

**While asserting on Yemen's stance in condemning the Israeli attack in Syrian, Foreign Minister Al-Qirbi criticizes the USA**

## US encourages Israel to do it - Al Qirbi

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Oct 8 - In an interview to Yemen Times, Yemen's Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, said that he believes that the USA's position in approving Israeli aggression on Syria and calling it "self-defense" is encouraging Israel to escalate its threat to other countries in the region. "The biased stance of the USA following the recent unjustifiable attack in Syria has undoubtedly encouraged Israel to continue its threats in the region and make it behave against the will of the international community. Hence, Israel needs to be halted and prevented from causing further damage to the already sensitive situation in the Middle East," Dr. Al-Qirbi told Yemen Times.

Dr. Al-Qirbi also added that Yemen's denunciation of the attack needs to be followed by a global condemnation through a strong Security Council resolution that would deter Israel from further escalation and force it to imple-

ment earlier security council resolutions.

As for the US claim that Israel was only exercising self-defense, Dr. Al-Qirbi said, "It is the Palestinians who should be able to practice self-defense against Israeli occupation. They should be eligible of fighting Israeli occupation of their territory in all means possible...The USA's double standards in the Palestinian-Israeli crisis makes Israel believe that it can attack any country any time."

"Clearly, this action of Syria is an outrageous violation of all United Nations Charters and is also in breach of the Israel-Syria disengagement agreement signed between the two countries in 1974."

Dr. Al-Qirbi said that Israel is escalating the crisis in the Middle East to get it out of the Palestinian-Israeli scope to the regional scope in an effort to divert attention from the local crisis Israel faces inside and from the inhuman practices of the Israeli soldiers

against Palestinian civilians.

As for what will the Arab countries do, Dr. Al-Qirbi said that the Arab League has already held an emergency meeting at the League's headquarters in Cairo on Monday upon Syria's request and came up with a statement warning against the dangers of the Israeli aggression on international and regional peace and security.

The council stressed that the "Arab states" support Syria in defending its legitimate rights, calling upon the Security Council to "interfere to halt the Israeli aggressive and provocative policy against Syria."

Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh also condemned the attack and had proposed in the past to revive the common Arab defense agreement, which if applied, will oblige Arab countries to unite militarily and jointly against any country that attacks any Arab country. However, no positive response was received regarding the president's proposal.



An Israeli artillery soldier walks by weapons on the Israeli-Lebanese border October 7, 2003. The Israeli government threatened to strike 'terrorists' wherever they are, possibly hinting to more attacks against Syria, Lebanon or any other country in the region. The U.S. government backed Israel by calling its action 'self defense'. REUTERS

### Minister of Civil Service & Procurement to YT

## "Overhauling the Civil Service Sector is an urgent national necessity"

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Ministry of Civil Service & Procurement has started taking good steps to implement the administration reform package. The Minister, Hamoud Khalid al-Sufi decided last week to stop all employment procedures in all governorates because of corruption and bribes taken by the people in charge. Mr. al-Sufi said in an interview with Yemen Times that civil service managers in some provinces were suspended from their job and that three managers in Taiz were presented to prosecution because of corruption and bribes,

adding that committees were set up to follow up the employment process, making sure that everything runs fairly and honestly. He pledged to crack down corrupts whatsoever the result but he disclosed that there is a political will behind reform at large. He said that 59% of the applicants deserving the posts in Taiz were subjected to financial blackmailing and that people in charge did not apply the criteria stated by the ministry to employment, adding that there are 67,000 applicants competing for 11582 posts announced by his ministry. He pointed out that there can not be any way but to overhaul the administrative situation which he said is a

national necessity.

The civil service reform package, said Mr. al-Sufi, aims at overhauling the administrative sector in all its aspects. "Through this project we deal with a collapsing administrative situation that can not be rehabilitated, rather it needs a complete overhauling," he pointed out. The reform package also aims to define the role of state, restructuring, reducing inflation of this sector, controlling pension as well as creating a correct and complete database for government workers, according to him. He highlighted several other issues related to reform.

More details see page...



Hamoud Khalid al-Sufi

### Whirlwind kills 3 and injures 14:

## Tragic accident at Al-Saleh Mosque's site

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Oct 8 - Three people were killed and 14 injured as a result of a strong whirlwind that blew on Al-Sabeen Zone south of the capital city of Sana'a on October 6.

Witnesses said that the whirlwind caused the collapse of a 20-meter steel post where tens of workers had been working on the project of President's mosque. The project workers confirmed that supervisors in the executive company do not care about safety means but they only care about rapid and tremendous production of the workers.

The injured people were taken to Dr. al-Huraibi Hospital, Al-Tadhamon Hospital and Al-Mutwakil Hospital.

The workers hope that the executive company will stand abreast of the families of the injured and give them their rights. "We want to be ensured that our rights will be delivered and those injured will be treated. I am sure the President himself will take care of this issue," one of the workers said.

In this regard, the workers of the project demonstrated and asked the company administration to apply safety procedures and insure their rights by making contracts to guarantee their lives if something bad happened to them.



One of the injured workers at the hospital. YT photo by Y. Al-Mayasi

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## Two Cole blast suspects arrested

Sana'a (Reuters, Oct 7) - Yemeni security forces have detained two al-Qaeda suspects, including one accused of involvement in an attack on the U.S. warship USS Cole who had escaped from jail earlier this year, a security official said on Tuesday.

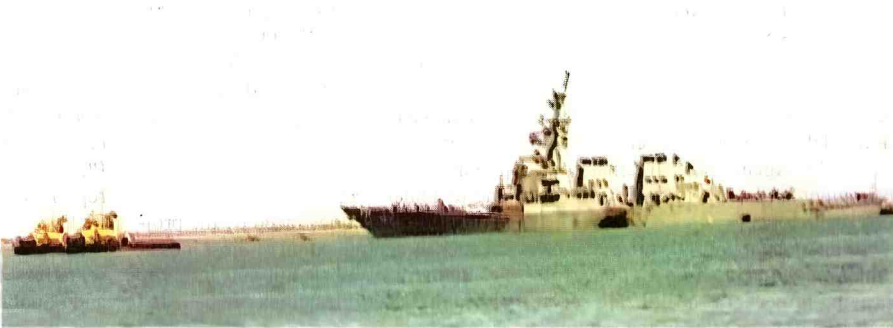
The official said security forces were still looking for eight other al-Qaeda suspects who broke out with the two men from a prison in the southern port city of Aden in April.

He declined to say whether Jamal al-Badawi, a chief suspect in the October 2000 attack, was one of the two men

detained. The bombing of the warship YSS Cole in Aden port killed 17 U.S. sailors.

Yemeni officials had promised a "generous reward" for information leading to the arrest of the 10.

It has cooperated closely with the United States in its "war against terror" after the September 11 attacks on U.S. cities in 2001 by arresting scores of suspected al-Qaeda sympathizers.



USS Cole

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40th anniversary celebrations of 14 October to take place next week:

# Aden preparing for the big day

BY RIDWHAN AL-SAQQAF  
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF  
YEMEN TIMES

Aden, Oct 8 – Aden City is currently preparing for the celebration ceremony of the 40th anniversary of the 14th of October revolution. Several activities and events will take place next week to mark this occasion, which signals the glorious independence of former south Yemen from the British Colonial rule in 1963.

Around 20,000 Adenese will be participating in the massive carnival that will be held at the 22 May arena in Aden on Oct 14.

A military parade will also take place in the event, which is expected to host President Ali Abdullah Saleh plus tens of other prominent Yemeni officials and Arab personalities.

Aden City is also currently witnessing the brightest nights of its history as hundreds of thousands of light lamps are decorating the streets and buildings of the city.

This comes in a time citizens of the city have expressed satisfaction for the efforts exerted by the current governor Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi, who emphasized on cleanliness standards and quality municipality services throughout the city.



Youths and students parade in preparation for the 40th anniversary of the 14th of October revolution



## UN appeals for increased investment in Water Supply and Sanitation in Urban Areas

Sana'a (UN Information Centre- 7 October 2003) United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan appealed for increased investment from all sectors of society to improve water supplies and sanitation for the urban poor worldwide in a statement marking World Habitat Day on 7 October 2003. With half of the world's population living in towns and cities, "at least 1 billion people suffer from the dangers and indignities associated with the lack of clean water and adequate sanitation," he said. "Increased investment is critical, whether small-scale projects at the local level or national efforts to build up essential infrastructure". In Africa, 150 million people lack a good water supply and 180 million lack decent sanitation. In Asia, those figures were 700 million and 800 million and in Latin America, 120 million and 150 million, respectively, he said. This

year's World Habitat Day theme is "Water and Sanitation in Cities" as much as half of the urban water supply could be wasted through leakage or poor administration, Mr. Annan said, so greater emphasis had to be placed on management strategies to increase efficiency, improve maintenance and raise the income of local water authorities. New local and national policies should include all water users, including those in agriculture, a sector that accounts for more than three-quarters of all fresh water consumption, he said. "Cities and towns have always been centers of opportunity, but without adequate shelter and basic services, urban environments can be among the most life-threatening on earth," the Secretary-General said. "In agreeing on the Millennium development Goals (in 2000), governments pledged to halve the number of people

living without clean water and decent sanitation by 2015 and to improve the living conditions of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020". Meanwhile, the President of the General Assembly, Julian R. Hunte of St. Lucia said it was fitting that the theme for World Habitat Day reinforced the Millennium Development Goals. "I have placed development at top of my list of priorities for the fifty-eighth session" of the General Assembly, he said. "I have done so not only to emphasize the imperative of sustainable development but also because global problems such as poverty hunger and shelter belong to all of us. Therefore, we must all work together – governments, international organizations, civil society and individuals – to ensure that people are given the means to life themselves out of the morass of poverty".

## Prospects of a full-fledged EC delegation in Yemen

Sanaa, Oct 8 – The European Union will probably be launching a full-fledged EC delegation in Yemen soon, according to Mr. Rainer Schierhorst, Head of Office European Commission Technical Advisory Office in Yemen. This announcement coincided with the 11th EU-Yemen Joint Co-operation Committee Meeting as an official EU delegation visit was paid to Yemen and headed by Mr. Patrick Laurent, the Chief of the Barcelona Process and Gulf countries, Iran, Iraq and Yemen Unit, DG External relations of the EC. The delegation, which paid a 3-day visit to the country last week, also met with Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal and discussed prospects of a political representative of the EU in

Yemen in fields of cooperation between the EU and Yemen. Discussions also focused on existing cooperation in economic, social and cultural fields in addition to strengthening the development relations and affairs pertaining to following up the projects jointly funded with EU. The visit signals growing cooperation and enhanced relations between Yemen and EU, which supports Yemen through several assistant projects in many fields. Today, the EU is the largest donor to Yemen with hundreds of millions of Euros given to Yemen as developmental assistance. On the other hand, the EU itself is growing rapidly as 10 more countries are expected to join this major world player in 2004.

## Al-Qubati receives award

BY: YASIN ABDULALEEM AL-QUBATI  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Sana'a, 6 Oct. Dr. Yasin Abdulaleem Al-Qubati was honored last week for his dedication to public health in the Republic of Yemen and in particular the elimination of leprosy and his lifelong commitment to the care and well-being of people affected by leprosy. Dr. Al-Qubati's early interest in leprosy inspired him to become more involved as a physician. He graduated as a dermatologist in 1980 and spent the following years mobilizing national and international support for the cause of leprosy control and relief, efforts, which eventually resulted in the development of the national leprosy elimination programme in Yemen. As the programme demonstrated

increasing success he turned his attention to awareness-raising in the community, health education and disability prevention and rehabilitation. Dr. Al-Qubati has been instrumental in mobilizing financial support from the business community, establishing the Yemen Leprosy Elimination Society, a non-governmental organization to channel this support. He has published widely in the field of leprosy and attended numerous international conferences. His public health interests have also included control of onchocerciasis and leishmaniasis in Yemen and his work is now focusing on improving quality of care in the national health system. He played a prominent role in the establishment of the school of medicine at Taiz University in 1999.



Mr. Al-Qubati (left) receives his award

## Bi-annual Evaluation Report on childhood under review

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, Oct. 7\_ A workshop related to a biannual evaluation report for 2003 childhood development project was held by the US Agency for International Development, USAID, in Sana'a at Taj Sheba on October 5. According to the report, the project aims at mapping out a proper plan for improving projects of health care services in five governorates in the republic of Yemen. The overall cost of the project is estimated at USD 45,300,300. It was financed by the World Bank, UNICEF, Yemeni government, local communities, and the International Development Authority.

The project started on December 2000 and will continue till 2005 under the supervision of Supreme Council of Childhood and Motherhood. It will be implemented by the project coordination unit and the UNICEF organization in Sana'a. The biannual 2003 report focused on a number of difficulties faced by the project such as centralization of most jobs at the ministry of education and ministry of health. Other difficulties can be listed as follows:  
1-The financial allocations spent on the educational and health services are insufficient.  
2-Both health and education ministries concentrate on the available services and not on the required ones.

3-The low competence of Supreme Council for Childhood and Motherhood specifically in practical and technical aspects during the project preparation. The report also has complained of the delay of approval on the Annual Work Plan by Coordination Committee. The report was approved in February 19 2002. The workshop was attended by representatives from the ministry of Health and Population, the ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Central Statistics Authority, the Public Work projects, Social Development Fund, and International Development Agency team as well as the health offices general directors in Marib, al-Jawf, Sada'a, Shabwa, and Amran.



Participants during the bi-annual Evaluation Report

## Yemen without torture workshop

Sana'a, 7 Oct. \_ Under the patronage of Human Rights Minister Ms. Amat al-Aleem al-Sosowa, the Sisters Arabic Forum for Human Rights and Human Rights Information and Training Center, in cooperation with the International Federation for Human Rights and International Alliance – Land and Accommodation Rights Network) will

organize a national workshop titled: "For a Yemen without Torture, and enforcing economic, social and cultural rights in Yemen". The workshop will take place at Hadda Hotel in Sana'a on 11-12 October 2003. A number of studies will be presented at the workshop describing the level Yemen is implementing the international

agreement for combating torture and the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Mr. Hafidh Abu Sa'ada deputy of the International Federation and Head of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, Mr. Josef Shakla the Regional Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. Faraj Faneesh high

### 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:

**Will Israel strike Syria again in the near future?**

- Of course, and it could begin another war
- Yes, but it will be limited and Syria will practice self-restrain
- No, this is probably the last attack for time to come

LAST EDITION'S QUESTION:

**Do you believe that US dmenads from Yemen are "impossible" as Yemeni officials said?**

- No, they are not impossible, but a bit challenging 57.8%
- Yes, they are indeed impossible to meet 33.3%
- No, they are quite easy to handle 8.8%

Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll) and have your voice heard!

## Extra appropriation sought

Sana'a, Oct. 6\_ A memorandum of the draft law concerning the adoption of an extra appropriation was considered by the parliament in its session held on Oct. 5. The extra appropriation draft law for the general state budget for the fiscal year 2003 was ratified by the cabinet last month, and that amounted to YR. 108,845,952,000. The extra appropriation has been ratified for the benefit of social and economic development and the institutional state structure. The official media said that that appropriation was to be financed from real and not uninflational resources as a result of an improvement at the economical process. Political observers said that the government had earlier used to prepare the state's general budget during the last years according to accurate and comprehensive accounts which had resulted in additional appropriation. This repeated failure can be attributed to financial corruption for the public property.

## Consumer protection society warns

Sana'a, 6 Oct.\_ The Yemeni society for consumer protection warns the citizens against buying or circulating the manufactured drinks packed in plastic tubes and containers of various sizes and shapes sold under various brand names. These items are usually sold in markets, most groceries and in front of schools. The society warns against buying the liquid and the frozen of those drinks because they are not in conformity to standard and safety specifications and are not healthy for human consumption. They contain artificial colors of chaotic measurements and evident parasites that are critically harmful. Parents should strongly advise and prevent their children from buying such goods and to spread awareness regarding this issue. The society also demands that authorities should immediately withdraw those products from the market in order to protect the health of our community.

# New Canadian Ambassador in Yemen

By Abdul M. Assabri  
Yemen Times Staff

Sana'a, Oct. 7\_ A lunch party was given on 6 October by Honorary Counsel for Canada-Yemen, Mr. Abdulmalik Ali Zabarrah at his residence in Sana'a in honor of the new Canadian non-resident ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Roderick Bill.

The reception was attended by a number of foreign and Arab diplomats, prominent dignitaries, businessmen, media representatives and a host of others.

Mr. Bill has expressed his optimism about broadening horizons of Canadian-Yemeni relationships for the better. "I think the Canadian-Yemeni relationship is good and strong. Yet, we can always strengthen it. You can always make it better," Mr. Bill told the Yemen Times.

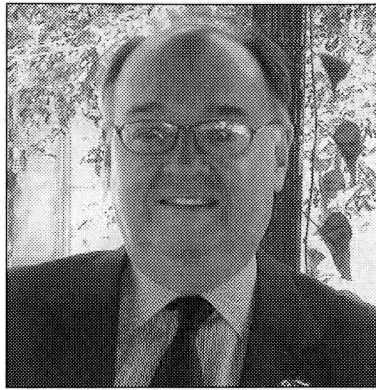
Canadian-Yemeni relations are excellent and continuously developing especially after the visit of President

Saleh to Canada. That has made Canadians think of opening an embassy in Yemen, and give more aid and external support also. But Mr. Bill sees that more work can some times be done without an embassy. "I think that the good example of that is between Canada and Yemen. "Helping people at grass root levels and we of course did that without an embassy here in Sana'a," he remarked.

"The president's visit to Canada in the year 2000 gave a new impetus to the relationship of Yemen," he added.

The Canada Fund Program, which is a modest one, has positively contributed much through many channels in different fields such as health care and education, for women and handicapped associations.

Mr. Bill believes that there is a possibility that the Canada Fund Program would be increased. "The Canada Fund Program have been based on the community grass root level. I have recently visited one of those projects and found



H. E. Mr. Roderick Bill

that it is really inspiring," he remarked.

More than 18 projects have been implemented through the Canada Fund Program.

He expressed his delight for being here in Yemen as a new ambassador and has already loved the country. "The work you try to do in a small country is sometimes appreciated," he concluded.

## 2nd International Conference on English Language Learning wraps up

Hodiedah, Oct. 7\_ The 2nd International Conference on English Language Learning has concluded its activities today at the Hodiedah University.

The conference was officially inaugurated by the Hodiedah Governor, Mr. Mohammed Saleh Shamlan on

October, 7 and was attended by a host of university professors.

This conference is a continuation of the first international conference held in 2002.

The conference focused on reactivating different axes such as, practical criticism, journalistic articles criticism,

analytical criticism for language tests and analysis of the origins of methodology.

Senior professors and educational university expert representing different countries in the world have taken part in the conference.

## Journalists caravan visits Taiz

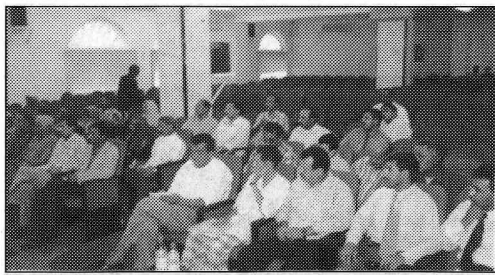
Taiz, 6 Oct\_ The first journalists caravan of its kind has arrived in Taiz on the fifth of this month after starting up from Aden on a tour of the republic.

The caravan is lead by head of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, Aden Branch Mr. Wathiq Shathili and accompanied by a number of journalists. The purpose of this initiative is to tour the country and become aware of details of its economic, social, cultural, political ...etc aspects. During the Taiz tour, the group visited a number of the tourist locations and became acquainted with different national factories.

In the statement by Mr. Shathili to the Yemen Times, he said: "The high level that industry has reached in our

country in quality and standards deserves praise from us and support. And I call on consumers, government and the media to encourage the national industry and production which form the basis for development of our country. We have to appreciate the role. this industry does especially the fact that it provides jobs for thousands of employees inside and outside the country, such as the Hael Saeed Group that accommodates more than 15 thousand workers in Yemen and five thousands abroad.

At the end of the caravan's tour of Taiz, al-Saeed Establishment for



Science and Culture organized a press conference in which many questions and concerns about the national industries have been put forward and answered by Mr. Shawqi Ahmed Hael deputy manager of the Industrial Management of the Hael Saeed Ana'am Group.

## Workshop on new system of terminal communications

Sana'a, Oct. 6\_ The Chinese company for telecommunications ZTE' inaugurated on Sunday a seminar for 50 engineers from the ministry of communication for providing information on the new system of terminal communications the company produces and works for expanding it in Yemen since last year.

Director of the regional office of the Gulf and Yemen region Hassan Mustafa said the company was seeking to expand its system on communica-

tions in Yemen due to the geographic difficulty and to serve the system in remote areas as nature necessitates the use of wireless communications.

The Yemeni citizen in various areas has now been able to receive telephone services without cables and in economic prices. He also has become able to get wireless internet services. He has maintained that the company has comprehensive solutions in communications, beginning from fixed telephones, mobile telephones and wireless inter-

net service. Mr Hassan said the company had began its work in China in 1985 and entered the international market in 1995. Subscribers of the company have amounted to around three millions and the figure is in continuous rise

The company office director thinks Yemen is a suitable place because of its economic circumstances and the geographical nature for marketing its products and services in communications.

## American Languages & Training Institute opens

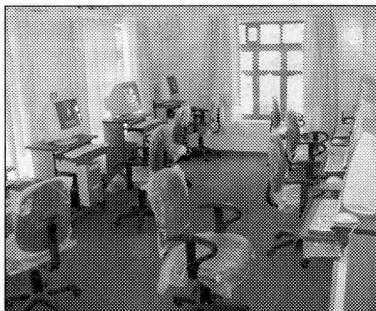
The American Languages and Training Institute, which is located in Hada Street behind Yemen Times premises and beside Al-Dilami school, was inaugurated with the presence of masses of parents and students who wish to study in ALTI.

The principal of ALTI Mr. Waheeb Hassen Numan expressed his extreme happiness in opening this educational institution, which will ameliorate the educational level in Yemen in terms of languages and computer programs.

Moreover, ALTI syllabus is based on universally-categorized American syllabuses to cover the different skills and areas of languages institution. Besides, courses of computer are based on up-to-date syllabuses.

Worth mentioning that ALTI grants certificates ratified by education min-

istry and foreign ministry. All in all, ALTI is educational institutional to develop and strengthen the skills of the Yemeni learners regarding languages and computer.



# VACANCIES

The United States Agency for International Development "USAID" has reopened its office in Yemen and is happy to announce for job openings within its organization.

### 1. "Agricultural Specialist"

The incumbent serves as a private sector development specialist, focus in agriculture, under USAID Yemen's Strategic Objective "Increased Income Opportunities and Food Security." The incumbent is USAID Yemen's local expert on all aspects of the Yemen agricultural sector and serves as the principle FSN advisor and analyst on these areas. S/he provides input and technical direction into the design, implementation, management, and monitoring and evaluation of assigned activities and projects. S/he also conducts related discussions and negotiations with officials from the Yemen Government, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and donors.

#### Required Qualifications:

**Education:** Advanced University degree in Economics, Business Management and Development, Agriculture or related field is required. Studies in agricultural development is highly desirable.

**Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of seven years progressively responsible experience in the agricultural field, which demonstrates increasing responsibility for managing, analyzing, coordinating, and guiding significant analytical and project management efforts. Experience in monitoring and evaluating programs is required. Experience working in or with the private sector, especially in business management or marketing, is required. Experience with a donor or international development organization is desirable.

### 2. "Education Specialist"

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

#### Required Qualifications:

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

**Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of seven years work experience in developing and/or managing educational activities, which demonstrates increasing responsibility for managing, analyzing, coordinating, and guiding significant analytical and project management efforts. Experience in monitoring and evaluating programs is required.

#### Additional Required Qualifications For Both Positions:

**Language proficiency:** Level IV, strong oral and written proficiency in both English and Arabic is required.

**Knowledge:** A thorough knowledge and understanding of the Yemen's educational and agricultural systems, and the government and non-government entities working in both fields. This must be complemented by a comprehensive knowledge of 1) the economic, political, and cultural characteristics and 2) the social problems, resources, and development prospects/priorities relating to educational and agricultural developments.

**Abilities:** Demonstrated managerial skills to effectively manage assigned activities. Excellent skills to deal effectively with officials at the most senior levels of the Yemen government, US Embassy and USAID Mission, as well as donors and non-governmental organizations. Excellent communication and writing skills to conduct clear and effective discussions and to draft clear and accurate documents.

#### Grade For Both Positions:

FSN - 10.

**How to apply:** All interested nationals should complete OF 612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies or degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P. O. Box 22374, Sana'a, Yemen, Tel: 303-155, no later than October 23, 2003.

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

# Farewell to Adrian Chadwick

BY FAHMIYA AL-FOTIH  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, Oct 8 - Yemen is bidding farewell to Mr. Adrian Chadwick, the Director of the British Council Office in Yemen. In a reception held by the United Kingdom Ambassador to Yemen Mrs. Frances Guy in Sanaa on Saturday, Adrian was greeted goodbye by his friends, colleagues and UK embassy staffers in the country.

His next mission will be to direct the new British Council office in Baghdad in April 2004. During the reception, Mr. Adrian said, "I had wonderful memories to Yemen, and I will definitely be coming back, especially as I took a piece of Yemen with me", referring to his Yemeni wife Warda whom he married in April 2002.

UK Ambassador Frances Guy gave a brief goodbye speech during the reception, reminding guests that he was the person who revived the council after threats of possible closure a few years ago. "Without the efforts of Adrian,


the British Council may have had to close its doors. Thanks to him, the council, with little help from the foreign office, continued to operate in full capacity to promote Yemen-British relations." Mrs. Guy said.

It is noteworthy that Mr. Adrian has achieved greatly in Yemen. During his term, the British Council's programs in the country varied and covered various fields in health, society, education, media, training, capacity building, economy, and in many other fields. Furthermore, the council provided scholarships and training programs to Yemenis in different specializations. "The British Council will still be open after I leave Yemen. However, the library of the council will not be open to the public for at least one year. There will be a director, who will be coming to Yemen often, but will be based in another country in the region" Mr. Adrian added.

As Yemen Times, we would like to wish Mr. Adrian the best of luck in his career and future mission, thanking him for his excellent work he has done for Yemen.



Group photo during the farewell reception for Adrian (second from right)



سوزوكي اليمن (عضو مجموعة بامروف)

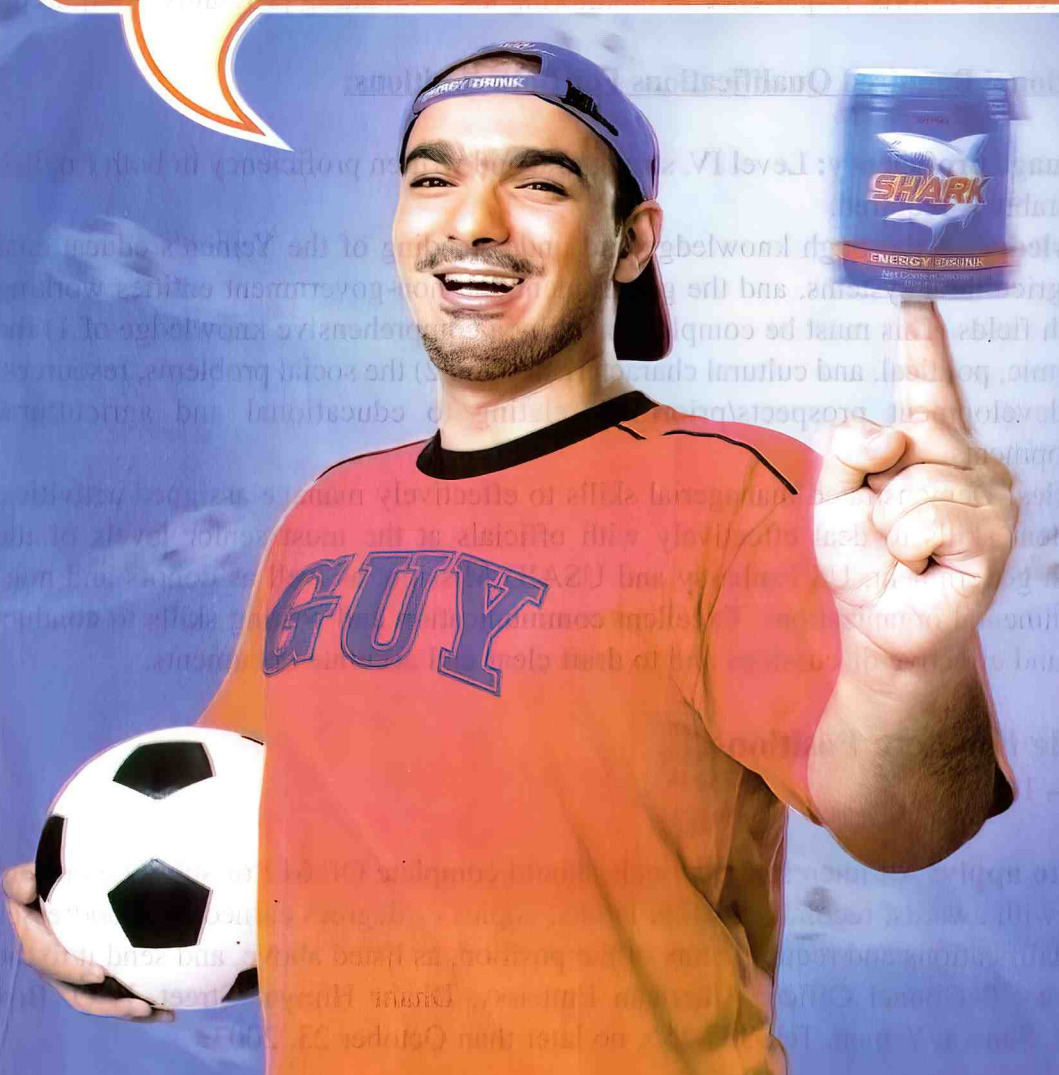


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# Hamoud al-Sufi admits: “We do not know exactly the number of Yemen’s civil servants”

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The current administrative sector is facing problems because of its inflation as some time ago jobs were not meant to meet development needs, rather they were to serve interest of some people. After the unification in 1990, two administrative sectors were merged and therefore, there was, according to the minister, a need to assimilate all the employed staff of the then two countries. This resulted in a sort of employment accumulation, despite the fact that some of the labor force is needless. “Therefore, there has been an urgent need to overhaul this terrible situation,” he said, adding “we have taken good steps in implementing this reform package. Unfortunately, people do not feel the outcome of this very quickly. The results are not welcomed and reform is always a headache for many people who do not understand the benefit of it on the long-run and those whose interests are targeted by such reform.”



Hamoud Khalid al-Sufi

**Correct Database after 7 months**  
One of the main concerns of this ministry is to create a correct database. The minister said there is a committee working now on the project in cooperation with the National Document Center to check documents of the ministry and review them so as to come up with a complete and true database of the state’s administrative sector as a whole. “This is because we do not know now exactly how many people are working for the government. There are approximately 46,000 employees, 69-70,000 out of them are females. However, we are not sure of this number,” al-Sufi said. However, he confirmed that creating a database for his ministry is no longer a headache as much work has been done so far in this regard and that his ministry is now at the implementation phase. “It is expected that in 7 months time, we would be able to know how many employed people in the administrative sector of the state are,” he added.

**Political will to protect reforms**  
The previous leadership of the ministry attempted to find a way out for the dual and phantom jobs problem. Al-Sufi said this leadership might have been put under pressure as there was a government’s commitment before the parliament to sort out who are the real working staff of the state. But, the measure taken to find out that, was not practical as it was based on computer, depending on the similarity of names to find out the dual and phantom job holders at a time when there is not yet a correct database to depend on. Around 16, 000 employees were labeled as dual job holders. Yet, people complained and 90% of these people were returned to their jobs and there is a committee still working on the rest. “However, we are quite sure that dual and phantom jobs do exist; there are people who hold dual jobs in the civil service and the military or security and there are others who even hold more than one job in two sectors within the civil service. There are people who receive salaries without performing any job like businessmen, expatriates...etc. But we are serious about cracking such chaos and what encourages us to go ahead in reform is that there is a political will and decision. The president asked the government in its first meeting to carry out a revolution in the administration reforms. Implementing reforms needs courageous people who must have a political will to protect them,” he said. He added that what has been achieved since the announcement

of the new government was not done in years.

**Cracking down corruption**  
He stressed carrying out such reforms is not merely to respond to the World Bank pressure but “it is a national necessity standing behind speeding up the process of reform,” he said. The WB sponsors such reforms as it is the most important funding organization for them. The minister said that the government might have different views with the WB and donors with respect to reforms. “However, the WB and donors understand what we are doing and support our work,” he said.  
The steps taken by al-Sufi have been praised by so many people who are happy to hear that the mess of employment would come to an end and only meritorious people can get their due rights without favoritism, nepotism, mediation or have to pay for that. The minister has suspended the work of some of his managers in some governorates like Taiz and others. Even the WB country manager, Robert Hindle told me in an interview with him last week that he is happy with the decisions taken by civil service ministry. Some managers in Taiz have been presented to prosecution on charges of corruption. People expect more stiff measures to stop corrupt crooks trading with posts.

**Improving Pension system**  
There are 33,000 employees who have been retired and the application of the pension system run smoothly and automatically. “Our concern now is to improve and minimize the procedures of pension, avoiding bureaucratic and routine work,” he said, adding that to pension employees used to take much time and bureaucracy. The procedure can even reach the president of the republic. “We have proposed a simpler procedure to the cabinet to endorse in this respect. We just need a good database so that the ministries of civil service, finance as well as general authorities for securities can take their procedures easily. To tell you the truth, the wages payroll has been to some extent cleaned from retired people,” he said.

**Biological Fingerprint & photo system**  
“People having dual jobs is one of the most serious examples of this situ-

ation and is a good environment for corruption. And when we target it, of course, we target the interests of many people. This is why we are harshly criticized by people and sometimes by media,” he observed. However, he said, “we understand we are reforming a bad situation and that it would cost a lot. Again, I should say we are very serious and decisive about it as we will all feel its fruitful results in the future.”  
For the biological fingerprint and photo system to be applied by his ministry, he said there is no way to stop the dual jobs phenomenon unless this system is put into practice. He pointed out that there are some countries facing the same problem and that Yemen is making use of their experience. Al-Sufi stressed that this system will target both the civil, security and military sectors. The project will be implemented by a German company as it won the tender among three other companies. The project has been approved of by the cabinet. He pointed out that it will be done with the most advanced technology and that the company will take into account the changes of technology since 2001, the time in which the tender was announced. A committee has been set up to monitor the job of the company after consultations made by a British company were made to incorporate any new technology in this field. Therefore, the cost of the project has raised from 2,900,000 to 3,500,000 euros.  
The minister said that the cost covers the biological fingerprint and photo system as well as a network of computers in the ministry and in 22 provinces, advanced system for database as well as training and maintenance of the project for three years. The cost is nothing if it is compared to the revenues the government will save from the application of the system. “We will save YR 1 billion and 600 million in a month and YR 17 billion and 500 million a year. It is a lot of money being wasted,” he stated. The work in the project which will definitely decide the fate of reforms will commence probably next November and will last for almost one year. This system will enable the ministry of civil service to find out the dual and phantom job holders who will be dropped out of the government payrolls.

**Civil Service Fund**  
The government established the Civil Service Fund (CSF) in 1999. The minister said that the work of the fund will improve. The Law organizing its work has some breaks. When the government asked the parliament last month to endorse some amendments on the law, there has been a big fuss about it as the opposition criticized the new draft law of trying to drop out employed people onto the streets. However, the minister defends these amendments which give the ministry the right to rehabilitate and train the employees and only those who are not qualified should go to this fund. Al-Sufi said those employees representing extra labor belong to the firms that have been privatized or other institutions whose work has stopped for economic reasons. They amount to 13,000 employees. The new amendment also targets people who belong to some political parties and associations and were employed after the unification for political reasons. They receive salaries without performing any sort of work. Their number reaches to 12,000 persons.

**30,000 extra labor**  
The minister said there is approximately 30,000 labeled as surplus labor and the exact figure can be decided when restructuring process is completed. “We will not drop out these people onto the street and we are not the first country to carry out such measures rather they will be referred to the Fund. We will compensate those people who have not served less than 15 years,” he said, adding that they will take one third of their salaries till they are pensioned. While those who do not accept compensation, their years of service will be paid for and then be pensioned too. “How can we talk about an administrative reform and maintain a surplus fruitless labor. We deal with the situation in a humanitarian way as there are some people who receive salaries without doing any job and the law states that they should be fired,” al-Sufi explained. He said that the salary is no longer enough but only people who deserve should have a raise. With the existing government payroll that is not possible. Once it is cleaned, there is a possibility for improving the wages of civil service workers. Wages payroll should be cleaned from dual and phantom jobs holders as well as retired before this step takes place.

**Review of Reform**  
He stressed that reform is a complete process that can not be divided, pointing out that it needs also amendments of some laws related to civil service, securities, wages, social security which was part of the ministry of social affairs...etc. These laws, according to the minister, have to be amended also to be harmonious with each other and with the local council law as they now conflict with each other. They have to form a coherent package.  
He said that the government has now a meeting which started yesterday with the WB and donors to have some kind of mid-term review of what has been achieved of the reform package. “We will discuss with them all issues concerned and we will reply to their questions with some concrete and tangible work we have been doing so far,” he said.  
Concerning the replacement of some Arab workers by Yemenis, the minister said that there are qualified Yemenis who can replace them. There are 3835 Arabs working for the ministry of education and 1960 have been already replaced by Yemenis. He said that another 1200 diploma holders from some Arab countries will be soon replaced by Yemenis.

## Lecture organized by United Insurance Company: Fight against international maritime fraud

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, Oct 7 - Realizing the economic damage resulting from all kinds of international maritime fraud and its negative effects on trade activities in general and on the national economy in particular as well as its effects on local, Arab and international trade, United Insurance Company held on Sunday 5 October a seminar on international maritime fraud. The event was under the auspices of the Minister of Industry and Commerce and co-organized with the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce. Among the attendees were the deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce Khaled Al-Wazeer, Advisor of the Transport Ministry Mr. Iqbal Bahader, Chairman of the Yemeni Insurance Federation Mr. Ali Hashem along with the General Manager of Sanaa’s Chamber of Commerce Mr. Abdulsalam Al-Samai, plus a host of concerned individuals representing various sectors and institutions.  
Mr. Tariq Abdulwase’ Hayel Saeed Anam, the General Manager of the United Insurance Co. addressed the attendance in the event by saying, “Realizing the dire need for cooperation of all those who work in the trade, banking and insurance fields to fight international maritime fraud, we have coordinately unified our stances against this dangerous phenomenon together. We would like through this seminar to raise awareness about the necessity of insurance that is still considered in Yemen -unlike other countries- one of the superfluous things in Yemen.”

“We in the United Insurance are pleased to organize this seminar to provide you with the main principles and techniques in fighting international maritime fraud, cherishing to shield trade activities on different levels, locally and internationally. Besides, the aim is supporting and insuring commercial work and clearing the atmosphere from all illegal means and operations and preventing spending millions of dollars for victims of international maritime fraud.”



Mr. Tariq Abdulwasea Hayal



Insurance, the United Insurance publication

He concluded “The United Insurance expresses its willingness to offer consultation for anyone who is exposed to any kind of fraud as well as offering solutions to reduce the potential losses and ensure continuity of the economic and trade activities. Moreover we would like to organize more seminars on insurance in general in the future.”  
Mr. Shehab al-Anbaki, the head of statistics and research department in United Insurance Co., gave a lecture about the principles of fighting international maritime fraud and answered questions asked by the attendants.  
It is noteworthy that the United Insurance Company is a prominent edifice in the field of insurance and it has taken a first step of its kind in Yemen by issuing a quarterly publication devoted to insurance issues and topics.



Mr. Shehab al-Anbaki

## Civil education and the new generations

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES

Raising new generations to believe in democratic rights and freedom is of the most essential missions in life, because it is the new generations who are hoped to face the rapid challenges of today’s life and adapt to the needs of development. This concept was understood by many active civil societies who work continuously on the civil education of the youth one way or the other. And this was the reason behind a 2-day workshop concluded last week which was organized by the Women’s Forum for Research and Training in cooperation with the Canadian Program.  
Ms. Suad al-Qadasi Head of the Forum in her welcoming speech emphasized on the importance of civilian education, and its role in bringing up a generation capable of keeping pace with speedy changeables in the world. She also explained a number of definitions that are regularly found in the world’s vocabulary such as globalization, unemployment, identity, discrimination...etc.  
This very issue is not only the concern of the civil societies; Ms. Amat al-Aleem al-Sosowa Human Rights Minister who attended the workshop had made it clear that training on and spreading human rights knowledge was actually the first step in achieving them, for awareness of rights leads to protecting them so that the world to

live in peace and order with others. “It is our hope that human rights principles are planted in the society’s behavior,” she said.  
Deputy Minister of Education, Dr Abdulaziz bin Habbour also participated in the workshop said such an activity was to be considered as a serious contribution to this field and to help us develop concepts of education, citing the Ministry of Education support for the event.  
He reviewed a number of figures which posed as challenges against development, especially that of women where the percentage of girls enrolled in schools were between 6 and 14 years old is only 46.7%, girls in the primary education are barely above 30% of the female population and still 50% of those drop out of school for various reasons. The situation gets worse as education level grows higher where girls enrolled in secondary education levels are as small as 9% of the female population.  
It’s not only about concepts, it’s about awareness and education, in order to achieve democratic citizenship; the citizens must be aware about and know that they can. This was the main angle of the working papers presented in the workshop by a number of intellectuals and concerned professors. The idea is to engrave freedom concepts on the body of this society, start up new syllabus that emphasize on this kind of education in order to produce better generations, more aware, more free and more able.



# Assad says Israel trying to widen Mideast crisis

DUBAI, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Syrian President Bashar al-Assad accused Israel on Tuesday of trying to drag Syria and the rest of the Middle East into wider conflict in his first public comments on the weekend Israeli air strike near Damascus.

"(The raid) is an attempt by the Israeli government to extract itself from its big crisis by trying to terrorise Syria and drag it and the region into other wars because this (Israeli) government is one of war and war is the justification for its existence," Bashar told al-Hayat daily in an interview published on Tuesday.

Israel attacked a site near Damascus on Sunday, alleging it was a training camp for Palestinian militants, a day after a suicide attack in Haifa, Israel killed 19 people. Syria said the raid was on "a civilian location" northwest of the capital.

It was Israel's deepest raid into Syria since the 1973 Middle East war. "There is no doubt that Syria's role in various issues in our region is painful for this (Israeli) government.

What happened is a failed Israeli attempt to thwart this role, and we can say with all confidence that what happened will only make this role more effective in regional events," he added.



Syrian president Bashar al-Assad (C) Defence Minister Mustafa Tias (R) and Chief of Staff Hassan Turkmani (L) attend a ceremony at the anonymous soldier monument to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1973 Middle East war, Oct. 6. REUTERS

# Blast, gunfire heard at Iraq Foreign Ministry

BAGHDAD, Oct 7 (Reuters) - A blast hit the compound of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry in Baghdad on Tuesday but security guards at the building said there appeared to have been no casualties.

Gunfire rang out in the area after the blast, and journalists were not allowed to enter the compound.

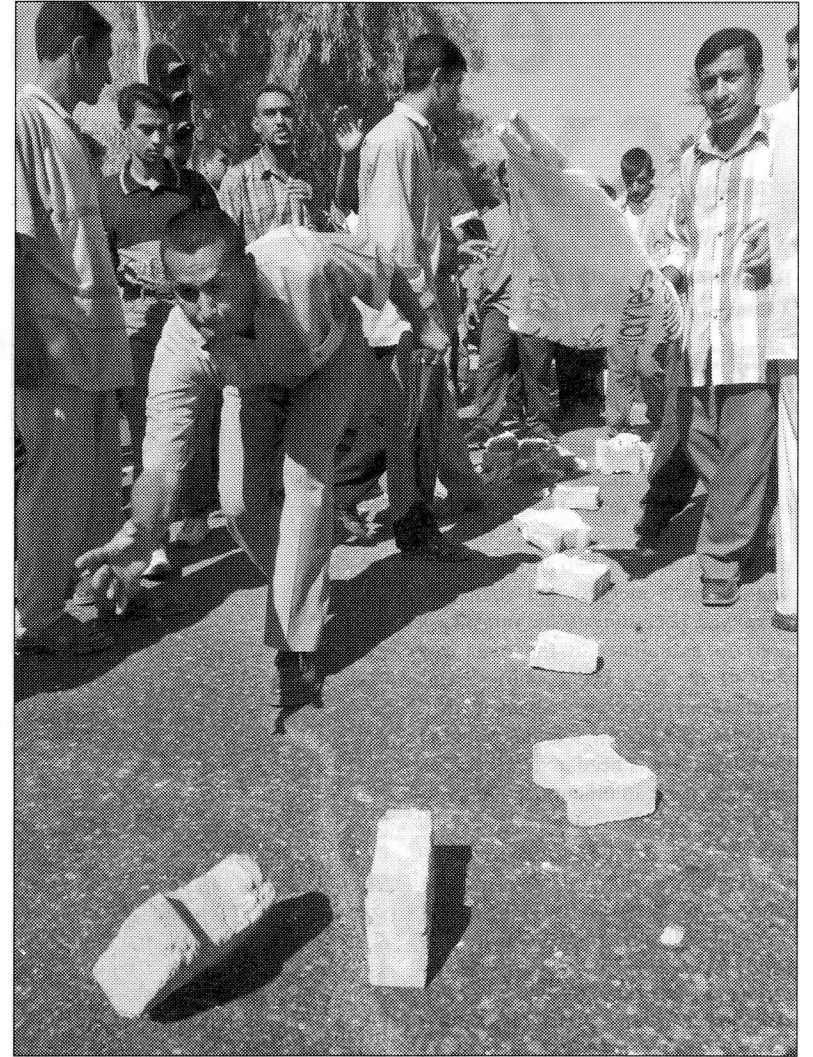
Several bomb and missile attacks have been aimed at "soft targets" in Baghdad over recent weeks.

Last month a suicide car bomber blew himself up outside the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, also killing a security guard — the second deadly bomb attack on the U.N. in Baghdad.

A bomb also killed a security guard at a hotel used by the U.S. network NBC, and rockets were fired at the Rasheed Hotel, which houses senior personnel in the U.S.-led administration and is close to the Foreign Ministry compound.

Washington blames supporters of Saddam Hussein and foreign Muslim militants for the attacks.

A bomb attack on the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad on August 19 killed 22 people, part of continuing violence which has hampered U.S. efforts to broaden international participation in post-war reconstruction and peace-keeping.



A man throws a stone to block a street near the U.S. headquarters in Baghdad Oct. 7, during a protest by former secret policemen who lost their jobs following the toppling of the Saddam Hussein regime. REUTERS

# Arafat swears in Palestinian emergency cabinet

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, facing fresh Israeli threats to "remove" him, on Tuesday swore in an emergency eight-member cabinet led by Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie.

Qurie has said the cabinet will try to end "a state of chaos" in Palestinian areas by pressing militant factions to halt attacks on Israelis. Israel has threatened to exile Arafat unless Palestinian authorities start cracking down on militants.

"Given the circumstances we are facing... we are required to rise to the level of the challenge. To my brother Abu Ala, may God help him and I wish all the best and success," Arafat said after the ceremony, using Qurie's nom de guerre.

Palestinian officials said the pared-down cabinet, a third of its forerunner's size, did not need parliamentary approval because Arafat had declared a state of emergency on Sunday a day after an Islamist suicide bomber killed 19 people in Israel.

Israel responded by saying the day of Arafat's "removal" was drawing nearer and any decision to move against him might depend on Palestinian actions in the coming 48 hours.

The new cabinet planned its first session shortly after the swearing-in rite held in Arafat's half-demolished compound where the former guerrilla leader is confined by Israeli forces confronting a Palestinian revolt launched three years ago.

Qurie's team included Nasser



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat (R) adjusts his kafia beside new Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie (L) during the swearing in of an emergency cabinet Oct. 7, in the West Bank city of Ramallah. REUTERS

Youssef in the pivotal interior minister's post. Youssef, a general, is one of Arafat's old allies but recently criticised his leadership.

Arafat chose Qurie, ex-speaker of the Palestinian assembly, to replace Mahmoud Abbas who quit last month over what he called obstruction

in taking over security powers held by Arafat and a lack of peace-making support from Israel and Washington.

# Sudanese peace talks resume in Kenya

NAIROBI, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Sudan's government and the country's main rebel group launched fresh rounds of peace talks in Kenya on Tuesday, described by officials as complex and difficult, aiming to end 20 years of bloodshed in the country.

The delegates are discussing several unresolved issues, officials said.

Namely, how to share power and wealth from the south's lucrative oil wells, the status of the capital Khartoum and the political status of three disputed regions — the Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile and Abyei.

"Despite the fact that we have solved the most difficult issue, which is the security arrangements, the remaining issues are complex and require a lot of effort," rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) spokesman Arman Yasser told Reuters.

Peace talks between the government and the SPLA were adjourned on September 26 after the two parties signed a key security deal that cleared

a major stumbling block in efforts to end the civil war that has killed some two million people.

The talks being held in Naivasha, a town 90 km (55 miles) northwest of Nairobi, commence at committee level. Sudan's first vice president, Ali Osman Taha, and SPLA leader John Garang are expected to join them next week.

The chief mediator, Kenya's Lazaro Sumbeiywo, said the two parties were consulting separately with mediators and would meet later on Tuesday to decide on an agenda and timetable for the talks. Peace has eluded southern Sudan despite years of efforts to end the civil war which broke out in 1983, pitting the Islamist government in the north against rebels seeking greater autonomy in the mainly animist and Christian south.

However, there was a breakthrough last year when the two sides agreed to give southerners the right to a referendum on succession after a six-year transition period.

# Saudi Arabia beheads Pakistani drug smuggler

RIYADH, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia beheaded a Pakistani man on Tuesday for smuggling heroin into the conservative Gulf Arab state, the Interior Ministry said.

The execution, which took place

in the port city of Jeddah, raised to at least 46 the number of people put to death this year in the kingdom, the birthplace of Islam.

At least 45 people were executed last year, 75 in 2001 and 121 in

2000.

Saudi Arabia, which enforces an austere version of Islamic sharia law, executes murderers, rapists and drug smugglers, usually by public beheading.

# American University of Kuwait to open next Sept

KUWAIT, Oct 7 (Reuters) - The U.S.-based Dartmouth College will help set up Kuwait's first private university following the U.S. educational model, the two institutions said on Tuesday. The American University of Kuwait (AUK) will, however, observe the Kuwaiti segregation law, backed by Islamist parliamentarians and passed by parliament in 1996 to separate males from females at Kuwaiti academic institutions.

"Regardless of our opinion of that law, it will be implemented at the

AUK," Shafeeq Ghabra, president of the AUK, told a press conference held in Kuwait with representatives of Dartmouth college.

The university has hired some 50 American teaching staff, and will accept up to 350 applications from prospective freshmen. Study is expected to commence by September 2004.

The AUK will charge about 180 dinars (\$600) per credit hour. It will not offer any graduate programs for the first four years.

# Violence erupts after fiery Pakistan militant slain

JHANG, Pakistan, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Police fired in the air to disperse rampaging crowds in the Pakistani city of Jhang on Tuesday and violence broke out in the capital as followers of a slain Pakistani Sunni militant leader vowed revenge.

Azam Tariq, leader of the banned Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) and a member of parliament, was assassinated in a hail of bullets along with his driver and three bodyguards as he drove into the capital Islamabad on Monday.

His death threatens to inflame tensions between Sunnis and Shi'ite Muslims after a wave of sectarian killings in recent months.

"We have been saying from day one that Shi'ites and Iran are involved in such incidents," said senior SSP official Ali Sher Haidari. "This incident will increase violence in the country," he told reporters in Jhang, 300 km (190 miles) south of Islamabad, where Tariq will be buried later on Tuesday.

In Jhang, police said a group of 50 to 60 SSP activists attacked a Shi'ite mosque, but there were no casualties because it was empty at the time.

Security forces also fired into the air to disperse another crowd of around 300 people who had set fire to a filling station.

**ISLAMABAD VIOLENCE**  
In the normally sleepy capital of Islamabad, small groups of SSP followers smashed cars, traffic signals and torched a cinema after prayers were held for the dead leader outside parliament.

Witnesses said at least two people with burn injuries were taken away from the cinema. "The theatre has been completely gutted," a Reuters correspondent at the scene said.

Doctor Salman Adil told Reuters that one cinema victim was dead on arrival at the Federal Government Services hospital.

Thousands of supporters attended prayers in Islamabad where SSP members vowed to take up Tariq's struggle against minority Shi'ites who make up 15 percent of Pakistan's 149 million people.

"I warn the government and our enemies that unless they are declared non-Muslims, Tariq's mission and struggle would continue," another SSP leader, Masood-ur Rehman Usmani, said at the gathering, referring to Shi'ites.

Tariq's body was flown by helicopter to his old stronghold of Jhang, where he will be buried.

SSP officials blamed the government for not providing adequate security for the militant leader, and threatened to demolish parliament unless his killers were caught soon.

Police were braced for more violence and sent guards to protect religious leaders.

"All law enforcing agencies throughout the country have been put on high alert," said interior ministry

spokesman Iftikhar Ahmed. "We have also stepped up security for mosques and Shi'ite community centres."

Three soldiers died and 27 were injured when their bus overturned as they travelled to Jhang to beef up security.

**WAVE OF KILLINGS**  
Tariq's killing came after a spate of sectarian violence in Pakistan, culminating in the the worst attack in years in July when suspected Sunni militants sprayed gunfire on worshippers in a Shi'ite mosque in Quetta, killing more than 50.

On Friday, six Shi'ites were killed in an attack on a bus in the southern city of Karachi. Hundreds of angry mourners burned tyres and threw stones in the city on Saturday.

Tariq's shooting took place on the day U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage met President Pervez Musharraf for talks focused on the U.S.-led war on terror.

Tariq's assassination underlines the failure of Musharraf's vaunted crackdown on militants, announced in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

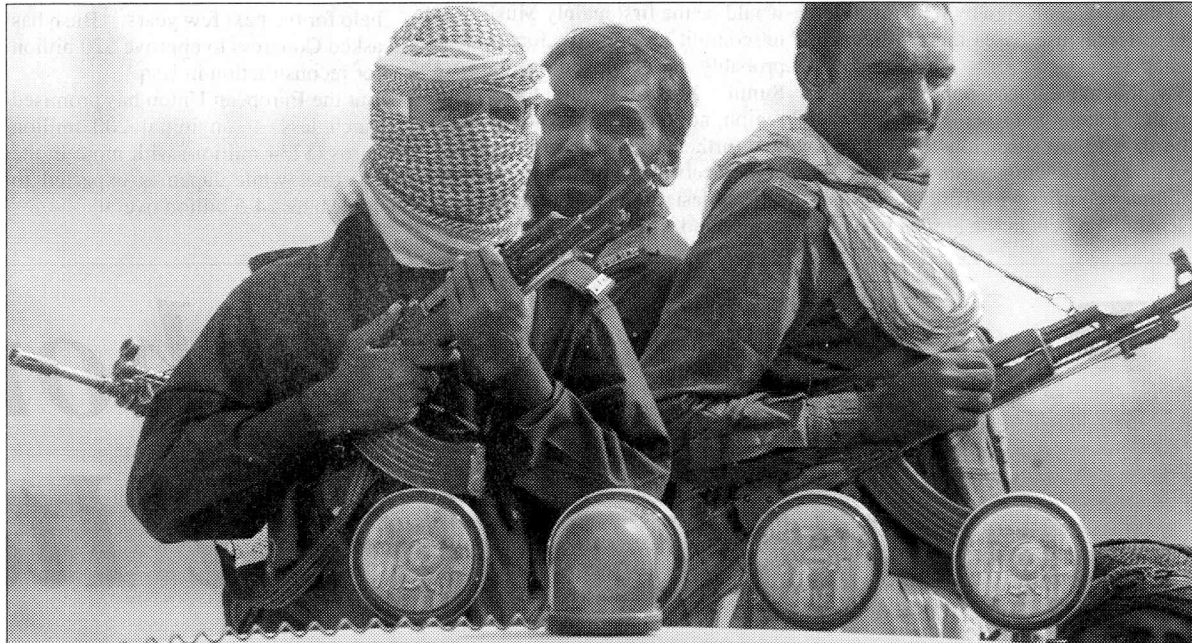
SSP was one of five Islamic groups outlawed in last year's crackdown, and had close links with the ousted Taliban movement in neighbouring Afghanistan that sheltered the al Qaeda network.

It has been accused of involvement in a wave of violence between Pakistan's dominant Sunni Muslim sect and Shi'ites.

But like other groups, SSP works under a new name and Tariq was allowed to contest a parliamentary election in October last year from his prison cell. He was released after winning a seat.



Smoke billows from a cinema as scores after enraged followers of slain Sunni militant leader Azam Tariq went on the rampage in Islamabad on Oct. 7. REUTERS



Armed party members provide security during the funeral procession of Pakistani militant leader and member of parliament Azam Tariq in Jhang, 300 km (190 miles) south of Islamabad, October 7, 2003. Tariq, leader of the outlawed Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, was among five people killed in Monday's attack on a car, on the outskirts of the capital Islamabad, police and party officials said. REUTERS

# N.Korea says Japan not welcome at nuclear talks

SEOUL, Oct 7 (Reuters) - North Korea said on Tuesday it would not allow Japan to take part in future talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme, further complicating efforts to coax the communist state back to the negotiating table.

Japan, responding swiftly to Pyongyang's surprise announcement, said it would not accept the notion Pyongyang could decide who attends mutually agreed multilateral talks.

A statement from the North Korean Foreign Ministry, published by the official KCNA news agency, said Japan had made itself an untrustworthy negotiating partner by linking other bilateral problems to the talks, such as the past abduction by North Korea of Japanese nationals.

"A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry said in a statement today that the DPRK would not allow Japan to participate in any form of negotiations for the settlement of the nuclear issue in the future," KCNA said.

DPRK are the initials of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Japan joined China, Russia, South Korea and the United States in an inconclusive round of nuclear talks with North Korea in Beijing in late August.

The North has since said it is not interested in more talks on a crisis that erupted a year ago. Last week, Pyongyang said it had redirected plutonium extracted from thousands of spent nuclear fuel rods to help enhance its deterrent force.

"The nuclear issue is not a bilateral issue between Japan and North Korea, but is of serious consequence to the region and the international community," Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hatsuhiro Takashima told Reuters.

**"BLACK-HEARTED INTENTION"**

"We do not accept any notion that a certain country in the six-party talks can be banned by any other party. The six-party talks are formed with the participation of those countries that are gravely concerned with the issue."

The North Korean statement said Japan's leaders had the "black-hearted intention" of using the talks to try to bolster the Japanese economy and their own political positions, as well as bringing up the question of abducted

Japanese nationals. "Japan is nothing but an obstacle to the peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the U.S.," said the statement. "It has lost its qualification to be a trustworthy dialogue partner."

The North's statement implied there was the possibility of further multilateral talks — a significant if subtle shift from its earlier stated intention of avoiding more negotiations. Diplomats say talks are still possible, even likely, next month.

But the North kept up its trademark rhetoric, denouncing the United States on Tuesday for deploying new pilotless mini-spyplanes on the divided Korean peninsula.

"Their talk about a peaceful solution is a reversed ballad of war," said the party newspaper Rodong Sinmun, according to KCNA.

KCNA repeated on Tuesday Pyongyang's demand for a non-aggression pact with Washington, dismissing any U.S. pledge short of a formal treaty as "nothing but a blank sheet of paper which can never give any legal guarantee that the Bush administration will not attack".

The leaders of Japan, South Korea and China are on the Indonesian resort island of Bali for a summit of Southeast Asian countries and their main regional partners. The three leaders pledged to cooperate in dealing with the North's tactics.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi grabbed headlines with a September 17 summit last year with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, who apologised for the kidnapping of 13 Japanese citizens — eight of whom Pyongyang later said were dead — in the 1970s and 1980s to train spies.

That summit paved the way for a resumption of talks on establishing diplomatic ties between Japan and North Korea. But those negotiations soon foundered on concerns about Pyongyang's nuclear arms programme and an emotional feud over the fate of the North Korean-born children of five repatriated abductees.

The one-year anniversary of the abductees' return home is coming up on October 15, and Japanese media are likely to give heavy and emotional coverage to the issue. (Additional reporting by Linda Sieg in Tokyo and Isabel Reynolds and Jane Macartney in Bali)

# Nigeria's Obasanjo moves to avert strike

ABUJA, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo began consultations on Tuesday to try to avert a potentially crippling general strike over a rise in fuel prices, a government official said.

Presidential spokeswoman Oluremi Oyo said Obasanjo was in talks with parliamentary leaders as part of efforts to prevent the planned walkout due to start from Thursday.

"The meeting is on the deregulation of the downstream sector of the oil industry," Oyo said.

Obasanjo, who has kept silent on the controversial issue, is due to meet with major oil companies later in the day, Oyo added.

The country's main trade union, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), has called the strike in protest against a decision last week

to deregulate fuel prices in Africa's largest crude oil exporter.

Another meeting called by the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, with the country's main oil unions and oil marketers is also slated for Tuesday.

Petrol prices in Nigeria jumped to 39.9 naira from 35 naira per litre last Wednesday after the Petroleum Pricing Regulatory Agency said the downstream sector had been deregulated.

The NLC has vowed not to call off the planned strike until the government reverts to the old fuel prices.

Several people died in violent protests in Lagos and Abuja in July during an eight-day strike over an earlier hike in petrol prices.

The NLC suspended the work stoppage after the government reduced the extent of the price rise.

# Mauritius's economic miracle man is new president

PORT LOUIS, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Former prime minister Anerood Jugnauth, widely credited with the Mauritius "economic miracle" of the 1980s, was sworn in to the largely ceremonial post of president on Tuesday after ruling the island for much of the past 21 years.

Jugnauth, 73, stood down as prime minister on September 30 to make way for former deputy prime minister and finance minister Paul Berenger to become the prosperous Indian Ocean island's first non-Indian prime minister. He was elected president by parliament and sworn into office by judges.

The transfer of power is in line with an agreement reached three years ago between two of the island's main political parties, the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) led by Berenger, and Jugnauth's Militant Socialist Movement (MSM). Berenger and Jugnauth formed a

coalition and won a big victory in parliamentary elections in September 2000, gaining 57 of the 60 seats.

Jugnauth, who served as prime minister from 1982 to 1995 and from 2000 to 2003, is credited with the 1980s "economic miracle" - liberal policies such as the creation of a duty-free trade zone and promotion of textile production that allowed the island to develop into an economic powerhouse in the region.

Under their coalition pact, the two parties agreed Jugnauth would serve as prime minister for three years and then hand over to Berenger, who would be prime minister for two years leading up to elections in 2005.

Jugnauth, who replaces Karl Offmann as president, has ensured the Jugnauth name remains within the upper echelons of politics. His son and protege, Pravind Jugnauth who leads the MSM is deputy prime minister and finance minister.

**تهانينا معمر**

يتقدم كل من:  
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وكافة أعضاء جمعية الصداقة اليمنية التركية  
بأحر التهاني والتبريكات  
إلى الصديق العزيز

**معمر محمود عبد القادر والولاي**

وذلك بمناسبة زفافه الميمون والمبارك،  
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يسدر خطاه ويوفقه  
في حياته القادمة وبالرفاه والهناء إنشاء الله.

**وألف ألف مبروك**

## Polish defence spokesman resigns over missile row

WARSAW, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Poland's defence ministry spokesman resigned on Tuesday after triggering a diplomatic row by saying French-made missiles found in Iraq were manufactured in 2003.

"Colonel Eugeniusz Mleczak asked Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski to relieve him of his post as press spokesman. That request was accepted," said the ministry in a short statement.

On Friday Mleczak said the missiles were manufactured in 2003, but this was denied by French President Jacques Chirac, who said the missiles had been out of production for 15 years.

The defence ministry is investigating how the information was issued and is due to report next Monday, at which point many local commentators believe more heads may roll.

Szmajdzinski apologised to the French for the comments but the Polish opposition and media have been highly critical of the government's handling of the affair.

The row came in the midst of a European Union summit in Rome and many domestic commentators said the row could harm Poland's position in the EU even before the post-communist country joins the bloc next May.

# Turkey votes troops for Iraq but Baghdad opposed

BY HIDIR GOKTAS AND HUDA MAJEED SALEH

ANKARA/BAGHDAD, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Turkish lawmakers voted on Tuesday to send troops to Iraq at the request of its U.S. occupiers, but Baghdad's Governing Council declared it was opposed to soldiers coming from any neighbour, including Turkey.

Washington has been keen to get other countries to stomp up money and troops to shoulder some of the burden following from the invasion that toppled president Saddam Hussein in April.

But while it wants Turkish troops to help, the Governing Council appointed by the U.S.-led Iraqi administration rejected having neighbours' soldiers on its soil.

"The Governing Council's stand is against the presence of troops from neighbouring countries without exception, and Turkey is one of these countries," said Nabeil al-Moussawi of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), whose head Ahmad Chalabi is a leading member of the Council.

U.S. governor Paul Bremer has the final say on policy, but the Council's position will make it harder to persuade Iraqis to accept Turkish soldiers, approved in an overwhelming vote by Ankara's parliament on Tuesday.

The Turkish motion did not specify how many troops might be dispatched. Turkish officials have spoken in the past of sending up to 10,000 soldiers, which would be the largest contingent in the country after U.S. and British forces.

U.S. difficulties in Iraq were underlined by two bombs near Baghdad which killed three Americans as well as an Iraqi interpreter in separate incidents on Monday night.

With international disputes over the war still raw, few countries, even U.S. allies in NATO, have been willing to contribute while the Americans insist on keeping control.

Turkey's decision might help to



Protesters demonstrate against sending Turkish troops to Iraq in front of the ruling Justice and Development Party headquarters in Ankara, a few hours before a special debate closed to the media and public in the Turkish Parliament, Oct. 7.

redeem it in the eyes of the United States, whose war plans it hurt ahead of the Iraqi campaign by refusing to let U.S. forces use bases there to launch attacks.

Yet the move faces opposition from many Iraqis, not just Kurds in the north who are suspicious of Ankara's motives following years of Turkish military conflict with Turkish Kurdish separatist rebels in the border zone.

Turkey has NATO's second biggest army after the United States and would be the first mainly Muslim state to commit troops. Its forces would probably be deployed in the Arab, Sunni Muslim-dominated central region, not the mainly Kurdish north. In a further sign of the instability even at the heart of the occupied Iraqi capital, a blast hit the Foreign Ministry compound, followed by a short

exchange of gunfire nearby. The U.S. military said there were no casualties. In all, 91 American troops have been killed in action since President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1, according to new figures released by the Pentagon on Tuesday.

### UPHILL STRUGGLE FOR U.S. RESOLUTION

The United States has been trying, in vain so far, to drum up support in the U.N. Security Council for a resolution that would continue its occupation but transfer major duties to Iraqis gradually until a constitution is written and elections are held, which could take two years.

Washington insists it — rather than the United Nations — should be in charge until Iraqis can govern themselves, though it has said the world body could play a role.

It faces a struggle getting enough Security Council votes after U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan challenged the proposal last week.

Security Council members France and Russia, who opposed the war, are also unhappy with the draft and want a faster handover to Iraqis.

Hours of discussions at the United Nations on Monday failed to reach a deal and Washington's U.N. ambassador John Negroponte said it was time to "take a brief pause for everyone to digest what had been said".

Washington wants a Security Council resolution adopted before donors meet in Madrid on October 23-24 to discuss providing money to rebuild Iraq.

Iraq has massive potential oil riches but has been battered by more than two decades of wars and sanctions and expects to rely on foreign financial help for the next few years. Bush has asked Congress to approve \$20 billion for reconstruction in Iraq.

But the European Union has promised much less — an initial 200 million euros (\$234 million) with more in the pipeline, while Japan is expected to contribute \$4.5 billion overall.

## Truckers' strike seals off Cypriot port Limassol

NICOSIA, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Cyprus's main seaport was sealed off on Tuesday because of a truckers' strike which has brought transport to a standstill on the east Mediterranean island.

Some 4,500 containers of goods were piling up in Limassol port, five days after a walkout by drivers protesting against EU-conforming legislation which would prohibit them from selling their heavy-vehicle licences on retirement.

Cyprus joins the European Union in May 2004 and the contentious piece of legislation was just one of hundreds rushed through parliament in the past two years.

Attempts by top politicians to mediate in the dispute ended in deadlock. Drivers have warned they will escalate action by sealing off the Presidential Palace in the capital Nicosia on Wednesday.

Grain silos in Limassol port were almost full because there has not been sufficient discharge, but a source at the Cyprus Grains Commission said there were only "minimal problems".

"There is no grains shortage," the source told Reuters. Truck drivers holding the heavy A vehicle licences have converged daily on ports and grain silos to prevent other colleagues crossing picket lines.

## Ex-death row woman urges fight against executions

BRUSSELS, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Recounting her years in jail with a death penalty hanging over her head, Antoinette Chahine urged lawmakers and citizens across the world on Tuesday to fight for the abolition of the death penalty.

For 5-1/2 years the young Lebanese woman sat in prison wrongly accused of taking part in a murder, suffering torture and uncertainty over her fate before a retrial acquitted her in 1999.

"In the name of all prisoners, in the name of all those who are tortured, in the name of all who are waiting in death row, I know what they suffer," Chahine told a news conference ahead of World Day Against the Death Penalty on Friday.

"One must not give up. We must continue to struggle until the death penalty is abolished everywhere," she said, fighting back tears.

According to the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, a non-governmental organisation behind the World Day event on October 10, 60 to 70 countries around the world still regularly use the death penalty, including the United States and Japan.

China tops the list of states that

use capital punishment with up to 3,000 executions a year, said the organisation's president Michel Taube. NGOs fear the number is much higher.

The European Union and Latin America — apart from Cuba — lead the way in the abolition of capital punishment, Taube told the news conference, organised by the EU's executive Commission.

Diplomacy was the only way to convince states to stop using capital punishment, Taube and the European Commission said, dismissing sanctions as counterproductive.

"It is not by force that you can obtain the abolition of the death penalty," Taube said, adding that around three countries a year abolished capital punishment without the use of sanctions.

"If you want the abolition to be lasting, it has to emanate from the choice of the people governing the country and the people's concerns," he said.

More than 100 events on five continents were planned to mark World Day Against the Death Penalty, and Taube's coalition invited death penalty opponents to sign its Internet petition (<http://www.worldcoalition.org>).

## Pope begins short trip to southern Italy

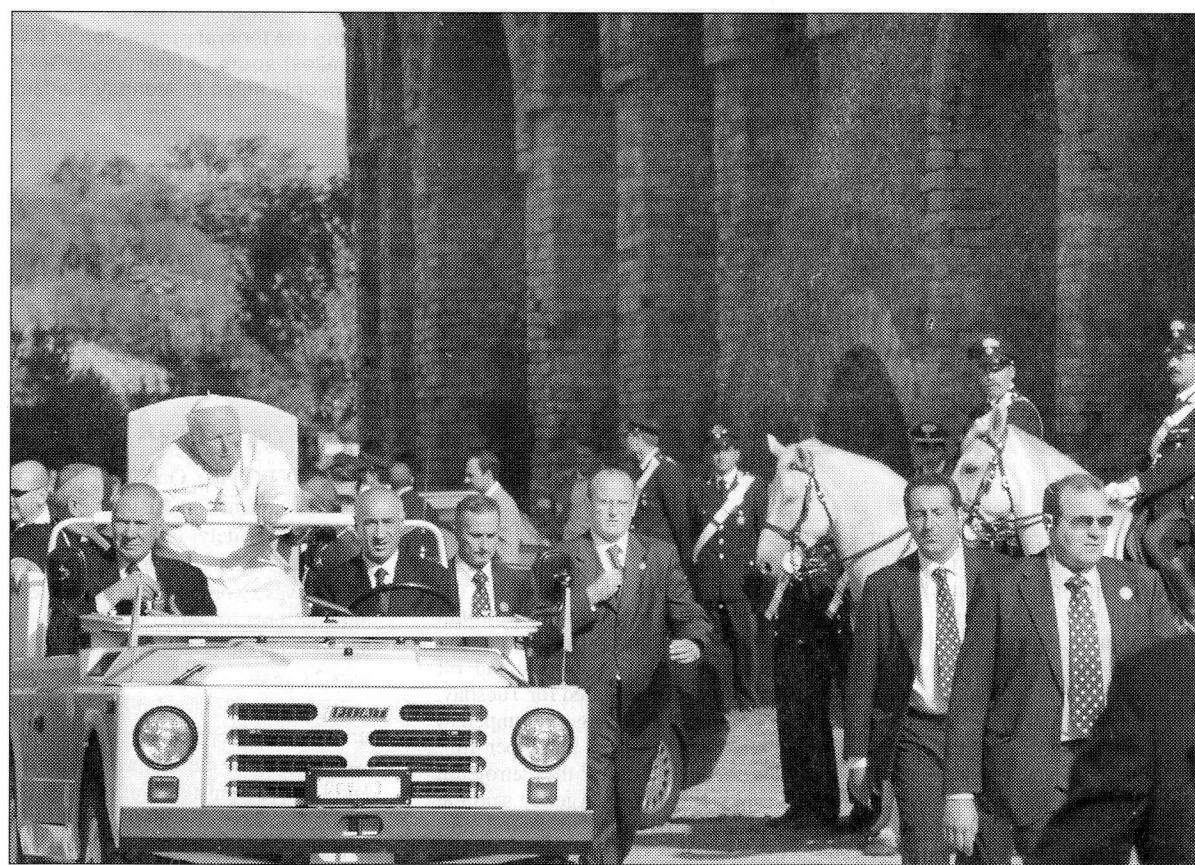
POMPEII, Italy, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Making one of his shortest but perhaps one of his most personally significant trips, an ailing Pope John Paul II began a visit on Tuesday to a southern shrine in the shadow of Mt Vesuvius to pray for peace.

The 83-year-old pope arrived by helicopter and was due to spend only two-and-a-half hours on the ground in modern Pompeii, down the road from the archaeological digs of the Roman city destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD.

His helicopter landed in the "Great Palestra" an outdoor space where the doomed city's youth exercised and held gymnastic competitions. In one corner of the gym, archaeologists found many bodies of people who failed to escape the ash and lava. Vatican technicians devised a special small lift to put the pope on the helicopter and take him off. The Pope suffers from Parkinson's disease and cannot walk without help.

With the pope's health failing in recent months, many in the crowd of more than 30,000, including some who had waited standing for 10 hours, expressed fears for his condition. "I see God in the pope and I want to see him one last time," said Caterina, a woman who had waited since midnight.

Many in the crowd also came because they said they would not be able to travel to Rome for 10 days of celebrations that start next week centred around the 25th anniversary of John Paul's election on October 16. "We are worried about him. We are worried that we may never



Pope John Paul II arrives in Pompeii for a ceremony at the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary Oct. 7. The Pope is in the southern Italian town to pray at the shrine of The Madonna of Pompeii.

REUTERS

see him again," said another woman, Giuseppina.

There are no more papal trips planned either in Italy or abroad for the time being, although the pope has been invited to several countries for next year.

The visit to Pompeii's shrine of the Virgin Mary, built a century

ago, is very important to the pope because soon after his election, he entrusted his pontificate to the protection of the Madonna.

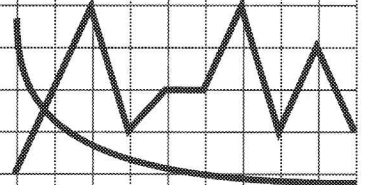
In a sense, the pope's visit to Pompeii takes his pontificate full circle because he first visited the Pompeii shrine in 1979, a year after his election. The pope has had an

abiding devotion to Mary and he believes the Madonna saved his life in an assassination attempt in 1981.

A senior European cardinal said last week that Pope John Paul was nearing his death — the latest top churchman to ring alarm bells about the state of the pontiff's health.



# YT Business



*Sana'a hosts Arab mineral wealth conference*

## Many investment opportunities in minerals production & export

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen will be hosting on 13-16 this month the Eighth Arab Conference on Mineral Wealth and the exhibition. It is scheduled that the conference would discuss 104 working papers related to minerals and oil. Taking part in the conference are delegations headed by some Arab oil and minerals ministers, oil undersecretaries and heads of mineral institutions.

Concerned oil authorities have prepared a group of investment opportunities available in Yemen in the sector of minerals and facilities to be granted to companies and investors in order to be presented to the conferees of the mineral wealth eighth conference.

Surveys recently conducted in Yemen have revealed the existence of huge mineral ores encouraging for investment besides oil and gas. Such metals are mainly gold, copper, iron and zinc.

Preliminary surveys have disclosed that with regard to gold there about 16 million tons in the Hariqa area as well as a possible reserve of 40 million tons, and in the Al-Faidh area to the north of Sa'ada it is estimated at 5-10 million tons. The surveys estimate the volume of zinc, lead and silver

ores reserve in the area of Mareb at 9 million and 400 thousand tons.

Yemen geological structure contains volcanic alluvial formations rich of metal and metalloid rocks and minerals, and oil and gas. All of them constitute an economic formation for investment and economic exploitation. The surveys also confirm that the areas situated on the coasts of the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea have black sands containing a proportion of metals used in industry like ferric oxide, heavy silica and granite. Some areas have been discovered containing very thick layers of salt at various regions such as the Salif, peninsula in Hudeidah, Shabwa, Mareb, Baihan and Safir where production is now estimated at around 175 tons a year.

Also according to surveys, Yemen possesses a large variety of stones for construction and ornament, among them 25 sites for limestone whose annual average production amounts to 358186 tons. In addition, there are 30 types of precious stones, many kinds of pulverized stone used for producing lime and limestone used in cement industry.

There are also in Yemen metals such as silicate feldspar and igneous rocks in the form of large crystals free from gangues used in thermal, medicinal, glass, plastic, paints, rubber, soap and ceramic industries. Yemen's reserve of feldspar is estimated at millions of tons. It mainly exists in the



Oil installations

areas of Wadi Bawhal, in Hajja, Taiz, Baidha, Ahwer, and Wadi Masila but it is not exploited despite of its exis-

tence near the main roads and exporting ports.

Preliminary results herald of the

availability of many opportunities for investment in mineral wealth in Yemen. These opportunities are in

need of more studies and waiting for expatriates' capitals, local and foreign private sector for investing in them.

## 70 sites qualified for tourist investment

# Emphasis on importance of private sector involvement in tourist development

By Yemen Times Staff

Results of an all-out survey of the Yemeni coasts and heights area, the State Authority for Tourism has announced about, has revealed that the Authority has specified 70 sites capable of tourist

investment, six of which are already ready for tourist investment and a similar number are under preparation for the same purpose.

Survey information reported that the Authority, in cooperation with consultative bureaus, is working at finalizing blueprints for the tourist sites that have been specified for being marketed to

investors.

The symposium on future of tourist development in Yemen, recently held in Sana'a, has stressed the importance of the private sector role in tourist investment. The symposium recommended the necessity that concerned bodies should provide pieces of land situated in tourist areas and offer them

to investors as well as preparing sites allocated for building tourist investment projects and protect them. The symposium also asked for issuing a presidential decree on determination of tourist areas.

Participants in the symposium also affirmed the significance of activating judiciary role in resolving disputes that

may be occurring in investment sector and also providing opportunity for local communities to invest in tourist projects as well as creating specialized courts dealing with commercial cases.

Working papers at the symposium also pivoted around role of local and Arab banks and establishments in funding investment projects in tourism

and also the reality of tourism development.

The symposium concluded by emphasizing the vital role to be played by private sector in tourist development and in supporting and developing internal tourism that is suffering from stagnancy because of the low level of Yemeni families income.



One of the historical sites in Yemen useful for tourism industry

## Words of Wisdom



There is no doubt that the media plays an important role in our lives. The influence of the media is greater among societies that are less advanced culturally and educationally because they are not equipped to assess the information passed on to them. In this sense, the Yemeni media has a much larger influence on the public than media in advanced countries where the public is more knowledgeable. This fact adds to the responsibility of the media in Yemen.

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

OUR  
OPINIONAbove the law,  
above everything

**“Y**ou know what? Just forget all you know or think about how international law is being applied when it comes to Israel. All you need to know is that the United Nations is in control of the world, and that the USA is in control of the UN, and Israel is in control of the USA, so there is no point in asking why Israel does this!” said one of my friends when we were talking yesterday about the Israeli strike in Syria.

When I was listening to the speech of Israel's representative at the Security Council, I felt that Israel perhaps does think that it is above law and is the one that controls the world. The harsh words uttered by the representative accusing Iran, Syria, Lebanon, and indirectly the whole Arab world of supporting "terrorism", show that he is unconcerned with Arabs, who continue to blame each other and drown in an ocean of helplessness and vulnerability.

What further supports the statement of my friend was G. Bush's remarks on Israel's right of self-defense in whatever form and whenever it wishes. He said that Israel "should not feel constrained in defending itself." It is quite obvious that the US policy is in support of such Israeli action.

The Arab world is now living in a time of extreme injustice and bias. This is why Muslims are frustrated, angry, and disappointed. They are frustrated at the way the international community is keeping silent despite the oppression carried out by Israel in the region. They are angry because of the blunt and unjustifiable US support to Israel. And they are disappointed for being led by weak, indecisive, and corrupt regimes.

However, this could all be giving hints of a possible time bomb. Whether we like it or not, emotions are already running higher and higher and such practices of Israel and the USA are bringing anti-Israeli and anti-American sentiments to an unprecedented level in history.

Today, we seem to be living in a time where everything has turned upside down. It is the new world era where the butcher is the victim, and vice versa.

Today, the world is facing a bitter post-9/11 reality, where occupiers with the most advanced military capabilities and nuclear arsenal are seen to be the vulnerable and weak, who "should not feel constrained in defending" themselves. While on the other hand, those who skirmish to get a bit of freedom using their weak and insignificant weapons, are seen as terrorists posing grave threat to world peace and stability.

What is going on?

Has the world lost consensus?

Has the world lost the ability to identify between right and wrong?

At the end of the day, I believe that what is going through right now is a mere consequence of decades of oppression, neglect and dictatorship lived in the Arab world, which made Arab countries the weakest, most illiterate, and most vulnerable in the world. We cannot resolve this situation and regain our lost dignity unless we identify the causes that resulted in the miserable conditions we are living today. And to identify them, we will have to look for them within. Let's start change in our own homes, schools, parties, and regimes.

Let's not waste more time and start today because we are the ones who allowed Israel to be what it is today. We were the ones who allowed it to be above ourselves, above the law, and above everything.

The Editor



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## Completely new system

BY SAM ASHURAEY  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

**Y**emen is a country with an extremely complex society that can not be governed by using a system previously devised for other societies. Rather, it needs a governmental system designed especially for it. A democracy or republic, such as the ones used in both America and France after their revolutions is unsuited for such a vastly different country. The main reasons for this are that religion plays such a strong role, women traditionally have had and still do have minimal rights, and tribes, previously ruling themselves as private entities, can not be well integrated in such systems. Thus, the more or less -standard- democratic system- implemented in Yemen has proven to have too many gaps for it to be effective.

Extreme solutions for these societal complexities have been practiced and attempted in the past, such as the complete removal of religion from the government in Turkey and former President Al-Hamdi's attempt to completely strip the tribes of their power. However, I believe this is wrong because such solutions attempt to

remove important societal and cultural identities. Rather, these identities should be a main part of a new government.

Islam has such a strong influence on Yemeni society that it would be virtually impossible for it to have no role in any government of Yemen. Religion, however, in order to keep an effective government, should not be incorporated into the government except as basic principles. If it were, the standard of governing would be the religious convictions of individuals rather than tolerance, equality, and freedom, as it should be.

Despite the superficial appearance of women gaining more rights in Yemen, especially recently, realistically, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, for women to gain an important voice in the government, not just placing a few token women for appearance. Logically they should, considering they constitute approximately one half of the population. If a new government were implemented, it should indubitably have some sort of women's parliament. Having such a parliament would ensure women a significant voice in government because they have a council to voice it with.

An even more crucial issue however, is that of the tribes. The existence of

tribes is the most difficult part of trying to implement a previously devised governmental system and the main reason for the need of a new system. They constitute a large part of the population and are an enormously important part of Yemeni society. Historically, tribes have ruled themselves quite democratically as separate entities without getting too involved in the central government. With the current government, this has led to too many clashes between tribes and the government, usually ending up with the government's frustration. Therefore, to successfully integrate tribes into a new (hypothetical) Yemeni system, they too should have their own parliament. By having such a parliament, tribes will have a voice in government issues, thereby eliminating many of the conflicts between the government and tribes.

Obviously, this is only a very surface solution to Yemen's struggle for an effective government; the design of an in-depth one will probably fill several thick books. A government system that incorporates well the unique social structure of Yemen is needed. However, attempting to place a governmental system designed to work in societies quite different from our own is ridiculous, and time has proven that

## Diary of a rising eagle

BY ADAM TAHA  
adam\_taha2000@yahoo.com  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

**I**wish I could go home to Yemen, to a place called Aden. I dream of it everyday. I dream of the friends I left there and I dream of so much that many will not understand in England.

Yes, there is work here, there is money if you are willing to educate yourself, work hard in your studies and then get a job. There is business here, if you have new ideas, have courage and go beyond many businessmen and women, and have integrity, respect and not lie, but be the best businessperson.

But when you walk out of your home there is no greeting of Islam. When you go to work there is no Arabic language. When you go home your brothers are busy at work or your sisters running their business or looking at their accounts. When you visit friends they are too busy watching TV or playing on Play Station.

The world is like a game here, like a race, everyone running against each other. Neighbours competing with their wealth, children and showing off with the latest number plate, with new trainers, the new TV, the new hi-fi music system.

The only place I find peace from such a world is the mosque and my home. In mosque, I pray, then I sit, staring into space for a long time, and I hear the laughter of the Yemeni children. I hear the words of my friend

Khalid who I haven't seen for 19 years and I have no contact of.

I sit and wonder of my life in this country; for father walks by not giving salaam, bitter has the heart grown due to suffering and working so many years in the steel industry and maybe I am blamed for things I done as a child, which I can't remember or things that were out of my control due to family divorce.

I walk home which takes me an hour instead of walking on bus to even give the opportunity of Yemeni's giving salaam, that beautiful greeting, those beautiful words that fill my heart and soul with brotherhood, to find saddened faces, worried faces, burdened by the world's illusion. Far too busy worrying over the trap they entered through mortgages that causes interest they will have to work all their lives to pay.

I find home to enter and embrace peace; where I have thrown away my Television not because of haram or anything like that but to replace it with books on Yemen, Islamic history, the stories of the companions and the messenger of Allah Muhammad (SAW).

I make a cup of tea and it sits there while I stand in the kitchen wondering how I got here, the journey that took me away from Yemen and knowing that I have lived here for years, and still young, and to know if I went back, sadly, I won't have such money to live there but struggle, maybe starve, maybe my writing, my art, my poetry will never, ever be appreciated because its in English and I lost my mother tongue

language Arabic.

I sit in the living to hold only one photograph; the only photograph of our family together. I stare at it to see none of us are together anymore. No mother, father, brothers and sisters and tears fall. Such a price has been paid to come to England for what is called 'a brighter future,' a price to pay, which I had no choice to say no to because I was so young.

Yemen? I love Yemen with all my heart. I love her people, the city, and what it gave me years ago; true love, true friendship, true family, true dreams, true community and most of all my religion called Islam that I fight for everyday, to not believe in the illusions so many fall for.

My people in Yemen; you are brave, very brave souls. Braver than I. To live in life with such struggle, to bring your children up in such hard times, to stay in Yemen, to even dream at such hard times, to believe in hope while leaders give non, to pray and hold onto Islam and Allah's rope, I wish I were as brave as you O mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters of Yemen. I give you the salaam, 'Assalaamu alaikum Wa Rahmat Allah Wa Barakatu.' Peace and the blessings and mercy of Allah are to you.

Once a young Eagle landed in England and no one taught him to fly. The day I learn to fly is the day I come back home to Yemen. My birth place, my home, my village, living with so many rising Eagles and hear the call of the prayer five times day, every day. Insha-Allah.

## Letters to the Editor

## When Muslim men give bad reputation

**I**really feel sorry for the writer of "A sad story from the USA" and for many women who fall into the same trap of some Yemeni men and also so called Muslim men who are away from home to study abroad. It aches my heart always to see and hear or read about abandoned women and children by so called Muslim fathers who seem to care less about the consequences of their actions. These poor women are left to struggle with raising children whose fathers are living on this earth, well educated and financially well off.

I am sorry to say that the blame is not on these type of men only, its also on the women who trust and take these type of men as husbands because obviously these so called Muslim men are only Muslims when they live in a Muslim country and the first chance they get in a non-Muslim country, they

try to live a life that is not their own (e.g., clubbing and living with a girlfriend and so on and forth) and is Islamic-wise incorrect. Obviously, we can not expect such men who abandon their religion to not also abandon a wife and children. It takes a real man and not to forget a religious man who fears Allah always and takes his religion seriously, to do justice on those who trusted them with their life and not to forget the lives of those who they were the reason for their existence with Allah's will on this earth.

May Allah forgive us all and forgive and make these Muslim men who are not fearing death and Allah's judgment see reason, and do justice to the lives they have destroyed.

Nina A  
Nina2255@hotmail.com

**What you should've addressed**  
**N**ot like I see American Press doing any differently, but I believe your arti-

## Letters to the Editor

cle could have addressed more specifically, the problems associated with the American invasion into Iraq and the ongoing problems that Iraqi's have with the American occupation.

I do believe on one hand, you have addressed the frustration of the Iraqi people. This merely addresses the idea of what ALL humans experience when doing their best is not good enough. Iraqi's are clearly experiencing far worse than that.

I would have liked to have seen American forces seal off the borders to Iraq to prevent people from coming in or going out. This was a critical error and extremely poor planning on the part of American forces. It jeopardized the safety and well being of all officials, including the Muslim woman who ran the utilities for Iraq. I believe she was executed at her home, before she could leave for work. This brings another critical error to light. The protection and safety of the very citizens who had

much to fear from those uncaptured leaders who were a threat to the Iraqi people.

Because of the sabotage against utilities, and sniper activity in or around the places that are in dire need of repair to get those utilities up and running, it has made the repair of these necessities next to impossible.

I would like to see a concerted effort of all Iraqi citizens to assist in the implementation of these repairs, but it is just as dangerous for them as it is for American Forces.

I hope the Iraqi citizens manage to see an end to their dilemma and very soon, but frankly, I see it as ongoing as the American Forces are constantly under attack and this is including the homicide bombings. It is a situation now that actually has escalated non trust between all parties concerned: those who need the help and those who have been prevented in bringing it to them.

Aaron G  
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COMMON  
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

When all options  
entail death

**T**he Middle East is a volatile area, perhaps uncontested anywhere else in the world for the potential explosive situation that could engulf God only knows who at any moment and certainly affect the lives of everyone around the globe, in one way or another. Thanks to the Spartan mentality of the Israeli Government, the region is creeping slowly towards an unpredictable craggy course. The mentality of a *real terrorist* would often rest on the assumption that the only way to feel psychologically secure is to ensure that all those around you have no rest or peace of mind, until that terrorist has clamped down on anyone that might stand in his way. But what is the way of the Hebrew State, whose promoters and supporters wish to have the rest of the world believe is a God given right to a Chosen People amongst all these billions of second caste world citizens, who were left in the background of God's favor. The way of the Chosen People is to first of all displace millions of people from their indigenous homeland for millennia of time, just so the Holy Land can become a sponge that eats up the American taxpayers' money, not to mention the misled millions of Jews, who must donate a sizable share of their earnings to maintain the Zionist war machine. It must be borne in mind that the only way for the real terrorist in the region to survive, according to Zionist philosophy, is to maintain this aura of violence and bloodshed, and destruction, which stems from the Spartan nature of Zionist existence. In plainer terms, without this aura of war and bloodshed, the umbilical cord that Israel depends on for its military and economic survival, would be inoperative. The cause d'etre of the endless flow of funds and military arsenal to the Hebrew State originates from a conviction of uncontested military prowess, and a plethora of spiritual and sentimental digressions from the established norm, which often defy logic and do injustice to God's true and righteous visions for the world and mankind.

Notwithstanding the ability of the Zionist machinery to proceed with its mischievous designs, thanks to the ability of the international Zionist establishment to penetrate almost every meaningful authority in the United States, until the leaders of that great nation have become more Zionist than the Israelis themselves, the Zionist state is not content with simply obliterating the original population in what ever remains of the land these "socialist marvels of the Twenty First Century", as Zionist propaganda paints them, are now illegitimately trodding on. The Israeli military machine unleashed its state of the arts air force to follow the Palestinians of the modern human Diaspora created by the Zionists after driving them out with all the means of terror at their disposal when it was established in 1948. Let us call a spade a spade and remember that the campaigns of terror unleashed by the Israeli paramilitary institutions and modern Army are the founders of terrorism in the region and are the real true masters of the trade. After all how did Israel come into being and how did the millions of Palestinians that are scattered throughout the world become a homeless and hopeless nation, with no one in the international community to relive their perpetual anguish and despair. With such an ugly background, how can the Israelis expect to find peace of mind as their ugly war machine continues to kill and maim unarmed Palestinians with a military machine that can defeat whole armies, let alone contain a few civilian uprisings.

Syria has proudly maintained a rightful attitude in remaining true to the right of the Arabs to live in peace in their homeland and has continued to insist on the right of the vanquished to be upheld, even though most of the Arab governments have now abandoned even whatever token lip service they used to give to the plight of their brethren in Palestine, forgetting that the Israeli threat is one all Arabs should take heed of and never close their eyes to. Yet even Syria has maintained a high degree of calm, despite its territory being under illegitimate occupation (the Golan Heights) and despite the continuing belligerency Israel continues to unleash against the proud Syrian people. One should not fail to remember the extreme language of unjust exoneration made by the staunch neo-con, John Bolton in the Congress of the United States with respect to Syria around ten days ago. It seemed clear that the Zionist - neo con agenda has now turned on Syria to satisfy its seemingly endless craving for war. As if the Israeli military has become bored with merely engaging the armless Palestinians in their turf and needed a more solid engagement of sorts which Syria could develop into. The latest attack against the Israelis by a Palestinian should not make the world forget that the Palestinians see themselves with two options; they either should wait until the Israelis come and mow down their houses over them or else go blow themselves upon the Israelis taking as many of their uprooters as they could along with them. In either case it is guaranteed death for them, so what is there to lose? The Palestinian woman, who carried out the attack has seen all her dearest kin obliterated by the first option. She opted for the second one, kamikaze style. No matter how one looks at it there is a strong tendency to see an honorable flair to the second option, when all else fails Mr. Bolton.

# US replacing Iraq as first trade partner

By FAHED FANEK  
JORDAN TIMES

Jordan comes first, among all Arab countries, in as far as the volume of inter-Arab trade is concerned. Jordan's exports to other Arab countries during the first half of 2003 formed some 44 per cent of its total exports, against 52 per cent in the same period of last year. At the same time, Jordan's imports from other Arab countries exceeded 21.5 per cent of all its imports, against 24.4 per cent in the corresponding period of 2002.

To understand and appreciate these numbers, one has to take into account that inter-Arab trade in general makes no more than 8 per cent of total external trade of the Arab world.

Before the American-led war on Iraq, of March 2003, Iraq used to be Jordan's most important trade partner. Jordan imported all its petroleum needs and some other items from Iraq which, in turn, absorbed around 20 per cent of all Jordanian exports.

It was only natural that the share of Jordan's exports and imports within the Arab world would drop following the abrupt suspension of imports of Iraqi oil and the reduction of Jordanian

exports to Iraq by two thirds. However, it is hoped, not without good reasons, that this drop in Jordanian exports to Iraq will be temporary, and that major Jordanian industrialists will soon be able to restore their share of the Iraqi market, because Jordanian-Iraqi trade relationships have been very strong and well established for the last quarter of a century or so. Jordanian industrial products, especially pharmaceuticals, are well known and trusted by the majority of Iraqi consumers.

Pundits say that Jordan should look for an alternative market to make up for the total or partial loss of the Iraqi market. This is nonsense. The Iraqi market could not be replaced and there are no ready markets to be tapped for exporting products that would have been shipped to the Iraqi market. Had Jordan been able to find more markets in Europe, America, the Far East or the Arab countries, it would have readily done so. The trade relationship with Iraq was not developing at the expense of Jordan's trade relations with other countries. Likewise, Jordan's trade with Iraq was never a hindrance to its trade elsewhere, nor was it a reason to ignore penetrating other markets if that had been possible.

Jordanian exports to the United

States started to rise rapidly over the past several years. It is estimated that Jordanian commodity exports to the US may top \$650 million during 2003, against \$400 million in 2002. This will elevate America to the first place on the list of Jordanian export sector customers, after Iraq lost the No. 1 position due to the Anglo-American occupation and the unsettled situation there.

One should notice, in this respect, that 95 per cent of Jordanian exports to the US originate from the Qualified Industrial Zones.

Unfortunately, the free trade agreements with America and the European Union did not give tangible results so far. Perhaps the Jordanian industry needs more time to adapt itself and make use of this opportunity through developing the right specifications, prices and marketing tools.

The external trade sector (goods and services) is of the utmost importance to the Jordanian economy. It is equal to 110 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), one of the highest in the world. Jordanian exports amount to around 42 per cent and imports to around 68.5 per cent of its GDP. This is an expected feature of a small economy in a country adopting free trade policy and full openness to the global market.

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samir A.

# Disaster in the desert

By SENATOR JONS S. CORZINE  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

“The public has been led into a trap from which it will be hard to escape with dignity and honor. They have been tricked into it by a steady withholding of information,” he said. “The Baghdad communiqués are belated, insincere, incomplete. Things have been far worse than we have been told, our administration more bloody and inefficient than the public knows. He added; “We are today not far from a disaster” - T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) Sunday Times of London August 22, 1920.

Let me see if I can get this straight. The President of the United States decides to go to war against a nation led by a brutal dictator supported by one party rule. That dictator has made war on his neighbors- The President decides this is a threat to the United States. In his campaign for Presidency he gives no indication of wanting to go to war. In fact, he decries the over extension of American military might and says other nations must do more. However, unbeknown to the American public, the President's own Pentagon advisors have already cooked up a plan to go to war. All they are looking for is an excuse.

An element of the U.S. military is under attack. The President, his Secretary of Defense and his advisors sell the idea to Congress and the American people that it is time to go to war. Based on faulty intelligence, cherry-picked information is fed to Congress and the American people. The President goes on national television to explain the case for war, using as part of the rationale for the war an incident that never happened. The Congress buys the bait hook, line and sinker and passes a resolution giving the President the authority to use “all necessary means” to prosecute the war.

The war is started with an air and ground attack. Initially there is optimism. The President says we are winning. The cocky, self-assured Secretary of Defense says we are winning. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of Defense promises the troops will be home soon.

However, the truth on the ground that the soldiers face in the war is different than the political policy that sent them there. They face increased opposition from a determined enemy. They are surprised by terrorist attacks, suicide bombers, village assassinations, increasing casualties and growing anti-American sentiment. They find themselves bogged down in a guerrilla land war, unable to move forward and unable to disengage because there are no allies in the war to turn the war over to. There is no plan B. There is no exit strategy. Military morale declines. The President's popularity sinks and the American people are increasingly frustrated by the cost of blood and treasure poured into a never-ending war.

Sound familiar? It does to me! The President was Lyndon Johnson. Got Ya! The cocky, self-assured Secretary of Defense was Robert McNamara. Got ya again! The Congressional resolution was the Gulf of Tonkin resolution. You are catching on!

The war was the war that I, John Kerry, Chuck Hagel, John McCain and three and-a-half million other Americans of our generation were caught up in. It was the scene of America's longest war. It was also the locale of the most frustrating outcome of any war this nation has ever fought.

Unfortunately, the people who drove the engine to get into the war in Iraq never served in Vietnam.

- Not the President.
- Not the Vice-President
- Not the Secretary of Defense.
- Not the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Too bad. They could have learned some lessons.

First, they could have learned not to underestimate the enemy. The enemy always has one option you cannot control. He always has the option to die. This is especially true if you are dealing with true believers and guerillas fighting for their version of reality-whether political or religious. They are what Tom Friedman of the New York Times calls the “non-deterrables.” If those non-deterrables are already home in their country, they will be able to wait you out until you go home.

Second, if the enemy adopts a ‘hit and run’ strategy designed to inflict maximum casualties on you, you may win every battle but the battles you fight (as Walter Lippman once said about the Vietnam War,) can't win the war.

Third, if you adopt a strategy of not just pre-emptive strike but also pre-emptive war you own the aftermath. You better plan for it. You better have an exit strategy because you cannot stay there indefinitely unless you make it the 51st state. If you do stay an extended period of time, you then become an occupier, not a liberator. That feeds the enemy against you.

Fourth, if you adopt the strategy of pre-emptive war, your intelligence must be not just “darn good,” as the President has said it must be “bullet proof,” as Secretary Rumsfeld claimed the administration had against Saddam Hussein. Anything short of that saps credibility.

Fifth, if you want to know what is really going on in the war, ask the troops on the ground not the policy makers in Washington. The “ground truth” as the soldiers call it, is always more accurate than the truth expounded through the mouths of those who plan the war and have a political, personal and emotional investment in their policy. They will bend any fact, even intelligence, to their own ends. If the ground truth and the policy truth begin to “Shock and Awe” will turn into what one officer in Iraq has described as, “Shock and Awe S—!”

Sixth, in a democracy instead of truth being the first casualty in war, it should be the first cause of war. It is the only way the Congress and the American people can cope with getting through it. As credibility is strained, support for the war and support for the troops goes down hill.

Continued loss of credibility drains troop morale, the media becomes more suspicious, the public becomes more incredulous and the Congress is reduced to hearings and investigations.

Instead of learning the lessons of Vietnam, where all of the above happened, the President, the Vice-

President, the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, have got ten this country into a disaster in the desert. They attacked a country that had not attacked us. They did so on intelligence that was faulty, misrepresented and highly questionable. A key piece of that intelligence was an out-right lie which the White House put into the President's State of the Union speech. These officials have over-extended the American military, including the Guard and the Reserve and expanded the United States Army to the breaking point. A quarter of a million troops are committed to the Iraq war theater, most bogged down in Baghdad. Morale is declining and casualties continue to increase. In addition to the human cost, the funding of the war costs a billion dollars a week adding to the additional burden of an already depressed economy. The President has declared “major combat over” and sent a message to every terrorist, “Bring them on.” As a result, he has lost more people in his war than his father did in his and there is no end in site. Military commanders are left with extended tours of duty for servicemen and women, told long ago they were going home, and keeping American forces on the ground where they have become sitting ducks in a shooting gallery for every terrorist group in the Middle East.

Welcome to Vietnam Mr. President. Sorry you didn't go when you had the chance.

Please take a moment to read this and then join me in signing a petition to the President of the United States urging him to not repeat history.

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing this petition about your ongoing war in Iraq with one goal in mind: please do not allow history to repeat itself. Vietnam veterans from round the country, both Democrat and Republican have urged you to develop a clear and coherent strategy for protecting our troops and securing peace in a hostile environment. But thus far you have provided us with no guidelines in your attempt to avoid a quagmire in the deserts of Iraq. Our military is stretched to its limits, troop morale is down, we have yet to secure the backing of critical allies and you have provided no exit strategy. Above all you risk not only losing the war, but losing the backing of the American public. This country deserves straightforward answers from how much you expect the overall war to cost to the length of time US troops will be deployed to how you plan to bring the international community into the fold. We should not have to continue to shoulder 95% of the cost and casualties in this “make-it-up-as-we-go-it-along strategy.” Our troops and this country deserve far better.

Yours truly,  
(petition signer's name)

To sign the petition, please click <http://www.dscc.org/infonation/deseridisaster/>

This is to you today to ask you to take action. Please take a moment to read this message and join us by signing a very important petition (<http://www.dscc.org/information/deseridisaster/>) to the President of the United States urging him to not repeat history by letting Iraq become a military quagmire.

# With Syria attack, Sharon is treading on a dicey road

By ANTON LA GUARDIA  
GULF NEWS

The Israeli attack on Syria was more an act of political shock therapy than a military blow against the suicide bombers.

Few would know whether there really was an Islamic Jihad training camp in Ain Saheb, or what damage was inflicted. But the first Israeli strike in Syria in two decades was designed to send out several signals.

It told Palestinian militants they have no safe haven, showed Syria it cannot defend itself against Israel's wrath if it continues to support the bombers, and warned the West that the Palestinian conflict could turn into a regional war unless action is taken to rein in state sponsors of terrorism.

Perhaps the most important message was to the traumatised Israeli public: on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the October War, when Egypt and Syria nearly overwhelmed Israel's armed forces, the Jewish state is ready to defend itself regardless of the cost.

The government held back from car-

rying out its much trumpeted threat to “remove” the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, because of Washington's veto. Instead, an Israeli official said of the attack in Syria: “We are fighting a war against terrorism.”

In other words, Israel hopes President George W Bush will see the attack as no different from America's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, or its raids in Yemen and interceptions at sea. Despite the tough talking, the attack in Syria betrays the frustration of Israeli leaders.

“We were stuck,” said one official. “We could not act against Arafat and we had to go for another target.” With the Palestinian uprising in its fourth year, Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, has resorted to ever riskier tactics.

In the early days, Israeli helicopters fired rockets at Palestinian police stations, often after telling the occupants to get out. Then Israel moved on to “targeted killings” and efforts to “isolate” Arafat and subdue the refugee camps.

But the suicide bombers keep getting through.

It only takes one attack with multiple deaths to force Israel to take action previously regarded as reckless. Until now Israel has avoided a direct confrontation with Syria, but Sharon believes the time is right for a calculated risk.

America's occupation of Iraq has deprived Syria of its strategic depth, leaving the regime isolated as the last Ba'athist ruling clique. Many in the Bush administration believe it is ripe for regime change.

If war broke out, Damascus would almost certainly be left to face Israel's might on its own. Should President Bashar Al Assad resort to the terrorist weapon, he could incur the wrath of America.

Nevertheless, Sharon is living dangerously. He wants to show he remains the daring warrior of old, the commander who wiped out militants and the general who saved Israel in the October War.

But if he misjudges his tactics, he risks reviving the dreadful memories of his time as defence minister, when he led the ill-fated invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

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## The Twins Folklore Musical Group from al-Mahwa to the open air

# Three women and three thousand dreams

FIKRI QASSIM  
FOR YEMEN TIMES, SANA'A

**B**ob Marely was a black American with curly hair but this didn't stop him from singing and this did not stop millions of both black and white music lovers adore his music and rock on his tunes although his grass cigar did not leave his lips at all.

From Cuba to al-Mahwa where the discriminated live in Taiz 260 kilometres south of the Capital Sana'a, and from the sky scrappers to tin huts and ivory hearts even if the faces seemed more tanned and more tired. Yet all this did not stop Thikrayat, Pardias, and Huda from singing like nightingales and dancing like Gardenia flowers sometimes in the darkness of unforgiving traditions. Three artists with different names and features but they have the same dreams and they have called themselves the Twins Group for Folklore Music.

Who are they?

The eldest is Thikrayat Ali Murshid 35 years old, she started singing 15 years ago encouraged by her husband, Huda Ali Salem 23 years old sings at homes always and in family celebrations while the 17 years old Pardais who is the group leader's - Thikrayat- daughter sings in weddings. All three adore Lahji singing and are grateful to artist Saleh al-Ja'adi. Thikrayat says: "He was the first to introduce us and encourage us to becoming professional singers. Before that we used

*"Our families did not encourage us... it's enough for us that we sing"*

to sing out of boredom in our hearts, today we sing to get rid of the boredom in other people's hearts."

The beginning

They started differently, sometimes individually on various occasions, but the first appearance for them face to face with the public was at the 13th anniversary celebrations of the unity in the Maryrs Square in Taiz. "For the first time I have felt I am a Yemeni citizen was when I participated in this important event." Thikrayat comments, and Huda added "I cried out of happiness, we thought that such participations and celebrations are not for

us, we felt we belonged somewhere else" while little Pardias says: "That day I understood the meaning of the Yemeni Unity", wiping her tears.

While big artists aspire to live on huge amounts of money, Thikrayat says: "God will give us what's enough, it's sufficient that we are popular and bring happiness to people's lives. This is our biggest success." Pardias adds: "I want to sing everywhere and music for me is a road I chose to walk, and my parents have always supported me". Huda joins in saying: "we earned clean money with our own sweat, we live in honor and that is enough, art has taught us the true meaning of feelings, what more can we ask?"

People in their lives

Abbai al-Jawhar, Muzil Farhan, Abdullah al-Rowashid, Mohammed Sad Abdullah are the singers Huda is influenced by, she conveys a sad touch as she sings. While Thikrayat on the contrary adores Lahji music and Sana'ani music and she sings those types in parties explaining that "a man has to be proud of his country's traditions and our traditions are rich." Pardais does not wear glasses yet is so influenced by artist Aziza Jalal as she admits: "I dream of being like her one day, and I will buy glasses like hers and will start wearing them immediately."

The reason behind the unending giving of this group is that all three have a caring and understanding husbands, who originally are actually artists but not as famous as their respective wives.

## A true story resembling insistence and determination

**A**beer Ali, a 12 years old girl, was brought to our hospital by her father in May 2000. She was on the verge of death when her father brought her to the Skin and Venereal Hospital carried on a stretcher. She was as stiff as a dead body. Her knee joints and feet were too fixed to move.

Asking her father about her condition and how she reached this late stage of sickness, "What happened to her?" we yelled. He said that he didn't know anything except that she has been sick for a long time, and he strived a lot to get her recovered but to no avail. Then after her conditions continued to deteriorate, he decided to bring her to hospital.

According to her father, the poor girl had been complaining for some time of general weakness, dyspnea, cough, loss of appetites and insomnia. Her condition became worse and worse day after day though she took the medicine prescribed to her regularly.

All that occupied our mind that time was how to save Abeer's life by stopping dehydration. We were racing with time lest her heart's throbs stop. Then we made all needed tests like: sputum for AFB, general blood tests. The test results were a surprise - Anaemia and sputum were both positive.

Immediately after getting the results, we set up a plan for her. The plan included the following:

1. Direct observation treatment - short course.
2. Supporting treatment
3. Rehydration treatment
4. Good feeding including vitamins, proteins, salts and fluids.

Just as some thought she couldn't make it, we insisted on continuing the therapy process. We never lost hope. And one day, our surprise and happiness were indescribable when she started recovering slowly and started glowing like a rose in a field during dawn. Day after day she started talking and walking. Our happiness was immeasurable when she started moving and thinking about going home. We were looking at her proudly. This small girl was saved from death by the grace of God, nursing service and doctor team, who stood behind her and encourage her to get treatment.

This incident was a miracle that our

hospital can be proud. We were able to overcome a very big challenge. Our team won by giving rebirth to the child.

After a decade, the one time little girl came back to us as a grown-up lady with an invitation card. She invited us to her wedding. "Sure, we would love to come" we said in a moment of overwhelming emotions of happiness and pride. We wished her a "long life", and we meant it. It was truly a precious moment and our happiness had no boundaries at the time.

Late. Dr. Ahmad Shanson  
National Leprosy Elimination  
Programme

## مبروك الخطوبة

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نهدبها للأخ العزيز

## لبيب شرف قاسم

بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف

الف مبروك وعقبى للفرحة اللبدي

المهنتون: نصري أبو بكر السقاف، وضاح عقيل السقاف،

تمام عبدالغفار المسني وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء...

## Power of words

BY BUSHRA GAILAN

**W**ords are the colors of life and you have to be a clever painter. It is the thing without which we can't live. A word may build a city and it may also destroy a country.

It is not the word you say it is the way you tell. We sometimes lose the people we love and the things we like forever because of our improper words.

We mix the verbs so we give unclear and unaccepted sentences, which can cause unforgivable mis-

takes. I know that we cannot stop misunderstanding to take place in our daily life but if we clear up our intentions and show what we mean exactly we will never be blamed.

Words are nothing but an open communication for that we have to choose and use the nicest, kindest, and the most meaningful and beautiful words that had ever been uttered. Misusing words may break a heart, destroy the strongest and the most beautiful relations and leave behind lots of pain, sorrow, and unnecessary regrets.

We have to be very careful while using some particular words to reflect particular meanings we really mean.

We are the owners of our words and once we don't control our words they own us. We should not set them free rather than we have to keep them because sometimes, results will not please us really. Once we are talking we are at the same time presenting our personalities, building the basic steps to make good relations with others. We all become happy to have kind words of compliments, praise, and gratitude, thanks, appreciation and acknowledgement. However, harsh words of hostility, offence, abuse, refusal, aggression, and hurting can blow up all those human bridges, which we all strive to build with others daily.

## Rewind the mind

BY NASEER AHMED ALVI  
Naseer863@hotmail.com

Memories good or better  
Always haunt the mind  
Darkness, sorrow, fear and tear  
Left for the mankind  
Nuclear and hydrogen bombs  
inventors  
Hiroshima- Nagasaki bombs  
blasters  
Churchill, Alexander and Hitler  
Berlin wall's builders  
Kings of kingdoms and invaders  
Buried with their doctrine  
What did they leave behind?

The tree down with bare head  
The birds fold the feather  
Baby birds, mother and father  
Nobody singing all together  
The butterfly engaged is thirsty  
For smelling the flower  
The spring has no charms  
As blasts poisoning the weather  
The powers wish the wine  
Keeping feet on the vine  
What did they leave behind?  
Kashmir, Palestine and Chechnya  
Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia  
Have become states of Inertia  
Killers dancing over the dead body  
As no resistance in the bushiest

society  
The mosque, church and temple  
Trade and community center  
Road, play ground and capital  
Autumn, spring, summer and winter  
Anywhere anytime fears and tears  
Left for the mankind  
What did they leave behind?  
The life becomes bed of thorns  
The time has never been kind  
It and power are blind  
Whosoever in their jaws  
Become a terrible sign  
Think and rewind the mind  
What will they leave behind?

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Fax No: 03-202302, Mobile No: 73641188 Email: [ymcic@y.net.ye](mailto:ymcic@y.net.ye)

## فرصة للعمل التجاري

قادة مجموعة شركات الأعمال التجارية الدولية في باكستان يبحثون  
عن مستوردين ووكلاء للأعمال التجارية التالية:

- الأدوية
- الحلويات
- الأقمشة
- منتوجات غذائية
- بضائع عامة
- الكبريت

نرجو من الراغبين في ذلك تقديم نبذة مفصلة (عن وضع قوة نشاطهم المالي وموظفيهم، الدورة المالية السنوية و المنتوجات التي يعملون بها حاليا إلخ....) إلى:-

## رويال جروب - كراتشي، باكستان

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# Indians in Sana'a celebrate ONAM

By VALSA ABRAHAM  
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Yemen Malayali Welfare Association, (PRAVASI), Sana'a, Yemen celebrated "Onam" the cultural festival of Kerala, along with other fellow Indians on the 12th September 2003 at the Yemen Studies and Research Hall, with a variety of cultural programs.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Mr. A. M. Sharif, President of the Association. His Excellency O. P. Bajaj, acting Indian Ambassador to Yemen, inaugurated the cultural festival by lighting the lamp.

During his inaugural speech he said Onam was not the festival of Keralites alone but for all the Indians.

A number of prominent personalities attend the meeting.

Mr. Hussein Sufyan, Assistant Area Manager, Gulf Air Sana'a Office was the chief guest.

Other prominent personalities shared the podium and spoke on the occasion were My. Riyan al-Qurbi, communica-

tion Manager of SabaFon, Mr. Saleem S. Sali-Manager of Hertz-Universal Rent a car.

Mr. Jose N.T Vice-president of the Association welcomed the guests and Mr. Thomas Mathew, Secretary of the Association expressed vote of thanks. During his speech Mr. Thomas Mathew made special mention to Gulf Air, Intracs Group of Companies, SabaFone, Universal Group of Companies and others for their generous contributions and extending sponsorship to the Onam Mega Cultural Even.

During this Mega Cultural event, the comedy show staged by two prominent artists from Kerala Mr. Saju Kodiyan and Mr. Raja Sahib was the main attraction.

But the enhancing and rhythmic dances by Miss Siji Markose, Miss. Roja Prasad and other young artists like Jaya Lekshmi Santhosh, Nayana Mohan, Feba Sajan Chinnu Ganesh and Kum, Hassena Khatoon kept the audience spell bound.

The spoke person of the Association told the Yemen Times that this Association was formed with the Motto "Service to Mankind is Service to God" only nine months back.

During this short period of time it has achieved tremendous progress in all spheres of activities.

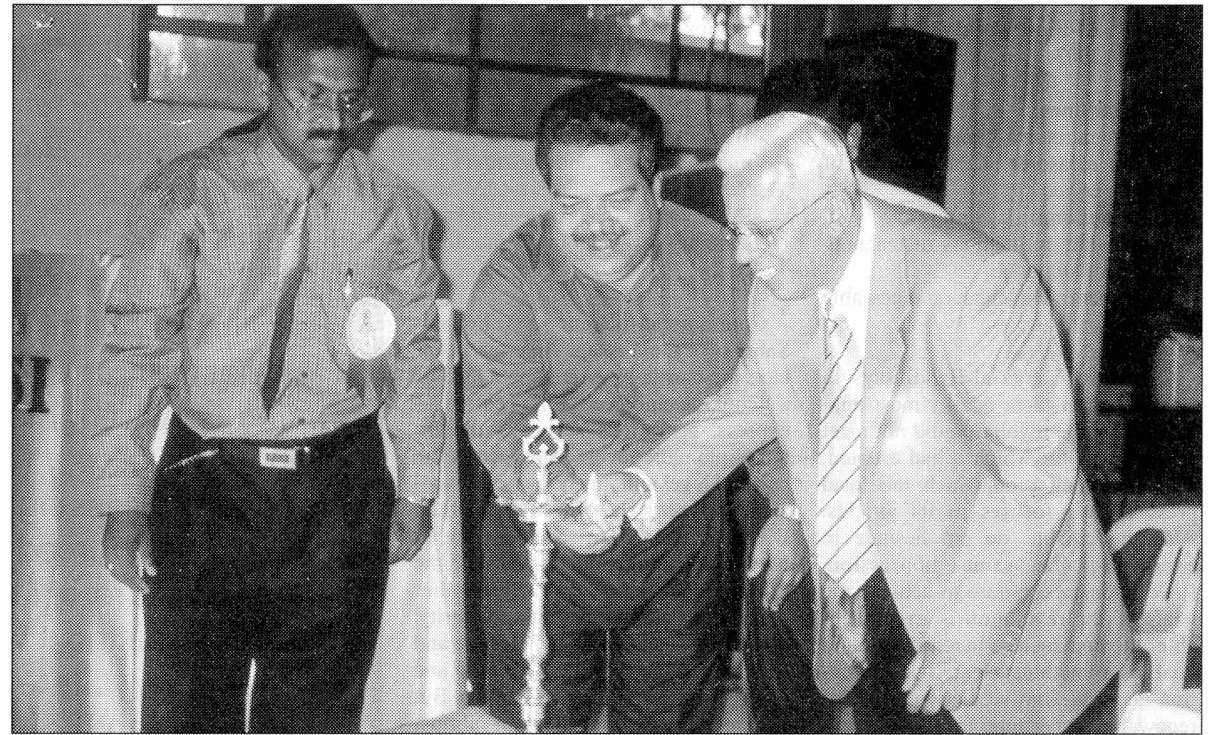
The Association was able to arrange blood for the needy Indians in several cases and even provided legal help to Indians facing trials to prove their innocence.

Onam is the harvest festival of the people of Kerala, celebrated every year (August-September). Fresh from the monsoon and covered with lush green, Kerala, known as "God's own country" in India gets ready to herald the Malayalam new year and the harvest. For 10 days preceding the final day reverentially called *Thiru Onam*, there is gaiety and happiness all around. It is a nostalgic revival of a by-gone era which upholds the equality of all men. During this time, the people of Kerala wear new clothes and resolve to lead a new life of truth, piety, love and humility.

No matter which part of the world they happen to be in, Keralites celebrate this festival with full excitement. In Sana'a too while the Yemen Malayalee Welfare Association celebrated it with dances, songs and mimicry, the Kerala Club celebrated it with a grand *Ona Sadya* (feast)

In the olden days Onam was the day for renewal of landlord-tenancy relationships. Tenants were supposed to reverentially present before the landlord any symbolic product of the land, such as a bunch of bananas or a pumpkin, and the landlord was expected to reward the tenant and members of his family with rich gifts.

For the Keralites, Onam is not merely a harvest festival. It is also a commemorative day linked with sentiments rooted in *Puranas*. It is an auspicious day marking the *Vamana Avatar* - the fifth in the series of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu - and the annual visit of an asura(demon) emperor Mahabali, who it is believed, ruled the state benevolently many years ago, much to the envy of the celestial *Devas*(Gods). The annual visit of the emperor is in fulfillment of a boon granted to him by Vishnu.



Mr. O. P. Bajaj, acting Indian Ambassador inaugurating the Onam cultural program organized by Yemen Malayali Welfare Association. (L to R) Thomas Mathew, Secretary, A. M. Shariff, President

It is believed that Mahabali was an extremely benevolent king, popular and generous, keeping uppermost in his mind only the welfare of his subjects. During his reign, poverty and dishonesty were unknown. He not only took Kerala to the heights of prosperity and happiness, but also followed high ethical standards, which made the *devas* jealous. A folk song in Kerala goes like this:

*All men were equal during Mahabali's reign  
It was a period of pleasantry and free of danger of any sort;  
No theft, no deceit, not even a grain worth lies  
No disease or epidemics and unheard of was infant mortality;  
Measures and balances were kept in order and,  
Absolutely there was no fraud of any sort."*

The growing popularity of Mahabali soon became a matter of concern and worry for the *Devas* who felt threatened. They rushed to Vishnu and sought the Lord's intervention. They feared that if things continued the way Mahabali willed, the time was not far off when even the Lord Himself would lose His hold over mortals.

So, Lord Vishnu took the form of a dwarf - sized young Brahmin *Vamana* and approached the emperor and begged him of a small favor- a piece of land in his domain, measuring just three of his footsteps, to do penance. Generous as he was, and never accustomed to saying "no" to seekers of alms, Mahabali readily offered to give the land to the dwarf. Soon, Vamana suddenly changed to a giant-size, stretching to the skies. With one foot, he covered the sky and with the other, the earth and then there

was no place left for the third step. Mahabali, true to his word, submitted himself to the Lord and Vamana placed his foot symbolically on the king's head. Thus subdued, Mahabali prayed to the Lord that he should be allowed to visit his land on one day every year, so that he could spend the day with his subjects to satisfy himself of their well being and of their practice of the ethical standards set by him. The Lord accepted this last wish of Mahabali and it is believed that on Thiru Onam day, which coincides with Vamana Avatar, Mahabali visits every home in Kerala.

*\* Vamana is Mahavishnu's first incarnation in a human form. Mahabali, by renouncing all that he had and by allowing Vamana to place his foot on his head, becomes a symbol of supreme sacrifice of giving up ones own ego.*



A dance recital by Siji Markose



# Oil-rich Central Asia battles for water

By ALEXEI KALMYKOV

ALMATY, Oct 6 (Reuters) - The Soviet Union has gone, the glaciers are getting smaller and in parched oil-rich Central Asia the battle is on for water.

Most of it pours down during the hot summer months from the glaciers of the towering Pamir and Tien Shan mountain ranges, on territory claimed by Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Downstream, and thirstier by the year, lie their former Soviet "brothers" Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

"I would not say all is too bad at the moment. But glaciers in the north Tien Shan have shrunk by 30 percent since 1957, and will be half-gone by 2025," Asylbek Aidaraliyev, Kyrgyz presidential aide, told Reuters at an internation-

al water conference in the Tajik capital Dushanbe last month.

"The population will grow, rivers will dry up, sown areas will decrease - here is the reason for water conflicts."

Before the Soviet Union started falling apart a decade ago, water in the five "stans" was managed centrally, and with clockwork precision, to supply the region's 50 million people.

Soviet engineers built giant power stations in the Kyrgyz and Tajik mountains, the source of the two main regional rivers - Syr Darya and Amu Darya. Tajikistan's Nurek hydropower station, with the second largest dam in the world, alone controls some 40 percent of the flow of the Amu Darya.

Each summer, Moscow would order upstream Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to

release water to neighbours below, irrigating wide stretches of orchards, cotton and rice.

In winter, the two kept water in their mountain reservoirs and produced cheap electricity from coal, oil and gas sent by their neighbours in return for precious summer water deliveries.

After the Soviet Union unravelled in 1991, Moscow stopped issuing the orders, the energy system fell apart and farmland turned into salt-laden desert.

### Water is wasted

"Israel and Jordan, populated by some 11 million, use three billion cubic metres (bcm) of water. The Amu Darya and Syr Darya supply 110 bcm a year, and it's not enough! It's nonsense!" said an angry Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister Bazarbai Mambetov.

An estimated 50 percent of the arid region's water is wasted, and the potential conflicts over water is high in volatile Central Asia.

Uzbekistan used to cut off neighbouring Kyrgyzstan from natural gas supplies in cold winter months if payments were late.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, their poverty-stricken economies unable to afford fuel to generate their own electricity in winter, nowadays switch on their hydropower systems - often flooding furious neighbours downstream in the process.

"You have flooded our pastures, villages and destroyed roads," Khalilulla Shirimbetov, head of Uzbekistan's Nature Protection Committee, told the conference, directing his accusations at the Kyrgyz delegation.

Uzbekistan is also worried that a more economically buoyant Afghanistan will use more water from the Amu Darya river on their border.

And Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov wants to create a lake in the Karakum desert to immortalise his rule.

Turkmenistan says the "Golden Century Lake" will be fed by drainage



Kyrgyz boys drink water from a well in the village of Kyzyl-Oy, some 100 km south of the country's capital Bishkek. Before the Soviet Union started falling apart a decade ago, water in the five Central Asian republics was managed centrally to supply the region's 50 million people. REUTERS



View of Manshuk Mamatova glacier melting down to a lake in northern Tien Shan mountains. The Soviets have gone, the glaciers are getting smaller and in parched oil-rich central Asia the battle is on for water. REUTERS

water. Uzbekistan suspects it will take more water from the Amu Darya.

The lack of water has been compounded by the sad fate of the Aral Sea. Lying between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, it was once the world's fourth largest inland sea.

It is now half its original size and getting smaller, the result of sucking water from the main rivers that supplied it during Soviet days to help meet grandiose cotton harvest targets in a region ill-suited to the thirsty crop.

It has become one of the world's most polluted regions and the fishing villages along its shores have become arid ghost towns stuck on dry lake beds.

Experts estimate 75 million tonnes of the toxic mixture of sea salt and fertilisers are blown off the dry Aral Sea bed each year.



Kazakh villagers on a motorcycle drive past a ruined ship on the dry Aral Sea bed near the town of Aralsk, south-western Kazakhstan in this undated file picture. The Aral Sea has become one of the world's most polluted regions and the fishing villages that once clung to its shores have become arid ghost towns stuck on dry lake beds. REUTERS

# Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

**Al-Ibou weekly, 2 October 2003.**

**Main headlines:**

- Haitham returns home
- Strict measures at the ministry of civil service
- International conference in Hudeidah on methods of teaching English language
- Seminar in Hudeidah on renewable energy

Columnist Yahya al-Haddi says in an article that there is an almost unanimity that the revolution did not meet all the goals for which it had erupted. This is a matter on which the local press always focuses in its articles. Also the citizens do not hesitate in expressing the same impression. Revolutionaries' failure to achieve the goals of the revolution is irreproachable and their success in realizing other goals is something clear. The revolution as a definitive action remains renewable according to the circumstances it faces and the challenges the country confronts. There is always an open opportunity for a new beginning but our biggest problem would remain that of squandering opportunities.

In his speech at the revolution anniversary the president has defined new objectives for the coming period different from the famous six goals. The president has stressed that development of human resources, upgrading the citizen's life, realization of comprehensive security, fighting unemployment and poverty, fixing prices of goods and services and caring for spiritual and cultural building would be working goals for the next phase. No doubt they are new targets we are in great need of them and they are good for being goals for a new Yemeni revolution compatible with the age.

**Annas weekly, 6 Oct. 2003.**

**Main headlines:**

- Sheikh I-Zindani praises Arab satellite TV channels
- Two Yemeni academicians lash out at existing educational situation in Yemen
- Chairperson of Aden public prop-

- erty prosecution: The involved are groups violated the president's directives
- Mass rally narrates groaning of al-Aqsa
- Workshop by American development agency and partners in Yemen
- Residents of Shamaiteen district demand resignation of the local council

Columnist Mohammed Yahya al-Sabri says the Yemeni American contacts are currently witnessing a kind of a "choking embrace", if it is correct to express, at various security, military and diplomatic levels, and even at the cultural level and this reflects a noticeable growth. The visit of William Burns to Sana'a last Saturday either carries a culmination to visits of the State Department or carries other demands related to the raging security, and political situations in Palestine and Iraq and other political aspects and other Yemen's foreign relations. But the matter also implies an almost Yemeni-American non-agreement on many issues especially regarding the American diplomatic excesses in relations with states that are no longer observing the simplest criteria and diplomatic norms in relations among states. This is also apparent in the statements made by the prime minister last week in which he said the Americans were "asking us Yemen to control its 1800 km borders with Saudi Arabia and its 800km coasts while they refrain from offering new aid in this regard and Yemen does not possess enough resources to implement those demands."

**Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 2 Oct. 2003.**

**Main headlines:**

- National body on Jarallah Omer case follow-up:
- Sticking to Jarallah Omer case however long it may take
- Chairman of oil trade union in Safer, arrested

The newspaper editorial says disturbed policies could not make a stable situation and deluding concepts also cannot grant the regime the credibility

## Main headlines

- On 26 Sept. Revolution, the President considers what has been achieved as additions to the revolution asset
- MP Al-Attwani: Additional approbation an organized plunder
- Amnesty International report: Yemen violated human rights and law sovereignty
- Jihad alliance, Yemeni-American difference in assessing the danger
- In Abyan: Forced deportation of inhabitants, seizure of land
- YSP meeting with delegation from American International Aid for Development
- 40 trucks retained, Dates crisis between Sana'a and Riyadh and information on dates shipment decay
- Conflicting statements on preaching experts
- Soldier seizes a UN's car
- Intensive preparations for holding mineral wealth conference
- Washington shows reservation against sending terrorism suspects to court
- President Saleh: National Security Apparatus for ensuring homeland safety and protection of its interests,
- The President urges speedy completion of Sana'a new International Airport
- Yemen-Sudan-Ethiopia foreign ministers meet in Sana'a early November
- Vice-President welcomes Japanese investments in Yemen

it longs for. Thus the situation in Yemen appears to be; troubled and threatened by disintegration. It is the image of an authority besieged with all causes of decomposition due to a tense economic condition and a political congestion liable to explosion.

The leap over the internal crises towards outside is nothing more than a policy marketing illusion, a policy of escaping forwards and exporting the inside crises to the broader Arab periphery. Such a pursuit passes over the objective facts that grant the states the distinction and pioneering out of geographical and historical and power potentials in economy and political cohesion. All these facts are not existent in the structure of a country that has not yet entered the stage of industrialization or knocked at the door of the national state.

**Al-Sahwa weekly, 2 October 2003.**

**Min headlines:**

- Taiz: education office suspends 80 inspectors
- Islah organisation in Ibb condemns attempted assassination against al-Basha
- In Qadas a rock kills three brothers
- Islah assistant secretary general: The revolution cannot be run single-handedly

Columnist Zaid al-Shami writes that the first goal of the Yemeni revolution was the liberation from despotism and colonization and its impact. We find nowadays that these are coming back anew but rather their area is increasing under the motive of arrogance and the desire to humiliate others. One would wonder about the loosing of temper shown by some officials in dealing with the citizens.

We wonder why dealing with the citizen is not performed in a human manner. Why don't we make him feel the wrong if he was mistaken? The injustice and despotism we witness and the complaint expressed by the ordinary citizen make the citizen think that the revolution has not erupted yet. These practices are not motivated by implementation of the law and order but rather for the purpose of blackmailing. Would not this behaviour necessitate

consideration? Hasn't the revolution come but to fight tyranny?

**26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 2 Oct.2003.**

**Main headlines:**

- Carnival festivals in Aden at 40th anniversary of the 14 October revolution
- PM: New facilities to be offered investors
- GCC remarkable welcome of Yemen joining of social affairs and labour ministers council
- Those accused of attempting to assassinate Sadeq Basha, planned their crime a month before
- Responding to pardon, Haitham Qasem Tahir back to Sana'a

The newspaper editorial is devoted to tackling the speeding up events in the Arab world that have led to an open horizon of challenges and dangers to all possibilities if the current Arab situation remains as it is now hovering between stagnancy and retreat in a direction reverse to the developments of events. It has become difficult to differentiate between the threatening dangers at the regional, national and local levels.

The editorial maintains that the aggressive and terrorist events taking place in Palestine at the hands of the occupation forces have included everything related to life of the Palestinian people. The situation in Iraq under the American-British occupation is another example confirming that what happens in any Arab country the other Arab countries are not to be separated from it. What is happening in Palestine and in Iraq makes us all in the midst of the strong wind of the tempest. And burying heads in sands is what makes the danger certain and imminent and its confronting of it dictates on all to realize the nature of the dangers threatening all and to seek ways and means necessary for confronting them. In this context there must be a support to Yemen's initiative for holding an emergency Arab summit in order to develop and activate the joint Arab action that in this critical stage in the history of the Arab nation should be very active and capable of action.

# World Press

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

### France

**Le Monde**

Israel raided Syria for the first time since 1974 in reprisal of Saturday's suicide attack that killed 19 in a restaurant in Haifa, a port city in northern Israel.

**Le Figaro**

French Minister of Economy Francis Mer defended his budget at the gathering of his euro-zone counterparts, citing the necessity to stimulate the near-recession economy.

**Les Echos**

The tension in the Middle East weighed heavy on the oil prices, which was pushed to 30 dollars a barrel on Monday. The industrialized nations have diversified their sources of supply but oil prices remain indissociable from the Mideast conflicts as well as from the economic growth.

**Liberation**

Three days after the government of Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin launched an assault against the Socialist-initiated 35-hour weekly work system, the labor unions manifested a unified hostility towards any reform attempt of this typically French law. Raffarin, who is on an official visit in Moscow on Monday, returned the ball to "social dialogue" and his men stopped talking about the perspective of a new law.

### Japan

**Asahi**

Japan confirmed the eighth mad cow case Monday. The infected bull was 23 months old, younger than the previous infected cattle that were 24 months old or above.

**Yomiuri**

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a series of summit meetings Tuesday and Wednesday with leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China and South Korea in Bali, Indonesia, will present an initiative to strengthen international efforts to interdict illegal transfers of weapons of mass destruction.

**Mainichi**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations would map out comprehensive measures to protect intellectual property.

### Britain

**The Financial Times**

Britain is preparing to support a new European Union finance system in which it would share the right to a budget rebate with other countries, including Germany and the Netherlands.

**The Guardian**

Rio Ferdinand, one of England's leading footballer, is facing a ban by the Football Association for his failure to provide a sample during a random drugs test at the club's training ground two weeks ago.

**The Independent**

Broadcasters Carlton and Granada, who control 12 of the 15 ITV franchises, will get the 4-billion-pound merger verdict

Tuesday from Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt on their proposal to create a single ITV.

**The Daily Telegraph**

Leading Tories closed ranks behind Iain Duncan Smith, who is facing allegations over his maneuvering of his office, Monday night, warning the party that further plotting to oust him would wreck their chances of returning to power.

**The Times**

Professor of Nottingham Sir Peter Mansfield was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine on Monday for his development of magnetic resonance imaging, a technique for producing pictures of internal organs without the use of X-rays.

### Kenya

**East African Standard**

In his official visit to the United States, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki on Monday asked the US to support Kenya as a model of democracy and assist the Kenyan government in reviving the economy and promote security.

**Daily Nation**

The Kenyan government has

pledged that it would continue upgrading slums to give dignity to people living in informal settlement in the country.

**People Daily**

Kenyan Vice president Moody Awori on Monday disclosed that the country requires 28 shillings (about 354 million US dollars) to ease the congestion in the country's prisons.

### Germany

**Die Welt**

The 2003 Nobel Prize for medicine went to American Paul C. Lauterbur and British Sir Peter Mansfield.

**Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung**

The international community has

continued its condemnation of the Israeli attack on Syria.

**Handelsblatt**

Export is giving the German economy a strong boost as goods sold abroad are expected to rise by 4.8 percent next year.

**الف مبروك**  
 أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهديا للأخ  
**حلمي عبد المعطي**  
 بمناسبة زفافه الميمون  
 متمنين له حياة زوجية سعيدة...  
 مروان علوي السقاف، المهندس / ياسر الأغبري،  
 موهظي سي سوفت المهنئون

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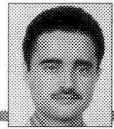
Hotel Names	City	07 nights 08 days	Single room	14 night 15 days	Single room	Accommodation bed & breakfast
Istana hotel	Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia	\$680	\$890	\$910	\$1330	Category *****
Park Inn International	Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia	\$595	\$700	\$695	\$900	Category ***
Jakarta Hilton International	Jakarta/Indonesia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

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Internet applications

# E-commerce



NAJEEB YAHYA  
AL-SHARAFI  
NCC EDUCATION - YEMEN

The term electronic commerce has only been around since the early to mid-1990s. And since then it became difficult to avoid as it springs up all over the Internet, on television advertising, and in our newspapers. So what is creating all the fuss?

These days it is all too common to see electronic commerce (or Ecommerce as it is often written) dismissed as 'buying goods over the Internet with a credit card'. However, this is just the retail front-end of Ecommerce that the consumer experiences. In reality, E-commerce comprises a host of techniques designed to make businesses more efficient, competitive and even collaborative.

These have been brought together to provide companies with a suite of methods which, properly managed, can enable them to:

- improve the way in which they run their businesses;
- improve relationships with trading partners;
- Expand their businesses, either globally or into new markets.

The Automotive Industry Action Group in North America defines Ecommerce as:

*'The application of advanced information technology to increase the effectiveness of the business relationships between trading partners.'*

A variation used by the eCommerce Innovation Centre at Cardiff University, defines it as: *'the enablement of a business vision supported by advanced information technology improve efficiency and effectiveness within the trading process.'*

Such broad definitions are struggling to describe the use of a variety of trading techniques which have been classified together as E-commerce, but which may be used to provide a whole host of differing business solutions. In the end these solutions depend on the type of business, the size of business, and the vision of the employees or consultants.

We already know that E-commerce is about using data for commercial purposes by transmitting the data electronically between computer systems in a standard format. But what are the key drivers behind the major growth that we are now seeing in E-commerce systems and applications? Well over the past 20 years computer hardware has become much cheaper. Operating Systems and, particularly, the software that runs on them, have become more powerful and (arguably) more user-friendly, providing a wider range of solutions to the business market. At the same time, communication options have diversified and improved.

As a result, various industry sectors began to see the potential of linking their computer systems either directly or via communications networks. Once such links were in place, then it was a natural progression to begin exchanging information between trading partners. The requirement for some sort of structure and standardization to these exchanges of business information was recognized, hence the development of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).

We then saw the development and tremendous growth of the Internet as a business tool, with few companies not able to identify specific business benefits that it could deliver. The sorts of questions that organizations were being asked in relation to how they might benefit from the use of the Internet included:

- Do you have business partners and trading partners overseas?
- Do you make use of faxes and international phone calls?
- Do you need to find market information regularly?
- Do you travel regularly to business meetings by plane or train?
- Do you need to keep in touch with company news?

Positive answers to these types of questions pushed organizations into using the Internet for e-mail and access to the World Wide Web. The growth in business use was then mirrored by the explosion in the number of Internet users within the home, providing a vast potential market for

the many business-to-consumer services that are now emerging.

Pioneers

Initially the growth of E-commerce practices was bound to be slow. A number of forward-thinking companies pioneered various techniques for transferring data in

formats that enabled it to be processed on receipt. In a sense, it was an act of blind faith, and much of the work that was done laid the foundations for other companies.

At this time the terms E-commerce or EDI did not exist, but that is what companies were trying to achieve. The most important realization was that common data formats were needed for such transfers to work between communities of traders. This led to the creation of standards bodies in Europe and the US, and saw the co-operation of industry groups in defining message requirements. A number of pilots were set up, not all of which were successful in trading terms, but which helped to elevate the subject in public awareness. Two of the better known ones were in the shipping industry and were known as DISH and SHIPNET. A number of port community

systems were created across Europe. Felixstowe, Southampton, Rotterdam and Amsterdam all set up import/export systems which are still in use.

During the 1980s, a number of communications companies introduced Value Added Network Services (VANs) to provide secure communications channels for business usage. The VANs' awareness raising activities, alongside work being done by the standards bodies, helped to start build communities of users in a variety of business sectors, such as the retail industry. These particular communities could grow rapidly as the main ones, such as major supermarkets and shopping chains, could make EDI capability (specifically the ability to receive electronic orders) a prerequisite of selecting a supplier. The suppliers needed the business and had to comply.

Smaller VANs have emerged to cater for the requirements of specific sectors, such as education. The airline industry, freight forwarding community and shipping community have all, at some stage, created networks for transmission of EDI and E-mail data.

Slower than Expected Growth

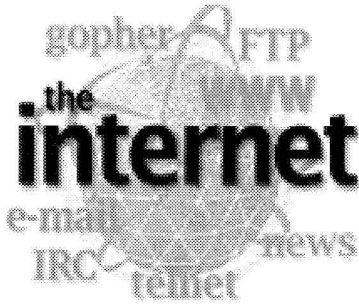
By the end of the 1980s there were high expectations for EDI, and analysts repeatedly made predictions of unprecedented growth. It was widely agreed that only one per cent of potential users had implemented EDI and the number of users was predicted to double every year. It was said that no-one could stay in business without EDI. For some reason, though, the growth never matched expectations. The new business 'revolution' was only taking off at a modest pace. There are a number of reasons for this, but the most often cited is that international standards have taken a long time to be developed to a level where they match business requirements. More practical reasons were also to blame. For a start, the process was too complicated for many would be users. Although there were some off the-shelf EDI packages, integrating them with in-house systems (such as accounts) could prove very expensive. As a result, those who did invest in EDI did not always gain benefits. A large retail company could benefit by purchasing from its (multifold) suppliers, but this does not always benefit those suppliers. Unless they have integrated their EDI application and their order processing system, then they will probably have printed out the orders for processing. Someone in that position was unlikely to be introducing EDI to their own suppliers further down the supply chain. By the early 1990s, EDI had reached a respectable level of awareness among businesses. There were a few newsletters and magazines dedicated to it, conferences and exhibitions, the odd article in a national paper. X.400, another internationally agreed standard for the exchange of E-mail (and other data types), had a similar (perhaps lower) level of publicity. Then came the Internet.

The Internet

You will already be aware that the growth of the Internet has been phenomenal. In February 2000, an Irish consultancy firm, Nua, estimated the number of Internet users worldwide to be 276 million. Of these, 136 million were in the United States and Canada, 72 million in Europe (with

14 million in the UK, and 12 million in Germany), and 55 million in the Asia/Pacific region.

The global figure is a huge increase on the 115 million that Nua estimated were online in April 1998, and the US *Computer Industry Almanac* predicts that the number of Internet users worldwide will have grown to 720 million by the end of 2005. However, it is interesting to note how much more popular media attention has been given to 'the Net' than was ever afforded EDI. Is it because it is available globally, or because it is easy of use, or as



a result of major industry players such as Microsoft and Novell developing interfaces to it? All of these have had an impact. Perhaps the most significant factor, though, is that the Internet offers a range of messaging techniques, all of which work rapidly. The standards used to make it work are not all ratified by international standards bodies, but they do work. The factor of not having to wait for standards to be agreed has surely accelerated the growth in the number of Internet users. An equally significant factor is that, with the existing level of awareness of E-commerce practices, the Internet can easily be identified by companies as a means of exchanging business data. It is a phenomenally well-advertised medium which offers access to a range of business applications:

- FTP;
- E-mail;
- Voice-mail;
- conference;
- bulletin boards;
- marketing;
- advertising;
- credit card transfer;
- EDI;
- on-line catalogues;
- stock broking;
- and many, many more.

Identifying the Business Potential

The developments in communications and standardization over the past 20 years will undoubtedly continue, and will lead to improvements in the ways industry trades. We now have a range of communications options:

Telephone networks, ISDN, X.400, the Internet, satellite and mobile communications, and others, such as digital radio, will doubtless become popular. What is important is how these options are used.

It is vital from the outset for any organization looking to move into Ecommerce, particularly business-to-consumer, to clearly understand whether the products and services they offer are suitable for selling online. Some general guidance on the potential for E-commerce can be gauged by asking the following questions:

- Is the organization looking to sell to the correct demographic group in terms of geography (where the potential customers are located) and the type of person (is the potential customer likely to have access to Internet services and the ability to pay for transactions online)?
- Can the products be delivered digitally (for example, software, music, videos, books) or services accessed digitally (e.g. train tickets, airline tickets, holidays)?
- Can value be added to specific services by making them available online (e.g. online auctions or stock broking can significantly change the existing business models)?
- Does the organization have products that can be sold from a Web site, even though they may need to be delivered and paid for conventionally (e.g. cars, household electrical goods, even houses)?
- Are they very specialist products, where the web can increase their exposure to (perhaps) overseas markets, or standard products that can easily be sold via a catalogue? The decision to proceed with an E-commerce project would probably require a 'yes' to many (although not all) of these questions. In any event, whether the potential application is business-to-business or business-to-consumer, the key requirement is to develop a clear business case that supports the decision to proceed. This business case should address a variety of key issues including:
  - statement of business benefits to be achieved;
  - projected sales and overall revenue over 1, 3 and 5 years;
  - level of investment required (both in terms of IT, staffing levels and other resources);
  - projected profitability;
  - unique selling points of the new venture;
  - a clear evaluation of the risks in moving forward with such a venture (and indeed the risks associated with not moving forward);
  - Systems and resources required to handle integration with back-office systems such as order processing, order fulfillment, stock control etc.).

# Strategies for Interviewers: Some considerations



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Interview is a bipolar activity. It presupposes a positive attitude, an open mind and a friendly personality on the part of the interviewer to get the best out of the candidate. The right approach of a judicious interviewer is not to expose what the candidate doesn't know, but to instill confidence in him so that he comes out with the best resources he has. As such, the interview becomes a pleasant experience for the candidate, not a grueling ordeal for him.

For effective role playing the interviewer should be clear as to what he is looking for in a suitable candidate and prepare his stance accordingly. It's an enterprise where the interviewer maximizes the time in order to achieve the desired goal. This essay is an attempt to remind the actual and potential interviewers about certain practical techniques in the best of their as well as the interviewee's interest.

1. Build a friendly atmosphere

As the candidate takes his seat, a conscientious interviewer builds up a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. He puts relatively simple, open-ended questions like "How would you...". As the interview proceeds, the candidate finds himself emotionally stable to take the other questions by the interviewer.

2. Don't dominate the interview

An experienced interviewer doesn't dominate the interview, but lets the candidate come out with his responses and, in the process, gives him/her the optimal chance to reveal himself/herself.

3. Plan the interview well in advance

It is essential that the interviewer plans the questions well in advance. He should not put the candidate in a tight corner by putting unexpected, unwarranted questions. Questions that are not relevant are likely to discourage a candidate and give him a feeling that the interviewer is not interested in him. On the other hand, relevant questions from the candidate's areas of specialization put him at ease and help him do most of the talking which is the goal of the interview.

4. Give supportive remarks

The interviewer should keep up the spirit of the candidate by occasionally giving encouraging remarks such as 'that's interesting', 'would you tell us more about it'. Some interviewers have an uncanny fascination for pulling the candidate's legs by making curt remarks or cracking cruel jokes. This is an extremely baneful strategy as it disheartens the candidate.

5. Use positive body language

The interviewer's facial expressions are very important. He should look interested, wear a smile or give a nod where necessary. This builds up a congenial atmosphere and enlivens the candidate. The interviewers' job is to augment, not sabotage, the candidate's self esteem.

6. Be alert, decipher the non-verbal messages

Sometimes the candidate is on the defensive. He falters and fumbles for words. He looks down, avoids eye contact or looks vacantly at the ceiling. These are some of the weakest or most vulnerable moments when the interviewer should be empathetic, considerate and compassionate. He should bail the candidate out from such critical junctures by asking an easy question which he can answer.

7. Allow breathing space

Rather than bombarding the candidate with a barrage of questions, the interviewer should allow a pause between questions so that the candidate quickly prepares himself for the forthcoming question.

8. Be patient and informal

If the candidate makes a comment or gives an opinion that is not acceptable to the interviewer, the latter should not raise an eyebrow or frown or react very strongly. He should accept the candidate's opinion and not put him off by a condescending remark.

9. Don't subscribe to extreme views and opinions

The interviewer may have certain political or religious biases or prejudices. If the candidate doesn't seem to subscribe to those, he should not be penalized. In fact, the candidate's overall performance should be assessed in an objective manner.

10. Ending an interview

Whether or not the candidate is considered suitable for the job, the interviewer should end the interview on a friendly note. He should thank the candidate for his responses and say that the results of the interview would be communicated soon, not forgetting, of course, to wish him/her good luck.

An interview is a veritable learning experience for both the candidate and the interviewer. From the latter's standpoint it is a valuable pointer to the skills and strategies of interaction. It is sometimes observed that even if the candidate does not get through, he loves to cherish the memory of the interview.

So the next time we sit on the interview board, let's try and be a sensible, judicious, balanced and conscientious interviewer.

## YOUTH FORUM

**Save our world from pollution**

We always face a lot of problems in our environment. In this article I'd like to talk about some of the pollution related problems we always experience in everyday life including the water and the air pollution.

*By Maged Alamoudi  
abu\_al3nod@hotmail.com*

**Some causes of pollution**

- Burning the garbage inside the cities.
- Smoking cigarettes inside public places.
- Throwing Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC).
- Driving gasoline vehicles.
- Using pesticides on the agricultural products.
- Throwing garbage on the beach.
- The smoke that billows from the factories.

**Dangers of pollution**

- Getting a lot of infections like: Skin cancer, Typhoid, Malaria, ... etc.
- Breeding of the insects like mosquitoes, flies, ...etc. that are carriers of diseases.
- Holing Ozone Layer.
- Raising of the ground heat.

**How to eradicate this problem**

- Burning the garbage outside the cities.
- Growing a lot of trees, especially around the houses and schools because they'll decrease the level of pollution.

He saw you more eternal  
Than lovely buds of May  
And that you are immortal  
More than a summer's day

For me you're so different  
You mean So much to me  
With you I find it perfect  
To stay for good with thee

For me you're the moon  
My life with joy's alight  
With you I share my moan  
And all the pains of night

Remember how we were  
Playing everywhere  
And larking here and there  
Without love, ease and care

You always call me 'Knight'  
In day, dawn and night  
You're part of my own heart  
Even if you depart

I'll keep on loving you  
Whatever you may do  
As long as I have a heart  
We'll never be apart

You'll keep on being fair  
Whatever the years may do  
As long as love is there  
Your beauty will be through

For you I always deeply pray  
During night and during day  
No matter what you will repay  
You'll forever in my heart stay

*Hajer Ismael Shebam  
APTECH, Sana'a*

# Schumacher refuses to tempt fate

BY ALAN BALDWIN

LONDON (Reuters) - Michael Schumacher is taking nothing for granted, even if history suggests the Ferrari driver's record sixth Formula One title is a foregone conclusion.

The German needs one point in Sunday's season-ending showdown in Japan to pass the late Argentine Juan Manuel Fangio and stand alone and unchallenged as the most successful driver the sport has ever seen.

Only McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen can stop him now and even then the matter is out of the Finn's hands.

Raikkonen's only chance is to win and hope that Schumacher, five times triumphant at Suzuka including in all of the last three years, somehow fails to score.

But it has been five years since Schumacher drew a blank in Japan. None of his current rivals has won at the southern circuit nor beaten Schumacher in any race that the German has finished there.

Some might have expected the celebratory caps and T-shirts to be on sale already. Indeed, Ferrari's official website had Schumacher listed as a six-times champion already last month.

But the great man will not tempt fate.

He learnt that lesson in 1997, when manager Willi Weber produced merchandise celebrating Schumacher's title only for him to lose out to

Canadian Jacques Villeneuve.

"Everyone thinks its a done deal but that's not the case," the German said last week.

"I don't want to sound a bit pessimistic but that slight chance that Raikkonen still has is spinning around in my head. Life is like that. If you feel too secure, the opposite can happen and that is why we must stay very focused."

### Mansell memory

Ferrari technical director Ross Brawn recalled the 1986 season, when Briton Nigel Mansell arrived in Adelaide with a six-point lead only to suffer a blowout and watch France's Alain Prost take the title.

"We all remember Nigel Mansell in 1986," Brawn said after Schumacher won the U.S. Grand Prix.

"It would be a tragedy if we got that close and didn't win. In many ways there's more pressure to score one point than going in with a guy who's even."

No driver has ever kissed away a nine-point lead in the final race and lost the title. Mansell's extraordinary misfortune was just that — extraordinary.

Of the 21 previous seasons that have gone down to the wire, 13 have been won by those leading the championship into the final race.

Schumacher had little personal interest in the last cliffhanger, when team

mate Eddie Irvine arrived at Suzuka four points clear of McLaren's Mika Hakkinen.

The Finn won race and title and Irvine finishing third behind Schumacher in the last year to see the championship go to pursuer rather than pursued.

Before that, Schumacher took part in three last-race title duels, beating Briton Damon Hill in 1994 but losing out to Villeneuve in 1997 and Hakkinen in 1998.

In 1998, he was four points behind Hakkinen but qualified on pole.

His hopes were then destroyed when he stalled on the grid at Suzuka and went to the back of the field. Working his way back to third place, with Hakkinen leading, Schumacher went out with an exploded rear tyre.

In 1997 he was a point ahead of Villeneuve before one of the most controversial races of Schumacher's career.

The German ended up stripped of his points that year after lurching into Villeneuve's Williams in what looked like a desperate attempt to win the title by taking out his opponent as he went past.

The effort backfired, with Villeneuve continuing while Schumacher, who had been rewarded with the 1994 title in similar circumstances when he and Hill collided, went out.

### Epic finishes

Formula One's distant past contains some truly epic championship finales.

In 1984, Austrian Niki Lauda clinched the closest ever title race when he beat McLaren team mate Prost by half a point.

Eight years previously, with Ferrari, Lauda lost out to McLaren's James Hunt in Japan.

The Austrian, who had been in a fiery and near fatal crash at the Nuerburgring in the August, pulled out in heavy spray at Mount Fuji as Hunt continued and won the title by one point.

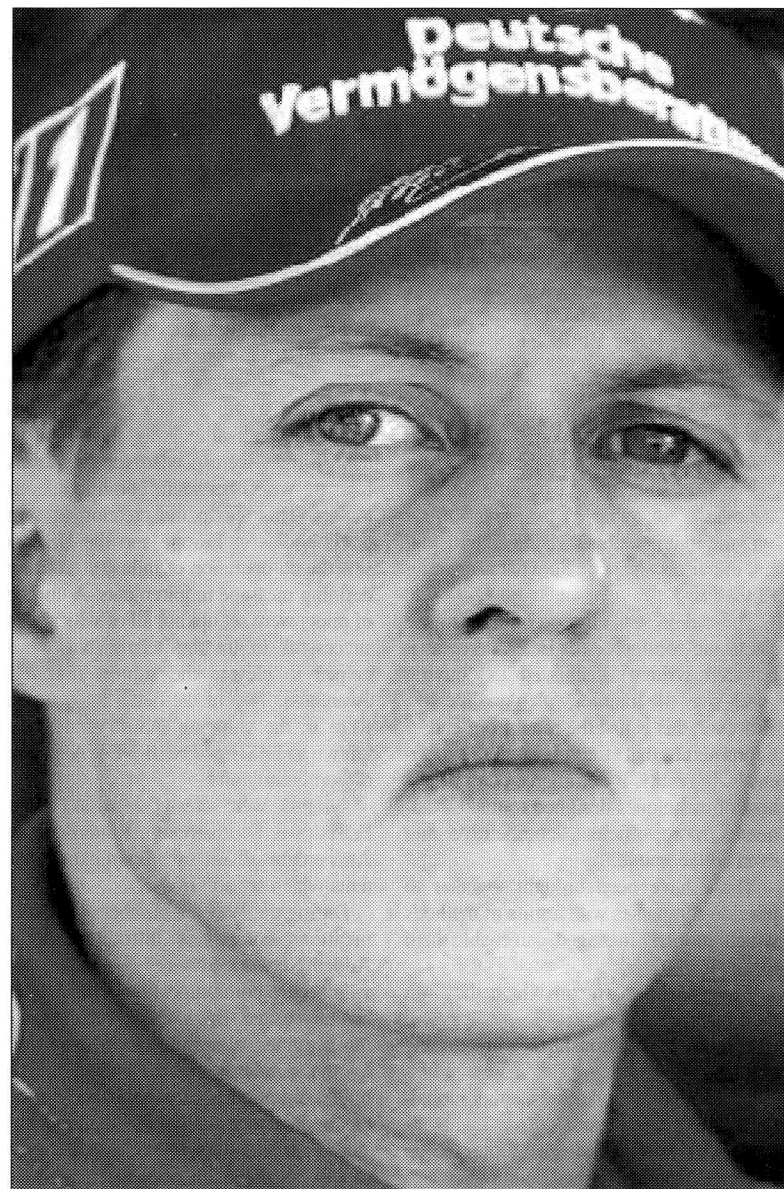
Scoring systems have changed over the years and at one period only some of each driver's race results counted towards the championship.

That allowed Briton John Surtees to become champion for Ferrari in 1964 despite having scored a point less than Graham Hill from all the season's races.

In 1959, Australian Jack Brabham won the first of his three championships at Sebring in the United States after pushing his car across the line when it ran out of petrol.

"They tell me the crowd went wild," Brabham wrote in his autobiography, "Motorcycle cops tried to keep back the crowd. It must have been the first time the new world champion was escorted to the flag by a motorcycle escort."

"Frankly I don't remember a thing."



Michael Schumacher (shown in a file photo) is taking nothing for granted, even if history suggests the Ferrari driver's record sixth Formula One title is a foregone conclusion. The German needs one point in Sunday's season-ending showdown in Japan to pass the late Argentine Juan Manuel Fangio and stand alone and unchallenged as the most successful driver the sport has ever seen. REUTERS/Regis Duvignau

# Serena to play in Hopman Cup team event

MELBOURNE, Oct 7 (Reuters) - Serena Williams will begin preparations for her title defence at next year's Australian Open by playing in the Hopman Cup mixed team event in January.

World number three Williams will team up with James Blake to represent top seeds and defending Hopman Cup champions the U.S. in the eight-nation competition.

Former world number one Lleyton Hewitt will partner Alicia Molik for second-seeded Australia. Hewitt's girlfriend, world number one Kim Clijsters, teams up with Xavier Malisse for third seeds Belgium.

Fourth seeds Russia boast world number nine women's player Anastasia Myskina and former world number one Marat Safin.

The other four competing nations in the 16th Hopman Cup to be played in Perth from January 3-10

are France, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic and the winners of a play-off between Canada and Hungary.

Williams, 22, is mourning her sister Yetunde Price, who was shot dead in a Los Angeles suburb last month.

Australian Open chief executive Paul McNamee said last week he was "hopeful" Serena and her sister Venus would play in the grand slam event at Melbourne Park which starts on January 19 "even though they have been through something very traumatic".

McNamee, who is also the Hopman Cup tournament director, said on Tuesday in an International Tennis Federation statement that he was thrilled with the field for the Perth event.

"The top four teams each boast a player who's been ranked number one in the world," he said.

# Ferdinand drug test error causes England delay

LONDON, Oct 6 (Reuters) - England defender Rio Ferdinand omitted to take a routine drugs test recently, forcing England to delay naming their squad for Saturday's decisive Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey, Sky News reported on Monday.

Ferdinand failed to undergo a test at his club Manchester United's training ground and has been reported to the Football Association (FA), Sky said, making national coach Sven-Goran Eriksson put back his announcement until the FA can confirm that the key defender will be available for the match.

Ferdinand has reportedly said he simply forgot to take the test because he was moving house on the day in question. After

realising his error he underwent a test 48 hours later, which proved negative, the report said.

The 24-year-old, who joined Manchester United for 30 million pounds (\$49.88 million) last year, is due to attend an FA hearing next week to discuss the matter.

Eriksson had decided not to name the squad on Sunday as originally planned because of injury doubts over players including his main striker Michael Owen.

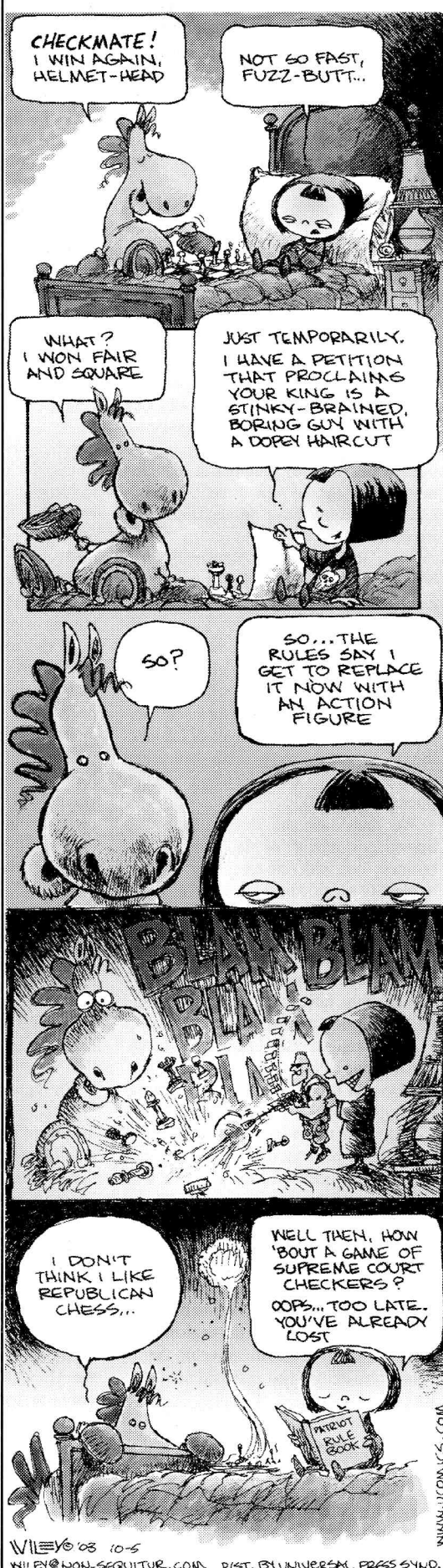
The announcement was put back again on Monday and is now expected on Tuesday.

England need a point from the match in Turkey to qualify for next year's European Championship.



Rio Ferdinand (pictured) omitted to take a routine drugs test recently, forcing England to delay naming their squad for Saturday's decisive Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey, Sky News has reported. Ferdinand failed to undergo a test at his club Manchester United's training ground and has been reported to the Football Association, Sky said late on Monday, making national coach Sven-Goran Eriksson put back his announcement until the FA can confirm that the key defender will be available for the match. REUTERS/Ian Hodgson

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Day	Hi	Lo	Day	Hi	Lo
Thu	26	9	Thu	37	28
Fri	26	8	Fri	36	28
Sat	26	7	Sat	35	28
Sun	26	7	Sun	35	28
Mon	26	7	Mon	36	27
Tue	26	7	Tue	36	27
Wed	26	7	Wed	36	26

**THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY**

BY Eugenia

<p><b>Aries</b> (Mar 21 - Apr 19)</p> <p>You will be excitable today. Lots of action will take place in your personal relationships. Put responsibilities first, but don't rule out being able to do it all.</p>	<p><b>Leo</b> (Jul 23 - Aug 22)</p> <p>You will be up for a good time and open to any romantic encounter that comes your way. This is a great day to entertain, socialize or just spend time with the one you love.</p>	<p><b>Sagittarius</b> (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</p> <p>This is a perfect day to pursue something you really want to do. Sports activity will get your heart thumping and bring you in contact with someone who will take a special place in your heart.</p>
<p><b>Taurus</b> (Apr 20 - May 20)</p> <p>Problems may arise if you rely on others to do things for you. Secret attractions may be prominent. Think about what you are doing before you proceed.</p>	<p><b>Virgo</b> (Aug 23 - Sep 22)</p> <p>Added responsibilities are likely to be dropped in your lap. Take charge and do a good job. Prepare to dig in and work hard for optimum results.</p>	<p><b>Capricorn</b> (Dec 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>Idle time will lead to trouble. Make sure that you don't leave any of your duties undone. Don't neglect the ones you love. Avoid temptations.</p>
<p><b>Gemini</b> (May 21 - Jun 20)</p> <p>Take charge and you will receive all the glory you're looking for. Your goals will become clear today, so find ways to overcome any obstacles standing in your way.</p>	<p><b>Libra</b> (Sept 23 - Oct 22)</p> <p>A partnership may worry you. Reevaluate this relationship before you decide to do anything about it. You must rely on yourself because you aren't likely to get the help you ask for.</p>	<p><b>Aquarius</b> (Jan 20 - Feb 18)</p> <p>You have a right to change your mind and although it may baffle some of your friends or relatives, it is still up to you to make your own choices. It's time to explore your options fully so that you can make the best decision.</p>
<p><b>Cancer</b> (Jun 21 - Jul 22)</p> <p>Pay closer attention to what's going on right under your nose. Trouble may be brewing. Don't let depression get the better of you. Keep the peace by being affectionate.</p>	<p><b>Scorpio</b> (Oct 23 - Nov 21)</p> <p>Make any changes you want when it comes to your professional direction, but prepare to take a cut in pay or go back to school to do so. The end result will be to your advantage.</p>	<p><b>Pisces</b> (Feb 19-Mar 20)</p> <p>Don't hold yourself back because someone has criticized you. An opportunity to make a career move will be available to you. Take a chance and try something new.</p>



# Superconductor trio wins 2003 Nobel Physics Prize

By Patrick McLoughlin

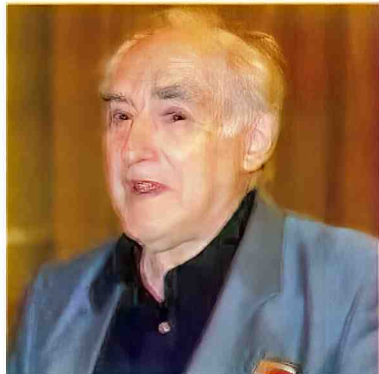
STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - Three scientists who worked separately to explain the nature of matter at extremely low temperatures won the 2003 Nobel Prize for Physics on Tuesday.

The three — Russians Vitaly Ginzburg and Alexei Abrikosov and British-born Anthony Leggett — worked on theories that led to the development of magnetic imaging scanners.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement it was recognizing the trio's theories concerning two areas of quantum physics — superconductivity and superfluidity.

Ginzburg, 87, was head of the theory group at the P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute in Moscow and Abrikosov, 75, now works at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. Leggett, 65, is at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Like Abrikosov, Leggett now holds U.S. citizenship.

Abrikosov told Reuters he had begun his work over half a century ago in the Soviet Union in a scientific world that was almost unrecognizable and virtually without computers.



Vitaly Ginzburg, joint winner of this year's Nobel Prize for Physics, speaks at his research institute after his award was announced in Moscow, October 7. Ginzburg, 87, won the award with fellow Russian Alexei Abrikosov and Briton Anthony Leggett for their theories explaining the nature of matter at very low temperatures. Photo by Stringer/Russia/Reuters

"All three of us have something in common — our discoveries ... were done many years ago. We are pretty old people," he said from Lemont, Illinois, on learning of the award.

"We worked mostly in a world without computers."

A self-deprecating Ginzburg said his share of the \$1.3 million prize would be lavished on his great-grandchildren: "A tennis player can earn this amount for just one game."

"For me, of course, it's a huge amount of money, as it is for anyone in Russia who isn't a crook or a business tycoon."

"I'm pleased to be sharing the prize with them," Leggett said of his fellow winners, whom he had met professionally. His own main research on the topic was done in England in the 1970s.

### Revolutionary potential

Scientists said the laureates' work on superconductivity in particular still had potentially revolutionary applications.

"Superconductivity holds the promise of a new class of electronics device which can save big energy and lead to levitating trains and improved medical imaging," Phil Schewe, chief science writer at the American Institute of Physics, said.

The theories developed by the Russian laureates had laid the ground-

work for Monday's medical prize, which recognized discoveries on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the now familiar painless diagnostic method used by doctors to look inside the bodies of millions of patients every year.

"They developed a theory which laid the groundwork for MRI techniques," said academy member Professor Erik Karlsson.

"The Nobel prize on Monday was partly thanks to the development of this theoretical work. They made it possible to have excellent pictures of the human body."

Leggett formulated "a decisive theory" explaining how atoms interact and are ordered in superfluid state, the Academy said.

The Nobel committee at the 264-year-old Swedish Academy proposed the names which were endorsed on Tuesday morning by the 350 Academy members meeting in closed session in Stockholm.

The prize includes a check for more than 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.3 million) to be shared among the three. The winners join an illustrious pantheon which includes Albert Einstein.

# Microsoft to extend Java in Windows

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Microsoft Corp. said on Tuesday that it would carry Sun Microsystems Inc.'s SUNW.O Java programming language in the Windows operating system nine months longer than first planned, to give customers more time to transition between the software platforms.

Originally, Microsoft had said it would only carry Java in Windows until the end of 2003, under an agreement that allows programs written in the Java programming language to run on top of Windows. Microsoft and Sun said in a joint statement that they would extend that by 10 months to Sept. 30, 2004.

"We've put our differences aside since we've heard from customers that they would like a little more time as they are in the process of migrating," said Chris Jones, Microsoft's vice president of the Windows client division.

The two companies said that one of the main issues concerning customers and

software vendors is the ability to preserve software security during the transition so that hackers won't get a chance to exploit software flaws.

Microsoft said it would provide migration tools and information for developers.

Microsoft and Sun have shifted their development efforts into next-generation standards for delivering software and services over the Internet. Microsoft's .NET initiative is going head-to-head with Sun's J2EE platform and other standards.

Sun, which is currently seeking \$1 billion in damages against Microsoft, has been locked in a legal battle with the world's largest software maker for more than three years over Java.

Sun originally alleged that Microsoft promoted an incompatible form of Java that worked best on Windows. After being sued by Sun, Microsoft dropped Java from Windows, but added it back after a court ordered that it be included again in

the operating system.

Microsoft then appealed that order and got the ruling overturned so it would no longer be forced to include Java in Windows.

Legal experts had said that the last ruling, made in June, set the stage for a settlement. Microsoft has settled several civil lawsuits made against the company since it ended its antitrust case with the federal government last year.

Microsoft agreed to pay \$10.5 million last month to a group of U.S. customers who claimed that it overcharged them for software and earlier in September settled an antitrust suit by Be Inc BEOSZ.PK, agreeing to pay the failed software developer \$23 million to drop its suit accusing Microsoft of destroying its business through anti-competitive practices.

Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft also reached a \$750 million settlement and strategic partnership with AOL Time Warner Inc. AOL.N in May.

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# Handicrafts on brink of dying out



BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Handicraft industries as historians point out are not just tales about development of man's skills but rather a record of the way a society has developed and progressed.

In order to overcome their economic crisis, the developing countries entirely depend on establishing small enterprises especially handicrafts for their fighting poverty programs. Though the traditional handicraft is no longer able to keep pace with market consumption but still it remains as a mirror reflecting people's memory. In Yemeni markets for instance, the handicraft industry has not gained ample attention of the consumers, especially at this age of globalization and products are flooding our markets. Under non-provision of protection for those occu-

been still lacking proper preservation effort by the government.

The United Nations Development Program, UNDP, has offered an indispensable assistance to preserve some of those handicraft industries. As a result, an agreement was signed with Urban Cultural Heritage Strategy and Development Program, UCHP to establish two centers for preserving handicraft industries, which are threatened by dying out.

One has been allocated for craftsmen and the other for craftsmen. This positive step has come as part of the government's main objectives and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, towards preserving the Old City of Sana'a and reviving those ancient industries.

The center has been established at the center of the Old Sana'a. But there are some difficulties that have been facing those craftsmen such as, assistance which has come to a halt.

It continued till 1990. It is supposed for the government to run and support this center as the UNDP does in order to provide training wages for trainers affil-



Yemeni ancient Jewels and gems; originality of the Yemen's old civilizations



A Yemeni in a very old shops selling his old earthenware potteries and handicraft industries

pations many people who have been depending on these professions for developing their income would be affected greatly.

Since time immemorial, Yemen if compared to any other countries in the Arab region is famous for this industry. Skilled and dexterous craftsmen are considered the pillars behind such beautiful masterpieces.

That industry has been still handed from one generation to another. The artistry of those industries is totally based on their original legacy and that is why it has gained a wide popularity.

Despite of imported products flooding our markets particularly, handicrafts, the industry has

ated to the center. The center also lacks well-qualified cadres and support. At last, the concerned bodies at the ministry of culture and tourism have to pay full attention to these crafts.

The date for declaring Sana'a as Culture Capital for 2004 is approaching. What is needed is to make Sana'a the Cultural Capital forever and not just for 2004.

Without any

doubt, those industries greatly constitute to be the mainstay of supporting nation's revenues and also considered to be a significant aspect of tourism promotion.

10

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