can be no grain of double that this comes as a result of the lack of adequate reading and practice. Unfortunately, our students read books neither in Arabic nor in English, so when they want to write they are handicapped because their minds are vacant. They need ideas and a knowledge base to write automatically about any topic. Secondly, students in schools know nothing about the structure of the sentences in English. They don't have the necessary patterns to follow in their writing. The curriculum and the teacher in schools concentrate on speech and neglect writing due to poor understanding of the mechanics of writing by teachers themselves coupled with low competencies of the students. Thirdly, the crescent series is difficult for our students, especially in rural schools. I think it

was designed to be taught in private schools where you can find a cassette, a recorder, electricity and suitable atmosphere. Most of the schools in Yemen are without ceilings to cover them and neither chairs nor desks to sit and write on. In addition, the curriculum of English doesn't take into account the socio cultural environment of Yemen. Most of it talks about British culture. It is English for Britain and what we need is English for Yemen. The Ministry of Education should be aware that the curriculum should be pure Yemeni in its content, and the conversations, topics, drawings, should be rooted in the Yemeni cultural pattern. Fourthly, in many rural schools English isn't taught by a specialized teacher. It's taught by some teachers who are interested in studying English by teaching it. Therefore, when these students join the college and study English they are very weak. On the other hand, there are some student driven factors that result in their low competency in writing. I am going to talk about some of them on the basis of my experience. Firstly, some students are afraid of making mistakes and are apprehensive that the teaching will have negative attitude towards them in front of their classmates. Secondly, some of them are lazy to write even one paragraph everyday and when you ask them why you don't write daily they'll say that they didn't have time what an convincing answer! Thirdly, our students don't keep practice writing during vacations. Most of them forget whatever they studied during the year. They say that they would plan to read and write during vacation but unfortunately they don't fulfil their promise. These factors are beyond the control of the teacher the students are responsible for this impasse which needs to be remedied because it's better to light a candle than to curse darkness. In fact, there are many strategies that can help us to enable our students write freely by learning from others experience and let me have our beloved teacher Dr. Sahu as an example. Dr. Sahu came to our college in 1998-1999 and found a lot of students had negative attitude towards writing. He used many techniques to get rid of such attitude and one of the bright ideas he used with his SS was inter college competition in which the students can participate in writing essays, short stories, and poems. Moreover the end of the year he used to hold a celebration in which the excellent students were

rewarded and encouraged to improve their writing skill. Besides, he organized their creative output into a journal titled 'the spectrum' he has been doing this activity since 1998. In addition, he encourages students to write journals and after correction he either publishes them in the wall magazine of the department captioned the celadon by Dr. Abdullah Al-Majer the former dean of Mahweet college, or they find place in Yemen Times. All these activities give the students motivation to write and have a positive attitude towards writing. In addition, attendance at seminars and symposiums which are held in Sana'a University are a rare chance to look at others experience who spend their life in teaching writing. For example I attended the symposium on classroom, centered research in English from 29 to 30 May 2002 which was organized by the Department of English, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University and I enriched my knowledge with so much data that I wouldn't hope to get after two years of teaching. In my opinion such opportunities boost the competencies of a junior teacher by enabling him to from the experience of senior professionals. I think a baby can't dance at once, he needs time and practice to achieve it. Therefore, it's very necessary to teach students the basic patterns in English language and how we can expand them into compound, complex and compound complex sentences in the first stage. Then they will be able to acquire the techniques of writing personal and business letters, essays, short stories, and reports. However, the teacher should simultaneously help his students to have a clear thinking and the power of expression by reading and reading alone. One of the best ways to develop students' writing is to make them to journal writing. In other words, a student has to write at least one page daily about any topic that he likes. Besides, the teacher can choose four to five notebooks to correct and then he can discuss students' errors on the black board of course, without mentioning their names, otherwise, it will be as if you're pointing your gun at their heads. Besides, he can give his students some marks to encourage them. In fact, when I had practiced this method with my SS, I noticed a positive reaction and they had improved a lot of since the beginning of the semester. At the end, my dear students don't say I can't write, you should always remember what a man can do, another can do so as well.

Emma

BY SALEH AHMED AL-SHUMAILY
An english teacher
Al-Shaer province

Emma is one of the reputable novels of the Victorian age. This novel has been written by one of the most famous novelists, Jane Austen. In this novel Austen displays the fighting of young women in choosing good husbands. In this novel too, we can appreciate the characteristics of the Victorian age; especially the feature of social gossip in the matters of weddings and engagements.

In this novel we can see how Emma tries to make various marriages by producing young women to young men. She wants to guide and control the cou-

ples by her predetermination and unjoining future problems and obstacles. she wants to control others, minds and hearts although the fact remains that < one can't control one's prejudice, she considers herself another thing from the low class people, in the sense that she thinks about Mr. Churchly as a suitable suitor for her and tries to escape from Mr. knightly whom deems as her bosom brother.

When fate comes add to her predetermination, she submits and is convinced that Mr. knightly is her suitable-suitor. She takes a promise not to interfere in others, affairs and only mind her own bussing.

So, we can say that Austen tries to cure the malady of gossip among Victorian and past Victorian age women.

One must be submissive and ready to get open heatedly what fate gives.

In this novel, from my point of view, there is nothing called the true-love among the couples. One finds emma convinced with mr churchle, later on one finds her satisfied with mr knightly, her heart has on shelfer either in mr churchles chest nor in mr knightly's chest. The true lovers hearts have only one hope that is to live and to die in the same place and at the same time.true love has on interference true love is created by the inner feelings of the two couples since the first sight. whatever problems face the two lovers, they overcome them mutually. But in emma nothing like this happens. All the characters are insensitive towards the concept of TRUE LOVE.

Exams nightmares

BY SAEED OMER AL-BATULI
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People go through life in a cycle of exams, they are between two choices, either to work hard to pass this exams and reaching goals or to give up to the failure. Yes, life is full of problems, terrible situation and demands so failure to meet all things results in fear and depression. On the contrary success to meet them results ongoing happiness and real meaning for life. Because of this, the difficult moment in people's life is the moment which places people's position in life whether they are from the winners or the losers, consequently they become in confusion and nervous when this moment become imminent. Similarly students exams is primary and secondary schools as well as in the universities. Indeed, students at the night of exam become at sixes and sevens fearing

from zero hour. As far as I am concerned, I think, its unspeakable feelings when I'm going to seat for exam. Early, exam causes bad impacts on student's psyche. It may reduce the appetite of eating, makes the students keeping vigil till midnight and changes fat students to thin one. On the other hand, some students succumbed to the nightmares of exams and to failure. Minority of them decided to leave the study at all and the rest decided to remain struggling for their goal, but not as sedulous clever students do, those students resort to cheating in order to fill the gap of failure. On the top of that, instead of studying they prepare tiny papers, write on their hand or whispering to each other in the exam's hall. Now the question is that are all the cheaters succeed in their plan? The answer simply is no, some cheaters succeed and the others fail. In fact, some cheaters are surprised when they see exams hall is full of subtle invigilators who are going to watch and illegally movements I think we have heard a lot about

those students whom their attempts for cheating are foiled. They fainted their reputation and lost their future and it would endure as a stigma forever. However, it would be expedient for those students if they absorbed exams nightmares and accepted the challenge. But everyone says as he reaps. All in-all Let's break the ice and not let exams nightmares to become as a stumbling block in the way of success. Mistakes and problems will happen, no one is infallible and take it for granted that you will be nervous, no matter how well prepared you are. Adopting a positive mental attitude and think to your-self that trembling hands, shortness of breath, a rapidly beating heart and feelings of panic are signs that extra adrenaline is reaching the brain. Be assured that these reactions disappear quickly once you have started to write. You have to bear in mind that by persistence and preserving you can do whatever we want. May God help all students in passing their exams successfully.

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FA tells fans not to go to Turkey

By Trevor Huggins

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - The Football Association (FA) has urged England fans not to bring shame on the national team by travelling to Turkey next month and causing trouble that could get the country kicked out of Euro 2004.

The FA has waived England's ticket allocation and asked supporters not to travel to the decisive Group Seven qualifier in Istanbul, fearing that a repeat of the trouble that flared in a 2-0 home win over the Turks in April could lead to a UEFA ban.

"Being kicked out of a major foot-

ball competition is about as bad as it gets for a national team," FA communications director Paul Barber told reporters on Monday.

"If our fans genuinely love their country and support their football team, don't put us in a position where we've got the shame of being kicked out of a major football competition."

"The consequences of losing our place at the European championships would be very, very significant for English football."

"The damage to our reputation at one level, the financial impact for us at another, the damage to relation-

ships and the work that has been going on over many years now to build up our standing in the international footballing community, the difficulties with our sponsors."

Fears of trouble in Turkey have been heightened by up to 500 England fans defying a similar withdrawal of tickets and appeal not to travel to Saturday's 2-1 victory in Macedonia.

No segregation

Fans in Skopje were not segregated, which led to minor unrest after skipper David Beckham converted England's match-winning penalty.

England goalkeeper David James told reporters on Monday: "The fans' response was not taken the right way by the Macedonian supporters and they obviously put themselves in jeopardy."

"The FA warnings not to go have got to be heeded... Turkey's obviously going to be a nightmare — fans going out there are definitely doing it at their own risk."

Barber insisted that while Saturday had gone fairly smoothly that was no reason to expect the same in Turkey.

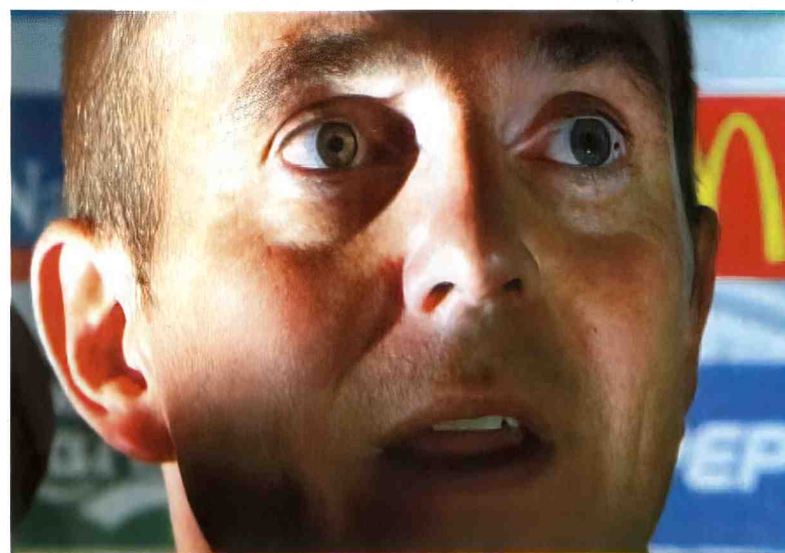
Rivalry between English and Turkish fans runs deep, particularly after two Leeds United supporters were stabbed to death in Istanbul before a 2000 UEFA Cup tie against Galatasaray.

"Last weekend, despite the fact that a few hundred England fans travelled, was a qualified success," Barber said.

"Turkey is a complete different situation, with more history between the two (sets of) fans and a more violent nature to what has happened previously."

As for the stadium atmosphere on October 11 in Istanbul, Barber said: "It will be extremely hostile, we know that, and it will be volatile."

"We fully expect the Turkish



England's Communications and Marketing Director Paul Barber speaks to journalists during a news conference at the team hotel near Manchester on Monday. Barber read a statement from the Football Association (FA) asking fans to stay away from the Euro 2004 qualifying match against Turkey in Istanbul on October 11, 2003 after the FA turned down their ticket allocation over fears of potential crowd trouble. REUTERS/Paul Sanders

authorities to stage the match professionally but, at the same time, our fans can help them by staying away. England players did not help the FA's stance, though, by applauding those supporters who had defied calls to stay away at the end of Saturday's victory.

However, Barber said: "It's really easy to sit in suits and shirts and try and put ourselves in a

situation we haven't been in. "The players had come through 90 minutes of highly competitive football and they'd scored a victory in very, very difficult circumstances in a very hostile atmosphere. It was a spontaneous act."

UEFA has opened a disciplinary inquiry into alleged racist abuse by Macedonian fans of England's black players in Skopje. An England flag was also burned on the terraces, while the national anthem was booed by home supporters.

Zidane very doubtful for Slovenia game

LJUBLJANA, Sept 8 (Reuters) - Zinedine Zidane is likely to miss France's Euro 2004 Group One qualifier against Slovenia on Wednesday as he is still nursing a thigh injury.

Zidane, who missed the game against Cyprus on Saturday which the European champions won 5-0, trained separately in Ljubljana on Monday.

As his team mates practised pass-

ing the inspirational playmaker had a session with defender Mikael Silvestre, who is suffering with a knee injury.

But the Manchester United player linked up with the rest of the squad after 10 minutes while Zidane continued on his own before eventually joining the other players in front of a crowd of 1,500 — more than the

average attendance for a league game in Slovenia.

France lead Group One with a maximum 18 points from six outings, five ahead of second-placed Slovenia.

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Wed	28	11	Wed	38	28

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
You may feel the urge to change your personal situation, but if you take action based on your emotions, you are likely to make a mistake. Expect someone to try to meddle in your private affairs.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
Someone may give you a hard time should you have to deal with authority figures or any work-related matters. An insult may be more truthful than you want to believe.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
You may get taken for granted if you are too eager to do for others. Someone is likely to offer you a position or a partnership. Consider it carefully. You may end up doing all the work.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Travel and contact with old friends will be uplifting. Getting back to basics and into shape should be your concern. Work-related problems will escalate if you get involved in who should be doing what.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
Put your efforts into raising your current assets and building up your portfolio. Work toward developing the freedom to follow through with a creative idea you have conceived.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
You can expect things to turn sour today. Dead-end projects will set you back. Your partner may upset you if he or she has been spending too much. It may be a good day to come to an arrangement with those involved in your life.

Libra (Oct 23 - Oct 22)
This could be a touch-and-go day in which those close to you may question what you are trying to do. Share your thoughts, but don't expect any help. Partners may not agree with your choices.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Throw yourself into your work and you will get ahead. Your unique approach to everything you do will pay off today. Change is good and you are ready for it.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Don't rock the boat. Your partner will be extremely sensitive. Stay away from a risky investment and prepare to make some changes.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Changes made to your home environment will be slow and tedious. Make final preparations to your cottage, boat or any other seasonal property before the weather changes.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Check over your personal papers. Find out what needs to be updated. You may also want to book a physical to ensure that you are healthy and taking proper care of yourself.

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)
Social activities should be scheduled. You will have some very interesting thoughts that, if put into play, could lead to extra cash. Follow through.

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY

NASA targets march launch for space shuttle

HOUSTON (Reuters) - NASA on Monday set a March launch date for the first space shuttle flight since the Columbia disaster, but added that safety, not schedule requirements, would decide when the shuttle goes into space.

The national space agency, in a 78-page blueprint for its return to flight, also vowed to redesign the shuttle to make it safer and to change its own culture to improve communication and encourage dissenting views.

"We will be safety driven and not schedule driven. We will be milestone driven and not schedule driven," NASA associate administrator William Readdy said in a news conference at the Johnson Space Center.

"There's a challenge there. There's very much a can-do culture that we'd like to keep. There was a culture that stifled communication that somehow we have to eliminate," he said. "We don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water."

The proposed March launch, with a launch window extending from March 11 to April 6, was primarily a planning target, Readdy admitted, timed for a hookup with the International Space Station and a daytime takeoff to give NASA engineers a good look at the shuttle as it hurtles toward space.

If safety concerns delayed the launch indefinitely, "then so be it," he said.

Columbia disintegrated above Texas as it glided toward landing in Florida on Feb. 1, killing the seven astronauts on board.



NASA on September 8, set a March launch date for the first space shuttle flight since the Columbia disaster, but added that safety, not schedule requirements, would decide when the shuttle goes into space. Launch Pad 39A is seen from the dunes along the Atlantic Ocean on Aug. Reuters

Doomed by loose insulation

The independent Columbia Accident Investigation Board appointed to find the tragedy's cause said in a report released two weeks ago the shuttle was doomed by loose insulation foam that struck its wing shortly after takeoff and blamed a NASA culture that, in its haste to get shuttles into space, ignored the problem despite warnings from its own people.

The foam damaged the wing's heat shield which allowed the intense heat

of re-entry into earth's atmosphere to penetrate the shuttle and break it apart more than 40 miles above northern Texas.

Internal e-mails released after the accident showed that lower level NASA engineers warned of a possible catastrophe, but their superiors either never saw the warnings or believed them to be overblown.

"Quite frankly, we missed something, we screwed up," Readdy said.

NASA said it would make changes in the shuttle to eliminate the loose foam problem, including the use of

heaters to replace the need for insulation, and look for other potential sources of danger to eliminate.

It said it also was testing materials and procedures for repairing shuttle damage during flight and evaluating the concept of using the space station as a refuge for stranded shuttle crews. The investigation board criticized NASA for a lack of contingency plans during flight emergencies.

Also, under consideration is a plan to put cameras on the shuttle so that its exterior can be examined for damage after it reaches orbit, the agency said.

Microsoft open up video standard for review

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Microsoft Corp. said on Monday that it will open the specifications for its video compression technology, which would allow other companies to make products based on its technology.

The world's largest software maker, which launched its latest video and audio standard, Windows Media 9 series, in January, said it submitted the standard to the society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers on Monday for review.

Acceptance by the international standards body would allow Microsoft's Windows Media 9 to be more easily adopted by other companies since the specifications would be open for all to see.

"We really wanted to think of a way for companies to use Windows Media 9 without ever having to contact Microsoft," said Jonathan Usher, Director of Microsoft's Windows digital media division.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft competes with RealNetworks Inc. and Apple Computer Inc.'s QuickTime format in the market for video compression and streaming software.

With open standards, other software companies could create appli-

cations that use Microsoft's video-encoding technology, although they would have to pay a license fee, which Usher said would be "low-cost and straightforward."

Hardware makers could create digital video cameras that use the technology, for example, he said.

The SMPTE will consider the standard when they meet next week, kicking off a process that could last 6-12 months, Usher said.

"I am optimistic (the standard will be accepted), I think this is technology that has been proven in the industry," Usher said.

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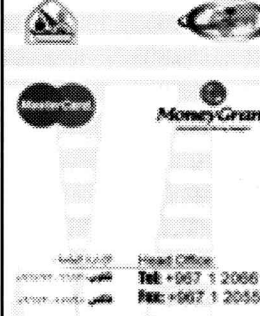
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ONAM MEGA CULTURAL EVENT (Sept. 12th 2003, 4.30 P.M. Onwards) Ladies and Gentlemen, We would like to inform you that we Yemen Malayali Welfare Association (PRAVASI) are organizing an "Onam Mega Cultural Event" on Friday 12th of September 2003.



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Top students of Taiz awarded

As you sow, so will you reap!

By FAROUK MOOBIL
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ

More than 30 top students from the public Secondary School and basic education were honored last week in Taiz by director-general of Education Office, Taiz governorate and the Al-Saeed Foundation for Science & Culture.

Taiz deputy governor Ahmed Mohammed al-Anesi expressed his happiness for attending the occasion of honoring the top students in Taiz during 2003 examinations.

"It is an obligation to honor our sons the top students and they deserve that because they represent the governorate and their schools where they are given good care and support by their teachers, their families, and their school administration," Mr. Al-Anesi said during the honoring ceremony.

On his part, the Taiz Education Office director-general, Mr Hassan Hazeb, congratulated the students for scoring high marks in their examinations. He added that "honoring those students was also an honor for knowledge, hard work, the family and the school."

Six top students representing the Taiz City have been ranked out of 10 top students in the Republic of Yemen.

On his part, the General Manager of the Al-Saeed Foundation for Science & Culture said that the foundation was ready to honor the top students in appreciation of their hard work and perseverance. Mr. Abduljaleel Jazem, headmaster of the Taiz Secondary School, one of the biggest schools in Taiz, said that the Education Ministry was planning for establishing a special school for top students where special education curricula should be provided in addition to the school curricula and other activities are to be performed.

Samihah Ahmed Ali, the 3rd top student in the republic said: "As students,



Honoring panel of the Al-Saeed Foundation for Science & Culture



Top female students receiving awards



A top student receiving awards

we have to exert more strenuous efforts in our school studies. We have to prove that we are hardworking students in order to make the city of Taiz more distinguished.

As for her feelings when she got the 3rd place, she said that she was too ecstatic. "This is the biggest surprise I have ever had in my life, she remarked. Mohammed Abdullah Abdulmajeed,

scientific section, who has been ranked the 5th top student expressed his happiness for being honored.

"Students have to show their incessant persistence through persistence. "Where there is a will, there is always a way. We are deeply indebted to our school for inspiring us with much enthusiasm and determination," Mohammed remarked.



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