

Yemen's top al-Qaeda in custody U.S. pressures Yemen on al-Ahdal

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A Western diplomat in Sana'a said the U.S. is putting pressure on Yemen to allow American F.B.I. investigators to interrogate Mohammed Hamdi al-Ahdal, alias Abu Assem al-Makki, who was arrested in Sana'a last Tuesday along with other four men.

Al-Ahdal, who is on the U.S. list of wanted terrorists in Yemen, is believed to be one of the masterminds of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Aden harbor, which killed 17 U.S. sailors, and the 2002 bombing of the French oil tanker Limburg off the Yemeni coast.

He is reported to have replaced Qaed Salim Sinan al-Harethi after he was killed by a missile fired from a U.S. drone aircraft November last year. Al-Ahdal is also described as the main coordinator of al-Qaeda activities in Yemen, supervising the terror group's finances, weapons smuggling and operational planning and was well-connected to other extremists in Persian Gulf countries, according to official sources.

However, Yemen's government refuses to allow U.S. investigators to question al-Ahdal, or any other terrorism-linked detainees directly, and suggests that the US investigators can hand over their questions in writing to al-Ahdal through their Yemeni counterparts.

Yemen hopes to glean crucial information about al-Qaeda operations inside and outside the country from al-Ahdal.

"This is an important arrest because the information we may uncover could lead to elements or networks even outside

Yemen," the Yemeni official said after the arrest was made, when the senior al-Qaeda leader was celebrating his own wedding party in his hide-out west of Sana'a.

Yemen also confirmed that al-Ahdal will not be handed over to the U.S.

He "will not be handed over to any other authority and would be interrogated and tried in Yemen," Yemeni Information Minister Hussein al-Awaddi said Friday.

Yemen's government also dismissed a press report published by the London-based Asharq al-Awsat daily, quoting an unnamed American source as accusing Yemen of undermining its cooperation in the global war on terror and that its defense ministry was smuggling US weapons to Saudi militants.

The report is "aimed to mislead world opinion over Yemen's serious and decisive position in fighting terror and undermining the growing relations between Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the United States," an interior ministry official said Friday, adding that "Yemen will not succumb to any form of blackmail irrespective of its nature and source."

Asharq al-Awsat quoted the unidentified source as saying that Saudi Arabia denied that Yemen did not hand over to it four wanted al-Qaeda militants.

But the interior ministry official said that the Saudi authorities have not denied this fact, pointing out that ten Saudi men were arrested after entering the country illegally and that they were turned over to the Saudi authorities in coordination with the Saudi embassy in Sana'a.



Achievement of Anti-Terrorist Security Forces: The arrest of Al-Ahdal has been seen as a major success of the well-trained security and intelligence units to combat terrorism established more than a year ago. The ministry of Interior said that security officials had been watching the long-time fugitive for several months before surrounding his home and forcing him to surrender. Yemeni authorities believe Al-Ahdal was the second-in-command to Ali Qaed Sunian Al-Harithi, alias Abu Ali Al-Harithi, who was among the six Al-Qaeda suspects killed in November 2002 in a CIA missile attack. Archive photo by REUTERS

Death sentence for American doctors' killer confirmed

ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI & M. AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Ibb Appeals Court has backed on Monday the death sentence against Abid Abdulrazzaq Al-Kamil, the killer of three American aid workers of Jibla Hospital.

Al Kamil, 30, killed one doctor, one administrators, and a purchasing agent in December 2002. The verdict stated that the execution should be made public.

He was sentenced on May 10 for premeditated murder of the three Americans.

The judge clarified that all accounts of murder are directly blamed on the defendant, and that all evidence con-

firms he murdered the aid workers intentionally, and hence deserves capital punishment by firing squad.

The ruling endorses the earlier ruling of the preliminary court of Ibb that issued a verdict of death to Al-Kamil.

Al-Kamil confessed his crime, saying that the doctors were missionaries and converted some Muslims to Christianity.

After hearing the verdict, Al-Kamil, who was behind the bar, appeared calm and never showing being sorry; rather, he thanked God and prayed to him, lashing out at Arab leaders, accusing them of being the protectors of the 'Zionist state'. And that, according to him, there must be a crack down on these protecting forces of

Israel.

The verdict reading session was attended by representatives of the US embassy in Sana'a, which never gave any comment on the verdict.

Even though it is unlikely that the verdict may be averted, Al-Kamil says that he will go for the Supreme Court, which he can apply to in 40 days, and hence delay his public execution for a few more months.

The Jibla Hospital incident was believed to be linked to the murder of Jarallah Omar. Both incidents were just a few days apart and later investigations had shown that the motives were similar and that the radicals intended to assassinate yet another number of people based on a list they prepared.

Key e-government event concluded

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Organized by the ESCWA, in cooperation with UNDP/Yemen and the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MTIT) a 3-day regional workshop on Electronic Government concluded yesterday at the Telecommunications and Information Technology City in Sana'a. The event was represented by 14 foreign and Arab countries.

During the opening session, PM Abdulqader Bajamal announced that to cope with the advanced information technology, Yemen will introduce English Language course from the fourth level of basic education and computer learning from the secondary schooling. He emphasized that he was not motivated very much by the e-government project as Yemen has a

lot to do before it initiates such an important project. However, he called on the private sector to join the government efforts to promote knowledge of information technology, administration in the country.

On his part, Mr. James Rawley, UN Resident Representative in Yemen said that the development of telecommunications infrastructure "began in earnest after unification in 1990 and has received significant attention from government in recent years. Nonetheless, it must be recognized that the country's telecom facilities remain among the least developed and under-utilized in the Arab world even through the telephone reaches over 350,000 subscribers and the number of mobile customers is growing rapidly."

Continued on P3

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YEMEN TIMES
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للمشاركة اقرأ التفاصيل:

على الراغبين في المشاركة في المسابقة تعبئة الكوبون المرفق وكتابة الإجابات الصحيحة للأسئلة المنشورة في كوبون الأسئلة للعدد الماضي ومن ثم قص الكوبون وإرفاقه مع كوبون الأسئلة وإرسالهما إلى مقر الصحيفة في صنعاء (شارع حده - خلف السفارة الفلسطينية) أو إلى مكاتب الصحيفة في عدن أو تعز أو الحديدة. كما يمكن للمشاركين إرسالها إلى بريد الصحيفة في صنعاء على عنوان (ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩، صنعاء). لن يتم قبول المشاركات التي ينقصها أي من الكوبونين أو التي تحوي معلومات شخصية ناقصة أو إجابات خاطئة لأي من الأسئلة المنشورة.

ستستمر المسابقة حتى مارس ٢٠٠٤ ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشارك أكثر من مرة، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقاً، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركين الاتصال بالصحيفة على ٢١٨٦٦١ (٠١) في أوقات الدوام. حفظاً موفقاً للجميع....

المصادقية هي شعارنا، وثقتنا هي غايقتنا، شاركوا وترقبوا أسماءكم من بين الفائزين.....

Crime sprees during Eid Gang kills man; thieves rob home

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An armed gang shot dead Marwan Hazem Abdulqawi, of Al-Arooq region, a lance corporal in the governorate of Al-Dhale' on Nov. 29.

He had just arrived to spend the Eid holidays in Taiz when he was shot in the heart in the early morning. He was sitting at his friend's place in the district of the Yemen Bank branch on 26 September Street.

Abdulqawi came out to the street shouting that they had killed him, but didn't mention any names, before falling dead on the street.

One of the passers-by transported the body to the hospital, and Colonel Abdo Taher Al-Dhaheri, Chief of Al-Bab Al-Kabeer (grand gate) Police Department was notified.

He arrived at the crime scene with his officers and policemen to investigate and

called in crime experts and technicians of the Criminal Investigation Department who initiated the investigation and took photographs of the crime scene.

Several suspects were detained for further investigation.

Meanwhile, the number of break-ins has increased dramatically in light of the absence of residents during the Eid holidays, as they usually spend such times in their villages.

To those thieves, this is usually a lucrative season.

For example, thieves broke into the house of the mother of our colleague, Abdulaziz Al-Ma'mari, in the district of Al-Dhaheriyah of old Taiz where they stole the valuable contents of the house estimated at YR 1 million.

The Chief of Police has initiated an investigation and follow-up and detained four suspects for further investigation.

YJS in Aden for meetings with newspapers

BY RIDWAN AL-SAQQAF
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF
YEMEN TIMES

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) held last Monday at its office in Aden a meeting to discuss the syndicate's proposed law to be presented to the parliament.

The syndicate expressed its sincere intentions to thoroughly examine the objections presented by independent newspapers in Aden concerning the law, especially the item related to the deduction of 3% of newspapers' advertising income for the syndicate.

Furthermore, the syndicate, along

with representatives of prominent newspapers in Aden, discussed the difficulties faced by Attareeq newspaper concerning the recent land dispute that resulted in the confiscation of Attareeq's land illegally and damage caused to the paper by unpaid debts and other difficulties, which caused the paper to temporarily close down for five weeks.

The governor of Aden, Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi expressed commitment to assist Attareeq newspaper and not allow it to collapse, especially as it is considered among the most active independent newspapers in the country.

Premier league starts 2003-2004 season

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The activities of the premier football league for the sports year 2003-2004 is to start Friday Dec. 5 in six different stadiums throughout the country and with 12 prominent football teams.

The Yemen Football Association is

hopeful in enhancing the football quality of the teams and raise awareness of the importance of such tournaments economically and socially.

This comes in a time Yemen's under-17 team accomplished great results in its recent participation in the Asian Cup. It achieved second place after South Korea.

Yemen hosts Arab seminar on human rights

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Forty trainees from various Arab countries are expected to attend the Third Regional Seminar for Human Rights.

Organized by Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) in cooperation with the Germany's regional office of its Conrad Adinawer Establishment, the seminar runs in Sana'a from Dec. 6 to 11.

The HRITC has decided to hold its yearly seminars in the field of human rights in Yemen, inviting participants from non-governmental organizations and activists from countries in the Arabian Peninsula and Arab Gulf.

The regional seminar is considered one of the unique Arab seminars, which gained Arab and international reputation during the past three years for the importance of its programs, and the level of training.

It also pays special attention to presenting a wide variety of important international documents.

Izzaddeen Said Al-Asbahi, president of the HRITC, said that this seminar is an assurance of the important role which the civil establishments undertake to extend cooperation and spread the comprehension of human rights.

It also clarifies that the wide Arab

participation in this seminar, and the desire of more Arab organizations and individual activists to participate, is proof of its importance and success.

He indicated that participants in this seminar will be coming from Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Palestine, Lebanon, Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Morocco and Yemen. The training faculty team will include important Arab names coming from Beirut, Egypt, Jordan, Geneva, Palestine and Yemen.

The seminar will present an intensive program about human rights which includes the various international documents, intellectual and philosophical background, the work context of the United Nations, international mechanisms, Treaties of the Rights of Women, the Rights of Children, and the role non-governmental organizations play to protect those rights and liberties.

This seminar will also concentrate on the importance of training in tracking and documenting violations of human rights, and preparation of reports parallel to those official reports prepared by non-governmental organizations.

The HRITC started presenting its regional programs in 2000 by offering several courses, seminars and workshops in Yemen, Jordan and Cairo.

In Taiz governorate

Teachers suspended by Education Ministry

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

In an unprecedented move that evoked anger and frustration by tens of teachers throughout the governorate of Taiz, 75 files of employees working in the Ministry of Education have been suspended and not sent to the civil service office to issue employee degrees.

Tens of graduates from departments of English-language and Mathematics have had their files put aside among

thousands of other files of other graduates in a move seen by those teachers as unjust and intolerable.

"This is a serious legal crime as lists of graduates who deserve employment degrees have been altered and manipulated in an unjust manner," said one of those teachers who was deprived from his degree.

This comes in a time when those graduates are planning to give a letter of complaint to President Ali Abdullah Saleh for the suspension of their files.

Nationwide by-elections for local councils

Local councils by-elections are to be held throughout the republic's governorates and districts on Dec. 11 to fill vacant seats.

Accordingly the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum has called on electoral committees and political parties candidates to abide by legal measures pertaining to electoral propaganda stipulated in the law.

Hospital opened in Aden

Aden, Dec. 1 — Governor of Aden, Dr. Yahya Mohammed al-Shuaibi, inaugurated the \$1.8 million Al-Naqeeb Hospital at Al-Mansoura District, Aden on Monday.

The hospital has departments for heart diseases, neurology, psychiatry, dentistry, internal diseases, general surgery, obstetrical medicine and others.

Director of the hospital Mohammed Abduhafidh told the Yemen Times that the hospital had departments for surgeries and intensive care, emergency working around the clock in addition to other departments.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a number of health officials in the governorate of Aden.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll.

This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

Do you sincerely believe that Al-Ahdal was the mastermind behind the USS Cole and Limburg attacks?

- Yes, he was indeed
- He is among many who were responsible for them
- He does belong to a terrorist group but had nothing to do with them
- He was not responsible for them in any way

LAST EDITION'S

QUESTION:

Do you think that Al-Moayyad will get a fair trial in the US?

No	49%
Yes	43%
I don't know	8%

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

South African tourists cancel tours

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

A number of tourist delegations were unable to visit Yemen during the last few weeks due to the suspension of direct flights to and from South Africa, according to Al-Salam Agency for Travel and Tourism.

The agency said that its efforts to focus on potential South African tourists have yielded fruits in the past due to the availability of direct flights.

The delegations used to come to Yemen to visit tourist sites and see natural beauties of the country for many years. But several delegations have

recently cancelled their trip because of travel complexities.

"Several large groups of tourists who were supposed to visit Yemen in December have unfortunately cancelled their trips because of lack of transportation to Yemen directly. This requires that the Yemen Airways (Yemenia) resume its flights as soon as possible to activate the tours again and enable us to bring tourists," a source at Al-Salam Agency told Yemen Times.

Mohamed Jameel, Yemen's Ambassador to South Africa, recently started his term in Pretoria, and has pledged to help increase the numbers of South African tourists coming to Yemen.



REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
MINISTRY OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENT

The SOCOTRA CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (SCDP) COORDINATION UNIT Sana'a is recruiting: a Young and Well Qualified Yemeni National for the post of

National Program Assistant (NPA)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The SCDP Coordination Unit, based in the Ministry of Water and Environment in Sana'a, will guide, oversee and support the implementation of all conservation and development initiatives of the Government of Yemen and international donors in the Socotra Archipelago. The NPA will be based in Sana'a at the SCDP - Coordination Unit office and will report directly to the National Program Manager (NPM).

Tasks:

- Provide secretarial, typing and clerical work for the office including Translation from Arabic to English and vice versa, preparing brochures and pamphlets, helping in the production of the SCDP Newsletter.
- Assist the SCDP team in setting up and updating an electronic database for all information & contacts for all programs, projects and activities related to Conservation and Development of Socotra Archipelago.
- Assist SCDP team in establishing a library and keeping up and updating a bibliography of all literature about Socotra.
- Under the guidance of the NPM, liaise with UNDP Country Office, EPA, MOTE, MOPD, YIPDA, the local authority in Socotra and Hadramout and all other relevant ministries as and when required.
- Carry out any other relevant work that is required by the activities of the SCDP and requested by the NPM and International PM.

Qualifications Required:

- Demonstrated relevant professional experience in the above fields/activities
- Excellent English and Arabic language skills
- Excellent computer skills (MS Word, Excel/Access, Power Point, Adobe Page Maker)
- Valid driver license
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of Socotra and of the UNDP Socotra Programme is a distinct advantage

Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen, within SCDP premises – with occasional short-term travel to Socotra

Working Hours: Government


Salary: According to UNDP scale and commensurate with qualifications and experience

Duration of the Assignment: 6 months probationary period, extendable to one year.

Application (including CV, full contacts, and a cover letter in English) should be submitted only electronically by email to the following address: SCDP@y.net.ye or by fax to (01) 425309. No personal visits or personal delivery.

Deadline for Application: 10 December 2003 only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview

For more information on the SCDP see: www.socotraisland.org



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والثلاثين من نوفمبر

كل عام وأنتم بخير

Arab States Local Governance Forum to kick off

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Organized by the UNDP's Regional Bureau of Arab States (RBAS), a 4-day Arab States Local Governance Forum will commence next Saturday in Sana'a with a participation of a number of Arab countries, UN agencies, GTZ and various other NGOs.

The objective of the forum is to contribute to strengthening democratic decentralization and participatory local governance in the Arab States by providing a platform for building advocacy networks throughout the region, and providing a space for networking, and documenting best practices and lessons for the region. The event is intended to be a policy-oriented event of concrete relevance and utility to the participants for they will have the chance to learn from the past experience of multiple stakeholders and define future direc-

tions and strategies for improving local governance in the region through local efforts and country programs as well as instituting a process of a continued dialogue on leveraging local governance structures, improving services, and democratizing policymaking and decision-making in the Arab region.

The RBAS believes that there have been good efforts by some Arab countries to strengthen local governance to improve public participation and the delivery of basic services. However, these efforts are faced by some challenges, mainly uneven commitment to reform. Many of the country-led local governance initiatives have been restricted to the administrative aspects of decentralization rather than encompassing its political or fiscal aspects as well. Decentralization has not always been accompanied by the necessary changes in power, financial resources, technical capacity or institutional

know-how. These make the undermined local authorities unable to meet expectations and this erodes participation which is very important for good local governance.

The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, a regional NGO, was contracted to be the substantive facilitator of the event.

Red Sea Conference postponed

Due to security threats in the Middle East, including in the Red Sea region, organizers at Hodeidah University and the Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies in Exeter, England have decided to postpone the conference Red Sea at the Millennium.

Highlighted on page 1 of the Dec. 1 issue of the Yemen Times, the conference had been scheduled for Dec. 8 to 11 at Hodeidah University.

It is now to be held at a later date, at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies in Exeter, England.

The following dates have been suggested: the last week of March 2004; mid-September 2004 or the third week of December 2004. When a new date is chosen, the Yemen Times will inform the public.

\$8 million granted for basic education

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The donor community granted Yemen last week \$8 million to support basic education. The grant was announced in the Partnership Conference held in Oslo during the period 19-22 November. "In that meeting a catalyzed fund has been initiated and Yemen got \$8 million for the year 2004," Minister of Education, Dr. Abdul Salam al-Jawfi told Yemen Times, adding that "the grant is for basic education, mainly to increase and encourage

girls enrollment in schools."

Yemen started in 2001 Basic Education Expansion Project (BEEP) with support from some donors. The project aims, according to the minister, to increase school enrollment of girls and fill the gap between rural and urban areas, improving the quality of teaching. If Yemen makes use of the recent fund in a good way, extra fund will be channeled to the basic education expansion. "The donors working for supporting the project promised to increase their fund for education in order to

achieve Education for All strategy by 2015," al-Jawfi who attended the event said. The project is now targeting some governorates and if it will need around \$100 million to cover the entire country.

Yemen is now a member of the Fast-Track Initiative (FTI). The FTI is a program that is intended to catalyze and initiate funds for countries that have strategies aiming to achieve education for all and are best able to use grants effectively for this purpose. The FTI is supervised by the World Bank and other donors.

BP Oil Yemen bids farewell to Mr. Dirhim Ali Ahmed

BY RIDWAN AL-SAQQA
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF
YEMEN TIMES

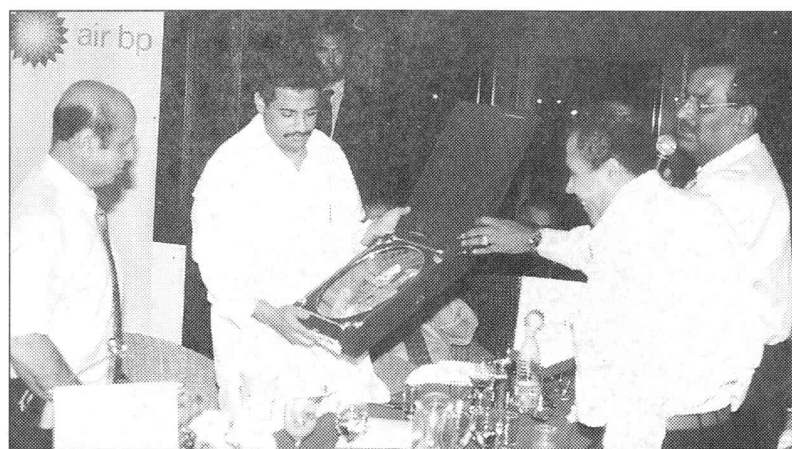
A ceremony was held on November 16 at the Sheraton Gold Mohur Hotel in Aden City to bid farewell and to honour Mr. Dirhim Ali Ahmed, the General Manager of British Petroleum Oil Yemen (BP Oil Yemen), where he worked since 1957.

The ceremony was held primarily to express gratitude to Mr. Dirhim, who will retire this month, for his contribu-

tions during his 46 years in the company, and for the great successes he accomplished for BP Oil Yemen.

During almost half a century, Mr. Dirhim worked in various posts in BP Oil Yemen until he became its General Manager. He was known for his strategic vision and efficient administration.

Furthermore, the occasion was also used to welcome the new General Manager, Mr. Ryan Abubakr Al-Qirbi, who has pledged to learn from the experience of Mr. Dirhim and continue with his spirit and development pace.



Continued from page 1

Key e-government event concluded

He said that the usage of the internet in Yemen remains low in comparison with neighboring countries because of the high costs of computer equipment relative to average wages and the restricted bandwidth available on Yemen's outdated telephone network. He announced that the UNDP cooperation with Yemen government aims to facilitate seven different initiatives through an incubator approach; they are: development of a national ICT Action Plan for the use of ICT in socioeconomic development, implementation of a franchise mechanism to fund the implementation of community-based Telecenters through small loans, setting up a web-based development portal to provide pertinent development information to cities through internet outlets, supporting Mobile Internet Units to deliver ICT training for the public and education sector, conducting a series of workshops and seminars, providing high-level advisory services and support for ICT and development policies; and supporting

Quick Impact projects such as the implementation of an International Computer Driving License Program for Government employees.

The workshop addressed major issues facing public administration reform efforts and the establishment of e-government in Yemen, with focus on supporting electronic tools. It also highlighted lessons learnt from previous programs in these regards and will identify areas where ESCWA and UNDP/Yemen can have tangible impact in supporting the development of e-government in Yemen. This workshop is just a part of and the stepping stone for a comprehensive program for the development of information and communication technology in Yemen that the UNDP has decided to undertake.

It focused on the role of developing public services and human resources development in giving access to e-government, infrastructure and legal aspects needed for e-government.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the GEF/Small Grant Programme.

Job Title: National Coordinator
Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen.

Background:

The GEF/Small Grants Program (SPG) was established in 1992. The main purpose of this programme is to maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives by providing financial and technical support to projects in developing countries that conserve and restore the natural world while enhancing well-being and livelihoods. SPG links global, national and local-level issues through a transparent, participatory and country-driven approach to project planning, design and implementation. Grants are made directly to NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) in recognition of the key role they play for environment and development concerns.

Responsibilities include:

- to launch the new GEF/Small Grant Programme in Yemen and to promote activities among the key stakeholders;
- to prepare the Country Programme Strategy;
- to organize stakeholder workshop and project development sessions;
- to disseminate guidelines and information to CBOs and NGOs and to assist them on the preparation of the project concepts and proposal;
- to locate technical and other assistance from existing local and national programmes and agencies that can be channeled to project proponents for project preparation and/or implementation;
- to identify and mobilize financial resources that can be channeled to project proponents for project preparation and/or implementation;
- to work with and supporting the NSC and its deliberations during the whole process of project;
- to implement the GEF/SGP Monitoring and Evaluation framework at the country programme level;
- to establish and manage mechanisms for exchange of information, experience, and lessons learned at the local and national levels;
- to foster operational and policy linkages between the GEF/SGP and large or medium-sized projects planned or underway in the country;
- to maintain a strong working partnership with the UNDP Country Office;
- to provide continuous information updates in standard format for the GEF/SGP global database, as well as periodic progress reports;
- to maintain the financial integrity of the programme and reporting on all financial and personnel issues to the Programme Management Officer at UNOPS and to the Global Manager at agreed upon times.
- to report as agreed to the programme's Global Manager at the CPMT on programme implementation in general;

Qualification:

- Advanced degree in environment/ natural resource/ development-related field.
- At least five years professional experience in environmental issues, and demonstrated competence in at least one of the GEF focal areas.
- Experience in community-oriented environment and development programmes, and in project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Excellent communication skills (written, verbal, interpersonal).
- Excellent networking and information sharing skills.
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Willingness to travel to the field for at least sixteen weeks per year.
- Knowledge of community needs in different parts of Yemen and ability to communicate with all sectors of the local & indigenous communities within the Country

Interested candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background for the above position may submit their applications by mail to Human Resources Unit, UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a

Fax: 448841. **E-mail:** registry.ye@undp.org

The deadline for receiving applications is 15 December 2003

For further details of our vacancies you may visit our website at:
<http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm>

Helps the local economy

Eid is a boom for Aden

BY RADHWAN AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ADEN BUREAU

During the last few days of the Holy month of Ramadhan, and Eid Alfitr, Aden received more than 250,000 visitors from the various governorates of the Republic, as well as from the neighboring countries who came to enjoy its lovely beaches, parks and moderate weather conditions.

Hotels recorded higher occupancy rates than expected and the city witnessed unsurpassed cleaning activities.

Fadhl Al-Hilali, general manager of Aden Hotel, indicated the rush to get booked into his hotel started in the middle of Ramadhan.

"We were still receiving calls for reservations even during the Eid holidays from all governorates of the Republic", he said.

Aden Hotel organized several activities to enhance the Eid occasion for its occupants and the visitors of Aden which included special parties for children.

Waleed Anwar, Director of Sales & Marketing at Aden Sheraton Hotel, said: "We did not expect that Aden would witness this volume of tourist activity. This was an important improvement in domestic tourism which records set for occupancy for hotels."

He indicated that he had seen visitors enjoying themselves at beach-

es, parks, and market places, which witnessed livelier activities since the latter part of Ramadhan adding that this was the first time he spent the Eid holidays in Yemen, especially in Aden. He enjoyed the characteristics of tourism in Yemen in terms of heritage, lovely sceneries and warm beaches, and said: "Yemen is a beautiful country with a more beautiful weather varying from one governorate to another which makes it a tourist country all year round."

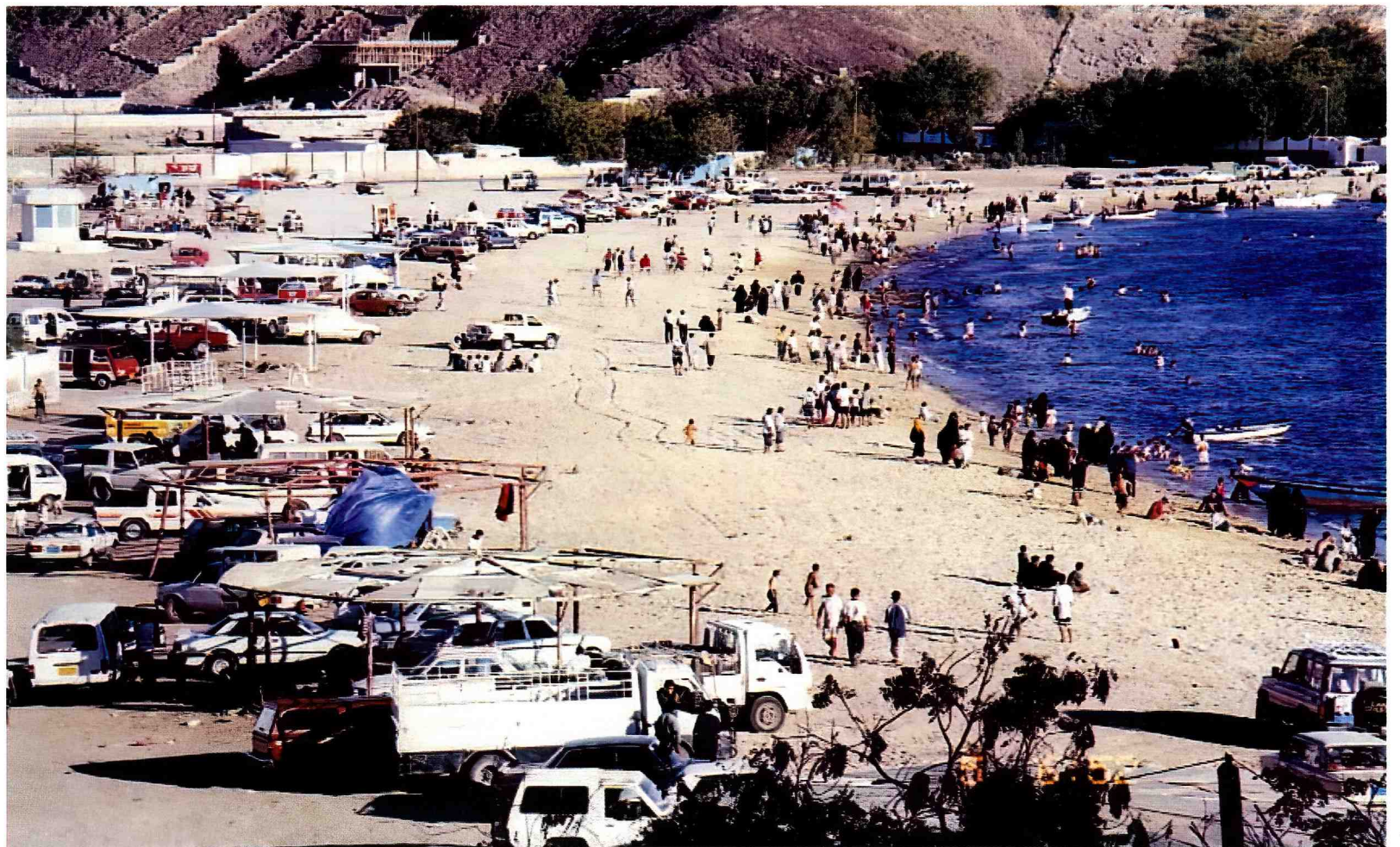
Aidaros Obaid, general manager of Royal Concord Hotel, said: "It is nice to see all beaches, parks, hotels, restaurants and markets so crowded with visitors of Aden. It is also nice to see children and their families from all governorates so happy while enjoying this holiday in Aden, and other coastal governorate such as Al-Hodaidah and Al-Mukalla." He complimented the cleaning and repairs activities that preceded the holidays, which "made the city even more attractive".

Social development

Meanwhile, Aden's Social Development Fund is making plans for part of the \$400 million to be used in a strategy to alleviate poverty in Yemen.

The national program, entering its third phase, will run to 2008.

A report of the fund's strategic plan indicates that the third phase aims at developing human resources in the context of social and economic development, strengthening cooperation with government institutions



Aden beaches swarming with Eid celebrators

working in social fields, and supporting the authorities of Local Councils in planning and implementing projects.

The plan will prioritize projects

that serve females by involving them in the activities of the fund, and it will develop the existing sectors in the fields of education, water, health and training.

The report indicated that between 1997 and 2002, the fund executed 1,824 projects in all directorates of Yemen, at a total cost of \$130 million.

The report pointed that average completion exceeded 100 in the governorates of Hadhramout, Sana'a, Aden, Mihweet, and Maharah.

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World leaders back "Geneva" Mideast peace plan

GENEVA, Dec 1 (Reuters) - World leaders past and present voiced firm support Monday for an unofficial Middle East peace plan shaped by regional "doves" but denounced as treason by both Israeli officials and Palestinian militants.

As its authors, self-proclaimed moderates from both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli divide, launched the plan at a ceremony in Geneva, senior figures around the globe called it a ray of hope in one of the most intractable international conflicts.

"The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has taken far too great a toll already. Both peoples have paid dearly in lives and livelihood in a war which both are losing," declared a statement from 58 former presidents, prime ministers and U.N. officials.

Hailed at the two-hour ceremony by former President Jimmy Carter as offering an end to bloodshed, the plan also won messages of support from King Mohammed of Morocco, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Bill Clinton, U.S. president from 1993 to 2001.

Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey dubbed it "a little light in the darkness." And at the United Nations in New York, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the initiative had caught the imagination of both peoples.

"They should inspire in all the burning conviction that a settlement can be achieved," he said.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States welcomed peace efforts such as the one in Geneva but remained committed to the Bush administration's road map for the region.

"We think the road map is the way to make progress. Down the road of the road map, to abuse the metaphor, we get to the point where these big issues have to be discussed. We think it's worthwhile that people are already considering them, discussing and debating them in Israeli and Palestinian society."

At least 2,241 Palestinians and 836 Israelis have been killed since the start of a Palestinian uprising against Israeli military occupation in September 2000.

Palestinians pretest

But underlining the difficulties ahead, thousands of Palestinians protested against the blueprint in refugee camps in Gaza and the West Bank, calling it a "sell-out" and branding its Palestinian supporters "traitors."

The "Geneva Initiative" was co-authored by former Israeli government minister Yossi Beilin, an architect of the now almost defunct 1993 Oslo peace accords, and former Palestinian minister Yasser Abed Rabbo.

It goes further than Oslo by mandating the removal of most Jewish settlements in Palestinian areas and splitting Jerusalem, occupied in 1967 but annexed unilaterally later by Israel,

into the capitals of Israel and a new Palestinian state.

Its Palestinian negotiators accepted wording waiving the claims of millions of people to return to lands in Israel from which they fled or were driven in the 1948 Middle East war.

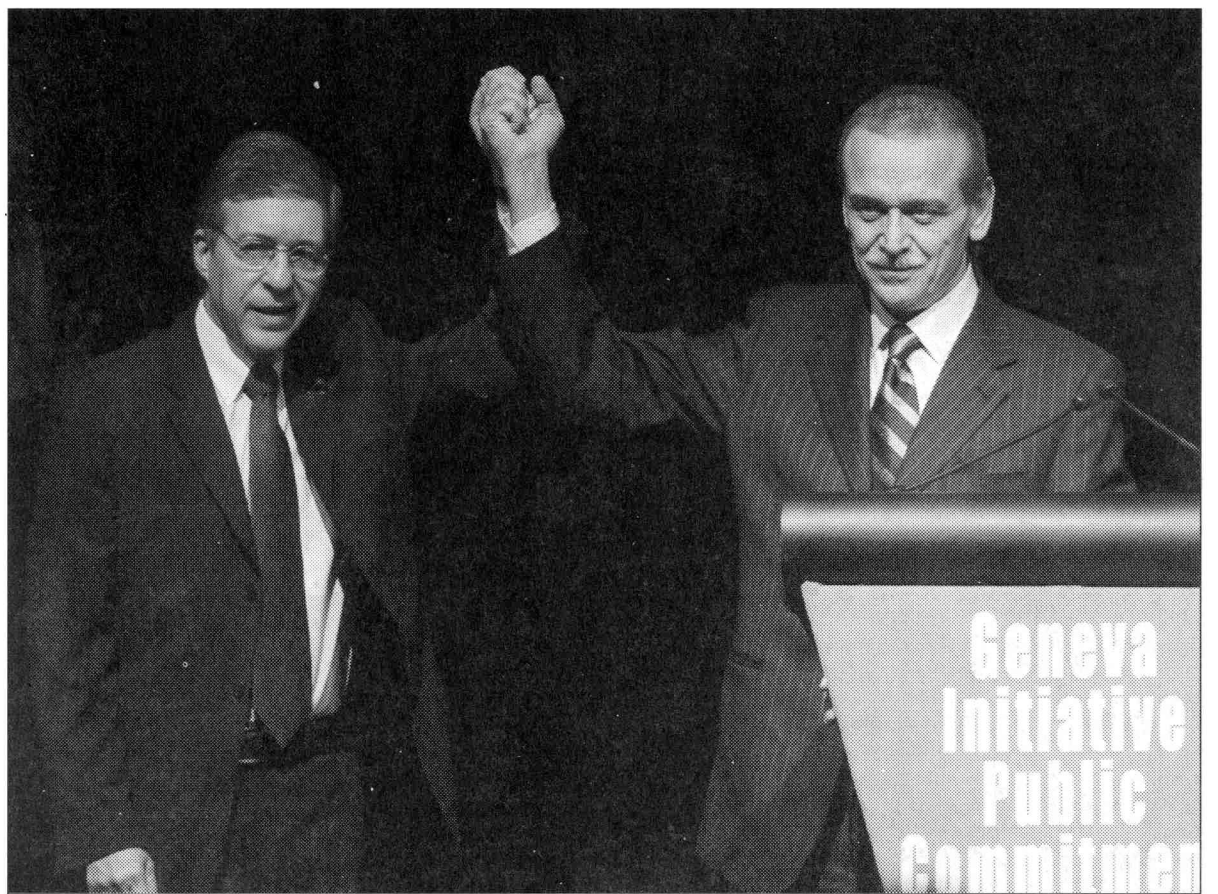
Although also reviled by the right-wing Israeli government, the plan seems to be gaining ground in the country. A poll on Monday showed 31.2 percent approved, up from 25 percent in October. Opposition dropped from 54 percent to 37.7 percent.

"The only alternative to this initiative is sustained and growing violence," Carter told an audience of about 1,000, people, who included many Israelis and Palestinians specially flown in for the launch.

Fellow Nobel peace prize winners Nelson Mandela of South Africa, via a video link, and Poland's Lech Walesa in person joined Carter in addressing the ceremony in the city where the plan was negotiated in secret over two years.

Among the 58 signatories of the statement of support were ex-presidents Mikhail Gorbachev of the ex-Soviet Union, Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, F.W. de Klerk of South Africa and Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico.

The plan's roll-out came amid an upsurge of diplomatic efforts to halt the violence, but it also coincided with fresh bloodshed as Israeli forces killed four Palestinians and arrested 30 more in the West Bank earlier Monday.



Head of the Palestinian delegation to the Geneva Initiative Yasser Abed Rabbo (R) and head of the Israeli delegation Yossi Beilin (L) celebrate during the launch of an unofficial Swiss sponsored Middle East peace plan, dubbed the Geneva Initiative, in Geneva Dec. 1. World leaders past and present voiced firm support on Monday for an unofficial Middle East peace plan shaped by regional "doves" but denounced as treason by both Israeli officials and Palestinian militants. REUTERS

2-Top Saddam deputy possibly caught

BAGHDAD, Dec 2 (Reuters) - Izzat Ibrahim, a top lieutenant of Saddam Hussein and one of the most wanted men in Iraq, may have been killed or captured in a U.S. raid in the city of Kirkuk, a member of the Governing Council said on Tuesday.

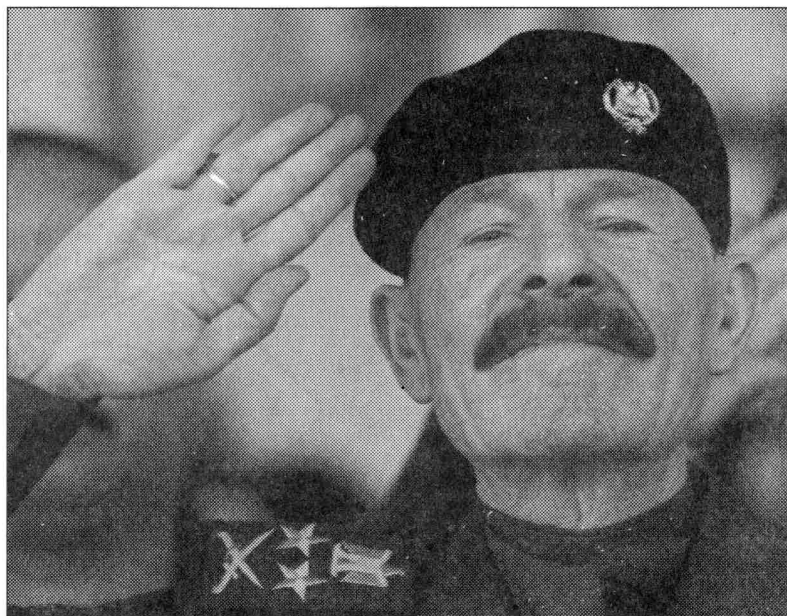
"There was a major action against a highly suspicious objective last night in Kirkuk and it is very possible that Izzat Ibrahim has been captured or killed," Mowaffaq al-Rubaie said, adding that he had been in contact with U.S. forces.

Local government officials in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, said the town was abuzz with talk that Ibrahim had been captured.

There was no immediate comment from the U.S. Army. American soldiers launched a large-scale raid around Kirkuk overnight.

The U.S. military said last month that Ibrahim was directly involved in attacks on U.S. troops, and put a \$10 million price on his head. U.S. forces said they had detained Ibrahim's wife and daughter in the town of Samarra.

Ibrahim is the most-wanted man in Iraq after Saddam himself. He is sixth on the U.S. list of the 55 top Iraqi fugitives, but all those in the top five except for Saddam have been killed or captured. In a deck of cards issued to U.S. troops to help them identify fugi-



Vice chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim (C) salute during military parade in city of Mosul some 460 km north of Baghdad in this Feb. 4 file photo. Izzat Ibrahim, a top lieutenant of Saddam Hussein and one of the most wanted men in Iraq, may have been killed or captured in a U.S. raid in the city of Kirkuk, a member of the Governing Council said Tuesday. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. Army. Ibrahim is sixth on the U.S. list of the 55 top Iraqi fugitives. REUTERS

tives, Ibrahim is the King of Clubs.

November was the deadliest month for American troops since the start of the war that ousted Saddam, with at least 74 killed in action. Occupying forces also suffered their deadliest single

attack during the month, a car bombing in the southern town of Nassiriya that killed 19 Italians and nine Iraqis.

A reward of \$25 million is still outstanding for information leading to the capture or death of Saddam.

U.S. embassy warns of possible attacks in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, Dec 2 (Reuters) - The U.S. embassy in Saudi Arabia warned its citizens on Tuesday of possible attacks on compounds housing Westerners, saying it had information that at least one residential complex was under surveillance by militants.

In response to the information, the embassy said it was restricting its American employees and their dependants from visiting housing compounds in the capital Riyadh at night.

"Recent confirmed information indicates that the Seder Village housing compound in Riyadh has been under active surveillance by terrorist elements," the embassy said in a warning

to U.S. citizens in the kingdom.

"Other Western compounds within the kingdom may also be targeted," the statement said.

The U.S. warning comes three days after Britain reminded its 30,000 nationals in Saudi Arabia that militants might be in the final phases of planning attacks in the kingdom.

Last month, two Saudi suicide bombers killed at least 18 people, mainly Arab expatriates, at a Riyadh housing compound.

On May 12, the triple suicide bombing of three other housing complexes killed at least 35 people, including Americans and other foreigners.

Saudi authorities have blamed Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network for both attacks and the recent surge in militant-related violence in the kingdom.

Authorities said last week they had foiled an even bigger attack in Riyadh when security forces found a car primed with over 1.2 tonnes of explosives. Another 1.3 tonnes of explosive were found nearby.

Saudi Arabia, birthplace of Islam and most of the suicide hijackers who flew planes into U.S. targets on September 11, 2001, has cracked down hard on militants since the May attacks.

Israeli troops kill militant in West Bank raid

JENIN, West Bank, Dec 2 (Reuters) - Israeli troops shot dead a militant linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's faction during a tank raid in the West Bank on Tuesday, security sources said.

The incursion into the town of Jenin underlined pitfalls that lie ahead for self-appointed Israeli and Palestinian negotiators who launched a symbolic peace plan in Geneva on Monday despite objections from the Israeli government.

Israeli forces swept into a neighbourhood in eastern Jenin before dawn on Tuesday and surrounded a house, where a wanted member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an offshoot of Arafat's Fatah movement, was holed up, Palestinian sources said.

Soldiers demanded that the militant surrender as they exchanged fire with gunmen, Israeli sources said. They said troops killed the man when he tried to escape.

Palestinian security sources identified the man as Amjad Muhammad al-Saadi, 28.

The raid followed an Israeli incursion into the West Bank city of Ramallah on Monday in which troops killed four Palestinians, including a



Palestinians shout anti-Israeli slogans as they carry the body of Moied Hamdan, 6, a Palestinian boy in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Dec. 2. Israeli forces killed four Palestinians, including a boy of six, in a major West Bank raid on Monday that provided a sharp contrast to the festive launch in Geneva of a symbolic Middle East peace accord. REUTERS

six-year-old boy. An army spokesman said special forces shot dead three Islamic militants who had opened fire on them.

The latest violence cast a shadow over the unofficial peace push in Geneva, getting underway after three

years of bloodshed.

The international community has hailed the plan. Both Israel and Palestinian militants have condemned it. Efforts are also underway to revive an official U.S.-backed peace "road map".

Tehran protests to US over Iranian killed in Iraq

TEHRAN, Dec 2 (Reuters) - Iran has sent an official protest to the United States over the killing of an Iranian by American troops during a fierce firefight in Iraq on Sunday, the official IRNA news agency said on Tuesday.

U.S. troops said they killed 54 guerrillas in a battle to fight off coordinated ambushes on armoured convoys carrying large quantities of banknotes in the tense Iraqi town of Samarra.

Police said eight civilians were among the dead, including an Iranian

pilgrim.

"Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the Swiss ambassador to Tehran on Monday to voice its strong protest over the killing of an Iranian by American forces," the agency said.

Switzerland has looked after U.S. interests in Iran since Washington cut ties with Tehran shortly after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The Foreign Ministry called on Washington to investigate the Samarra incident and offer compensation to the dead Iranian's family.

Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi

said the United States should be held accountable for the killing of an Iranian which was "unjustifiable" under any pretext.

Iran, which fought an eight-year war with Iraq in the 1980s, strongly opposed the U.S.-led war to topple Saddam Hussein and has called on Washington to withdraw its troops and hand over full power to Iraqis as soon as possible.

"America has made the world insecure by its irresponsible measures and it should end Iraq's occupation soon," Kharrazi said.

China quake victims await help in freezing cold

BEIJING, Dec 2 (Reuters) - Chinese authorities were shipping tents, quilts and overcoats to the homeless after an earthquake in snow-clad mountains on the border with Kazakhstan toppled more than 2,000 homes and killed 11 people, officials said on Tuesday.

But temperatures as low as minus 20 d four degrees Fahrenheit) and 20 cm (eight inches) of snow had delayed the arrival of rescue staff, officials and Xinhua news agency said.

The tremor, measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale, struck remote Zhaosu county, in the western Xinjiang region, as people were finishing breakfast or heading to work shortly after sunrise on Monday.

More than 1,000 people had been left without anywhere to stay after the tremor, an official with the No 76 troupe of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, the local militia, told Reuters.

"It is very cold here, about 20 below, and the snow is deep," another official, Su Yuanming, said.



A woman receives food from a relief worker in the quake-hit Zhaosu County in the far western part of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on the night of Dec. 1. The quake, measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale, struck the remote county on Monday killing 11 people and leaving more than 1,000 people homeless with temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius. NO ARCHIVES, NO SALES REUTERS

The quake was felt as far away as the Kazakh commercial capital, Almaty, and parts of Kyrgyzstan.

Earthquakes are common in the rugged northwest. In February, a

quake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale struck Xinjiang near the Silk Road oasis of Kashgar, killing nearly 300 people and injuring more than 4,000.

Zimbabwe opposition leader back in dock for treason

HARARE, Dec 2 (Reuters) - State lawyers in Zimbabwe who accuse the main opposition leader of plotting to kill President Robert Mugabe sought on Tuesday to amend the allegations against him as his treason trial resumed after a two-month break.

Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), is charged with planning Mugabe's assassination ahead of 2002 polls that saw the veteran leader re-elected amid allegations of rigging. If convicted, Tsvangirai could face the death penalty.

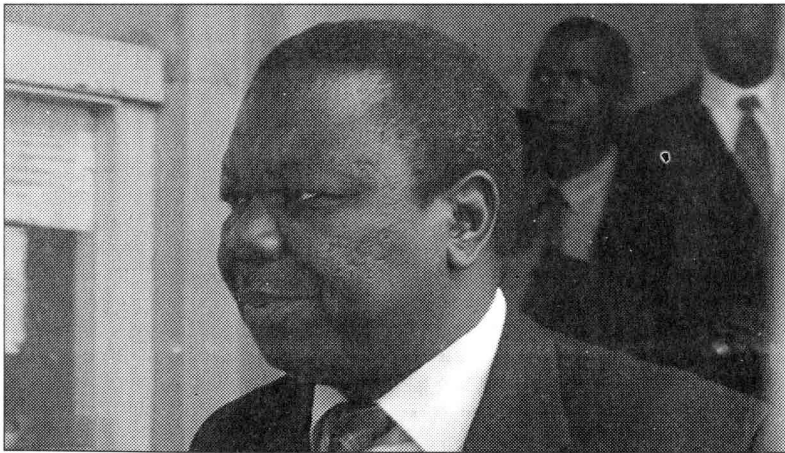
The state's original case held that Tsvangirai took part in three meetings related to the plot, including one in Canada where he asked a Montreal-based political consultancy firm to arrange Mugabe's assassination and effect a military coup.

But State prosecutor Joseph Musakwa said his team wished to amend the alleged content of the meeting in December 2001 saying it focused on "transitional arrangements after the assassination

as well as seeking military support after the elimination".

The request drew an angry response from chief defence lawyer George Bizos, who said the amendment amounted to a "new overt act charge" against Tsvangirai and that the state had no evidence to support its case.

"This is putting Mr Tsvangirai on trial on a difference charge than the one he came to face My Lord. A new set of conspirators is now introduced,"



Zimbabwe opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) President Morgan Tsvangirai arrives at the High Court in Harare Dec. 2. Tsvangirai is facing ongoing treason charges, which carries the death penalty, for allegedly plotting to assassinate President Robert Mugabe ahead of elections in 2000. REUTERS

Bizos said.

Musakwa denied Tsvangirai's defence would be prejudiced. The state's original case rests mainly on a grainy, partly inaudible videotape of a meeting in Montreal between Tsvangirai and Canadian-based political consultant Ari Ben-Menashe in which the prosecution said Mugabe's "elimination" was discussed.

Ben-Menashe has admitted he taped the meeting using surveillance cameras solely to get evidence for the government, with which he consequently signed a political lobbying contract, but he denies entrapping Tsvangirai.

The defence argues the video was doctored to discredit the MDC, the

biggest political threat to Mugabe's 23-year rule.

Tsvangirai is awaiting trial for a second treason charge that he tried to instigate the overthrow of Mugabe's government through mass protests staged by the MDC in June.

The opposition leader has launched a legal challenge to Mugabe's 2002 re-election, which critics say was rigged.

Mugabe insists he won fairly and dismisses the MDC as a stooge of Western governments he says have sabotaged Zimbabwe's economy in punishment for his distribution of white-owned commercial farmland among landless blacks.

South Korean team recommends more troops for Iraq

SEOUL, Dec 2 (Reuters) - A South Korean parliamentary team recommended on Tuesday that South Korea send more troops to Iraq — both combat and non-combat personnel — but warned that they could become the target of militants.

The team, which returned from a nine-day fact-finding mission to Iraq last week, made its recommendation two days after two South Korean civilian workers were killed by gunmen in Iraq.

"Many experts shared the view that it would be desirable to form a group consisting of both combat and non-combat troops to carry out security operations as well as medical and engineering works together," the team said in a report.

South Korea already has 675 medical and engineering troops in Iraq but many South Koreans disagree with sending more and opposition has grown since the latest spate of attacks on U.S. and other foreign troops there.

The team, which submitted its report to parliament, said sending more troops could trigger attacks.

"The general perception of South Korea is favourable among Iraqi people, but we can not rule out the possibility that Korean soldiers may become targets of fresh attacks if additional troops are dispatched," the team said in its report.

President Roh Moo-hyun pledged in October to send more troops to help the U.S.-led forces in Iraq and the government reconfirmed its commitment on Monday after gunmen shot four Korean electrical workers — sub-contractors of a U.S. firm — near ousted president Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

Two of the Koreans were killed and two seriously wounded. A foreign ministry official said the two wounded Koreans, who were in critical condition on Monday, were showing signs of recovery.

Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan said on Monday it was not clear if they had been specifically targeted because of South Korea's support for the U.S.-led force.

Two Japanese diplomats and seven Spanish intelligence agents were killed in other weekend attacks.



A South Korean woman in Seoul cries as she mourns the death of two South Korean electrical workers by gunmen in Iraq Dec. 2. Two South Koreans were killed in a shooting incident in Iraq near ex-president Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit on Sunday and two more were wounded, the South Korean Foreign Ministry said. REUTERS

The Embassy of United States of America announces for an immediate job opening within its organization.

"Voucher Examiner"

The position is located in the Financial Management Section, American Embassy, under the general supervision of the Financial Management Officer. Employee will examine moderately difficult and complex invoices for the Embassy, e.g. electricity, cell phone, water, telephone and airline bills and request payment of goods and services. Prepare and/or audit vouchers relating to above invoices. Maintain and develop spreadsheet, databases reports for utility payments or other payments. Act as alternate pay liaison to interact with Financial Service Center (FSC) and Post. As alternate timekeeper of the Embassy, maintain and report consolidated time and attendance, leave allowance, US and Locally Engaged Staff (LES) compensation issues.

Desired Qualifications:

Education: Completion of secondary school is required. College or technical study in accounting, budgeting, analysis and management is highly desired.

Prior work experience: From 3 to 4 years of progressively responsible experience in accounting and budget work is required.

Language proficiency: Level IV fluent in English and Arabic required.

Skills and abilities: Excellent Microsoft Excel and Access is a MUST. Be able to develop and maintain spreadsheets and database reports for utilities and other data reports.

Grade/Salary: *EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-9 (to be confirmed by Washington)

*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-5 (trainee level) (FSN-6 is the full level).

As well as the United State Agency for International Development "USAID" renounces for jobs opening within its organization.

1. Health and population Specialist

The position is located in the United States Agency for International Development USAID, American Embassy, under the general supervision of the Representative of USAID. Employee will serve as a health and population specialist under USAID Yemen's Strategic Objective 279-005: "Increased Use of Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health Services in Targeted Governorates". Incumbent will provide input and technical direction into the design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of assigned activities and projects. Also conducts related discussions and negotiations with officials from the Yemeni Government, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and donors.

Required Qualifications:

Education: University degree in Public Health, Nursing, Health Planning and Management, Social Sciences or related field is required.

Prior work experience: Minimum ten years work experience in the public health and population development 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.

2. Agricultural Specialist

The position is located in the United States Agency for International Development USAID, American Embassy, under the general supervision of the Representative of USAID. The incumbent serves as a private sector development specialist, focus in agriculture, under USAID Yemen's Strategic Objective 279-007 "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 working in or with the private sector, especially in business management or marketing, is required.

Additional Required Qualifications for both positions:

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

Knowledge: Thorough understanding and knowledge of Yemen's health and agricultural systems, and the government and non-government entities working in both field. 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 health 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 of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 303-155, no later than the December 14, 2003.

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

YUKOS not ready to cede control to Sibneft

MOSCOW, Dec 2 (Reuters) - Shareholders in Russian oil giant YUKOS were locked in talks with rival Sibneft on Tuesday but a source close to the firms' sputtering merger.

"We are currently continuing negotiations, but I don't think that anything material will happen this week", a source close to YUKOS' main shareholders told Reuters.

The source denied a report in the Wall Street Journal that shareholders in the YUKOS were prepared to give up top management posts to Sibneft. "This is not true," said the source, who requested anonymity.

Sibneft stunned financial markets on Friday by suspending the \$11 billion deal just as a new board was about to be appointed to run what would be the world's fourth largest oil company measured by production.

However, another source close to the negotiations said the possibility of YUKOS's making concessions to Sibneft in order to save the deal could not be completely ruled out.

"I think the sides will continue to

negotiate with a view to putting some more Sibneft people in place. From a company perspective that would be the best solution," a source close to the negotiations said on Tuesday.

Whatever the outcome of the talks, both sides would have to reach a new agreement or stick with the original one, the source said.

"YUKOS has issued shares and paid out cash for this deal. If anything they could only do a new deal to try and unscramble as much of the old deal as possible but they could not just unwind the old deal", the source added.

Sibneft's owners, led by oil mogul Roman Abramovich, who also owns London's Chelsea soccer club, have by suspending the merger put enormous pressure on YUKOS core shareholders including Khodorkovsky, whose arrest in October overshadowed the deal.

Boris Berezovsky, a Russian tycoon living in exile in London and a former Sibneft shareholder, has accused the well-connected Abramovich of acting in league with the Kremlin to wrest control of YUKOS from Khodorkovsky and his associates.

Prosecutors, who have accused bil-



Russian parliamentary deputy Vladimir Yudin speaks at a news conference in Moscow, December 2. Yudin on Tuesday called for an investigation into the privatisation in the 1990s of oil company TNK, which has since been partly acquired by British oil giant BP. Yudin, who helped trigger a judicial investigation into YUKOS which culminated in the arrest in October 2003 of its former chief executive Mikhail Khodorkovsky, said one of the people to benefit from the TNK privatisation was Khodorkovsky's successor as CEO of YUKOS, Simon Kukes. REUTERS

lionaire Khodorkovsky of tax evasion and fraud, are widely believed to have acted at the bidding of the Kremlin which is anxious to rein in the powerful business oligarch's political ambitions.

Analysts sceptical of a deal

Market analysts are sceptical that the deal can now survive with Sibneft insisting on new terms while Khodorkovsky languishes in jail and YUKOS is subjected to relentless pressure from public prosecutors raking through its affairs.

A key shareholder in YUKOS, Leonid Nevzlin, said at the weekend he saw little chance of the merger being revived. Nevzlin fled to Israel, fearing prosecution after Khodorkovsky's arrest.

Shares in YUKOS were off 4.4 percent at \$10.52 by 1040 GMT after rising in early trade in reaction to the Wall Street Journal report. Sibneft shares were up 1.42 percent at \$2.50.

In another blow to YUKOS, investment bank Brunswick UBS said on Tuesday it was downgrading the company to neutral from buy as a result of Sibneft's suspension of the merger.

It also said it had lowered its one year price target on YUKOS to \$10.7 from \$15.6 and to \$42.8 for American Depositary Receipts from \$62.4.

"We believe the underlying risks have materially escalated with these events, and that there is a significant risk the merger will not go through," said Brunswick in a research note.

Some analysts believe Khodorkovsky may ultimately be prepared to cede top management positions to Sibneft in order to save the merger from collapse.

The demise of the merger would leave YUKOS even more vulnerable to assault from prosecutors and some analysts have speculated that the company could risk dismemberment if its exploration licenses are revoked.

Powell says don't support Georgia's restive regions

MAASTRICHT, Netherlands, Dec 2 (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Tuesday no backing should be given to restive regions in Georgia which accuses Moscow of stocking their secessionist ambitions.

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze resigned last months after mass protests over allegations of vote rigging in parliamentary elections held on November 2. A new president will be elected on January 4.

"The international community should do everything possible to support Georgia's territorial integrity throughout and beyond the election process," Powell told a meeting of the Organisation for Security and cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

"No support should be given to breakaway elements seeking to weaken Georgia's territorial integrity," he said.

Western states that see Georgia as a key transit country for a planned pipeline to bring Caspian oil to the Mediterranean are watching events there closely, mindful of a chaotic civil war that gripped the country in the 1990s.

Georgia's interim President Nino Burdzhadze, an opposition leader appointed after Shevardnadze quit, accused Russia on Monday of interfering in the country's domestic politics.

"They want their military bases to remain in Russian territory. They want to have Georgia not as a friend but as a dependent partner," she told journalists at the OSCE, a body with 55 members from Europe, Central Asia and North America.

The Tbilisi government was angered last week when Russian officials met leaders from South Ossetia and Abkhazia — which broke free of Georgian control more than a decade ago and want to join Russia — and from Adzhara — which has never backed secession but is hostile to the new Georgian rulers.

"Our Russian colleagues should also understand that actions undermining Georgian sovereignty and territorial

integrity similar to those we witnessed during the last week in Moscow ruin all positive messages and put us in an avoidable confrontational position," Burdzhadze said.

Free and fair elections

Powell urged support for Georgia's new leaders after what he called last month's "revolution of the roses" and called on Russia to stick to a deal struck with the OSCE for it to scale back its forces in Georgia. Russia has two bases in the country.

"My government looks forward to working with the interim Georgian government to ensure that new elections take place in accordance with the constitution," Powell said.

"We expect the upcoming elections to be free and fair. OSCE must take an active role in supporting and observing the elections to help ensure the Georgian people have the opportunity to choose their leaders honestly," he said.

"I also urge Russia and Georgia to resolve the remaining issues relating to the Russian military presence in Georgia."

Burdzhadze said she would ask Powell to help mediate with Russia when she met him on Tuesday.

Regional leaders accuse Mikhail Saakashvili, the Georgian opposition leader who is favourite to win the January presidential election, of contemplating restoring control — possibly through the use of force — over territories lost to Tbilisi for a decade or more.

The Kremlin, which played a central role in negotiations leading to Shevardnadze's resignation, has vowed not to interfere in the former Soviet republic's internal politics.

But after Russia's meeting with regional Georgian leaders last week, the respected Moscow daily Izvestia said the Kremlin might try to engineer a formal break between Tbilisi and the two regions most hostile to Georgian rule.

Police arrest four terror suspects in London

LONDON, Dec 2 (Reuters) - British police said they arrested four men in London on Tuesday on suspicion of ordering, planning or trying to carry out a terror attack.

The arrests were made in a series of pre-dawn raids in the southwest of the capital, said a spokeswoman for London's Metropolitan Police. Security sources said the arrests were linked to international terrorism.

The suspects were being questioned at a central London police station.

"At 5.00 a.m. (GMT), officers from the Metropolitan Police Services' anti-terrorism branch executed search warrants at six residential and three business premises in southwest

London," the spokeswoman said.

"Four men — two aged 29, one aged 28 and one aged 32 were arrested under section 41 of the terrorism act 2000 on suspicion of involvement in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism."

Britain has been on its second highest security alert for two weeks after intelligence officials said they had information that an attack was planned, without specifying any target.

On Monday, Britain's anti-terror police were granted two more days to quiz a suspected would-be suicide bomber arrested in the southwestern town of Gloucester last Thursday.

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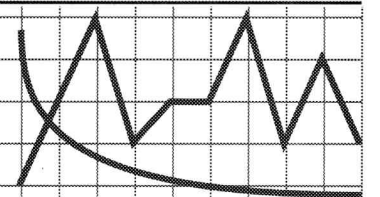
مياه صحية نقية

أنقى مياه صحية في اليمن

إنتاج الشركة التضامنية اليمنية للمشروبات الغازية (بيكو)

أول شركة يمنية تقوم بتعبئة المياه في قارورة صحية من مادة (بي.إي.تي)

YT Business

*Policy to be revised*

Improving agricultural and fish production

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Administration of the fund for encouraging agricultural and fish production has set up a plan for the fiscal year of 2004 and approved the formation of a committee to revise policy, define its relationship with the ministry of waters and environment, and its future tasks connected to improving living conditions production of workers in agricultural, fish and waters sectors.

The board of directors of the fund has also approved the implementation of projects that have not been finished, in accordance with legal rules for contracts and enhancement of transparency.

The board has also approved the principle of linking between programs of support offered by the fund to the agricultural sector to the extent of success of farmers in preserving the level of water basin.

The ministers of agriculture and irrigation and waters and environment have prepared a comprehensive enumeration of implemented dams and

barriers as well as those under construction. They will also draw up a future map for dams and barriers supported by the fund.

The fund's board of directors has also approved a plan for entering modern means for irrigation with the aim of expansion in planting cotton, maintaining the policy of supporting seeds and fighting cotton epidemics as well as spending 10% of net profits to farmers.

A report issued by the State Establishment for Textile Industry mentions that rehabilitation of cotton ginnery and expansion in planting it has contributed to employment of 27 thousand workers, providing 497 new job opportunities and the return of 670 workers to work in the factory of textiles in Aden. The report also mentions that the productive capacity of cotton crop was raised by 125%.

The High Council of Administration of the Fund of Agricultural and Fish Production has lately approved the building of a factory for modern networks of irrigations contributed to by the establishment for agricultural services by 50% and submitting the remainder 50% for general contribution.



Pomegranates orchard

A five-point program

Reforming Yemen's finance and administration

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Ministry of Civil Service has launched a program for the financial and administrative reform composed of five significant points related to administering human resources, individual information, a system on salaries information and development of accountancy information system, administering the change, and restructuring.

The more significant of those components is the development of accountancy information system that the Ministry of Finance is now implementing in its second phase, aiming to improve the financial and accountancy system to cover all units inside the Sana'a capital secretariat, and establishing a computer network linking the concerned parties.

The project includes the development of financial and accountancy information system at the ministries of education, public works, public health

and population and the Central bank of Yemen. The project connects those parties with digital lines and its main center is at the Ministry of Finance.

The accountancy system aims at realizing better benefit from government financial revenues, facilitating government financial works, implementation of budgets, controlling payable expenses and accounts and managing cash amounts and fixed assets. The Ministry of Finance has implemented the first phase of the project that included preparing and operating the system in the ministry and other sides via electronic communications from the finance ministry and the central bank of Yemen.

The Ministry of Civil Service is attaching hope to implementing the projects it is one of the basic pillars for the reforming policies in administration connected with the general strategy for modernizing and updating the system of civil service leading to supporting the institutional structure in finance. Specialized sources at the

Ministry of Finance mention that the accountancy project would be completed in its third phase. This phase includes entering the financial and accountancy systems to include all the country's governorates and districts and it is expected to be accomplished by the end of next year.

This approach comes in the context of the Yemeni government endeavor to complete the economic reform program it had begun implementing it in 1995. The reform program stresses that success of the private sector investments in the country greatly depends on the honest administrative machinery characterized by efficiency and effectiveness.

The whole matter requires simplification of government structure and measures and accountability of administrative apparatuses for the accomplished results. It also requires improvement of skills, reduction of civil servants numbers and drawing up budgets for realizing speed in finishing works.

Translator required

A full-time Arabic to English translator is required to work in a reputable institution in Sanaa four days a week.

The translator must have at least three years experience in translation of material in various topics from Arabic to English. He/she must be perfect in translation, be creative, able to make quick decisions and be reliable. Applicants must work in the institution's office, and can be called for extra hours when emergencies arise.

Those who feel are eligible for the post should send their CVs plus contact information so they can be invited to interviews on fax 268276 until the deadline of December 15, 2003.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered...

\$150 million cement factory for Lahj

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The National Company for Cement has completed technical and economic studies on the feasibility of building a new factory for cement industry in the government of Lahj.

The cost of first phase amounts to \$61 million, and it is to end up at \$150 million.

The company intends to submit a big proportion of the project's shares to general contribution for opening

opportunity for all segments of the society to invest their savings in this significant investment project. A feasibility study on investment in cement industry and marketing reveals attractive profits for investors contributing to managing the project which is considered an essential addition to economic development in Yemen.

Building the new plant in the governorate of Lahj is the first of its kind for the Group of Hayel Saeed Ana'am and a number of private sector magnates.

It is expected that the cement plant would produce 1.3 million tons a year

and that would cover Yemen's needs of cement and the surplus to be exported abroad. There are four Yemeni-government financed cement factories producing more than 1.4 million tons a year. But the amount does not meet the increasing consumption need and therefore Yemen imports quantities of cement from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt.

Sources at the National Company for Cement say that the plant would begin production by 2006 and this would speed up solving the now aggravating cement crisis.

Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR
OPINIONPoverty cannot
be celebrated

It was a very long eid vacation compared to the regular vacations. A total of eleven days of leisure time was used by many Yemenis working in the private or public sectors by visiting relatives in villages or making trips to other cities.

This eid was somewhat unique in bringing together families as those working in cities were able to seize this opportunity and travel to their respective villages and enjoy their time there.

However, there were also some sad moments lived by many poor and deprived families throughout the country. Just as the wealthy and middle-class Yemenis were celebrating their eid with joy and happiness, most of the poor were also struggling to get the essential needs in feeding their children, let alone think about the new eid clothes.

Poor children could be seen begging at the doors of mosques during eid prayers, their filthy torn clothes were still on them. They continued to ask for five rials (less than 3 US cents) stretching their hands to every worshiper hurrying to leave the mosque and celebrate the eid with his family.

Their misery continued throughout the day and during the three days of the eid as they continued to roam the streets looking for food from trashcans and garbage collectors. For them, eid has brought no joy and was just like any other miserable day.

Similar images are repeated from East to West and South to North. In some areas, people die in the eid days because of lack of money to purchase medicine.

On the day before the official vacation, there was a group of poor people, mostly from the Akhdam (originally African) community waiting at certain pre-allocated stations for whatever amounts that would be given to them by the government. Long queues were formed one full day in advance to get sums as low as USD 10. Nevertheless, some still couldn't get a penny.

Poverty in Yemen is on the rise, so is unemployment and disease. Everything is pointing to a gloomy future with little hope for the upcoming generations, especially those who lack the funds to go to school and hence revert to the street where they beg and become street children.

This is why the eid that just passed wasn't an eid in the true sense for a significant portion of the population. What I fear is that this portion would increase in size if nothing is done to limit the ever increasing poverty and unemployment rates.

Let us join hands to seek ways to enhance the standard of living of those who were deprived from the joy of eid. After all, we need to at least have them smile and feel happy in this precious time. Isn't this what eid is all about?

Just as poverty cannot be celebrated by the poor during the eid, it should not have been celebrated by some corrupt officials who spend millions of rials during those days knowing that hundreds of thousands don't know the true meaning of eid joy.

Will the conscience of those officials awake one day?

The Editor

Warlords and government struggle

Somalia: a playground
of foreign patrons

By SADAT MAHAMED YUSUF
drgeesh@hotmail.com

Somalia is a country with heavy social build up and very primitive tribal devotions which is almost revengeful. Offensive nomads who feel that they have immediate knowledge for everything and rule of the law is a hostile which is customary attained from a 14 century way of imposing wills of authoritarianism to others.

Tribes in Somalia has a chief which is well known to the rules of giving evidence unfairly and appears hostile to any other tribe. Sometimes amongst his own clansmen the chiefs would not either demonstrate corrections not would they preserve peace. Rather they prefer war for their own advantage those socio-cultural and socio-economic linkage between kinship in Somalia are mostly primitive.

Although individuals own their camels, they must pay per person for the compensation of the killed person from outside tribes or between them and also defend the pasturelands for grazing and wells for watering their animals.

The poets say their words to erect the starting points, which lack ending points. Nevertheless, the progress of a society is evolutionary. During the civil war Somalia witnessed one of the most vengeful war between the tribes. It was the era of the tribes fighting between them after

that free for all war ended the balance between the tribes came into effect, although the enlarged civil war in Somalia, brought many changes like social order, social behavior.

It changed religion doctrines from Sufism to al-Wahabism, the ways of chiefdoms where maintained showing some split between a single tribesmen while we witness faction leader, the political wing of a given tribe the changes from those factions now had formed alliances with other function united with common aims and interests.

This means precedent creating methods during any reconciliation conference, when a faction has felt threatened, and usually those alliances disintegrate after the conference failed to produce an agreement.

We would not expect for ever national strongman which can bring the country under his controls. We know the contradictions and strife on the ground were created the fair play of the warlords wracked by infighting between them. Victory will not emerge or a degree of order will not be restored by the ruthless warlords.

They never agreed and will not agree on anything. After ten years of warlords rule in pursuing each other, where they imposed a deathly peace in Somalia. President of Djibouti, Ismail Omar Gele, proposed a peace conference. When the Arab world supported Gele's initiatives, they eventually produced an interim gov-

ernment after the fall of Mohamed Said.

That government did not work. Why? It's not easy to answer considering the turmoil in the country and clan rivalries, and other destabilizing factors. For example Ethiopia is heavily in favor of the warlords because there is balance between them and obsessed with countering the existence of the interim government. The latest explosion was the ongoing conference in Nairobi after Djibouti ambassador withdrew and accused certain circles without naming are undermining the initiatives to settle Somali disputes.

Because of Ethiopian hardliners' offer for the conference, it dampened the conference's hopes to unify the interim government and the warlords. Rather it split the interim government on one hand, and the warlords on the other.

Then some key warlords and the interim president withdrew from the conference after more than a year of negotiation in Nairobi, Kenya. Every body knows that the bedrock principle of Ethiopian policy towards Somalia is not even to create a puppet government.

Nevertheless Ethiopia's romantic hopes are likely to meet frustration and spreading the fire to the peace and stabilized cities of Ethiopia, while fire is inherited by ash only it would be better for that country to devote her energies to something more realistic and more accurate than wasting efforts to let the ungovernable not to be governed.

Response to Barkatullah Marwat

By DAVID WELCH
davidwelch@clara.co.uk

I have a few comments regarding the article of Barkatullah Marwat's article published recently in the Yemen Times.

"But one thing is crystal clear. During the Cold War, had the Muslims not supported US so generously..."

The Muslim countries supported which ever side profited them most, they sold themselves to the highest bidder just like the rest of the countries in the world.

"Surprisingly and ironically, soon after the disintegration of the USSR, the real face of the US appeared from behind her friendly mask, from which the Muslims were simply ignorant and oblivious. The Afghan Mujahideen along with their homeland (Afghanistan) were left short on their mercy."

By this I suppose you mean that they were left to govern themselves in their own country, something that they had been fighting for over a decade. What would you say if immediately after the Soviets moved out the US had moved in? Would they have been seen in your eyes as being merciful?

No, you would have damned them if they did and now you damn them because they didn't. Where were the Muslim countries during all this, what did they do to help their Afghan brothers in their fight for liberty. Absolutely nothing.

"Likewise, the US also turned a blind eye to Pakistan, imposing sanctions on it for developing nuclear weapons."

I suppose that you would advocate all countries having nuclear weapons? Muslim countries are powerless to put a

break on nuclear proliferation. Thank God that some countries are willing to take it seriously and do something about it. Imagine if Iraq or Iran or had long range nuclear weapons, would you sleep sound in your bed?

"And finally, it decided to set eyes on the oil-rich resources of the Middle East."

Sorry, I thought they were being paid for their oil, perhaps you could tell me when a single barrel of oil was stolen.

"Admittedly, one sad incident took place. That was the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Nobody knew, except the US, at whose request Saddam Hussain did that."

Sad incident! , this is a little bit of an understatement. Saddam invaded Kuwait at the US request! Which planet do you live on?

"A coalition of 32 allied forces came into being which was led by the US."

Thank God they did. The Arab countries would have had neither the willingness or power to do anything. The Arab countries own a debt of gratitude to the US and its coalition, if Saddam had not been stopped all the bordering states would have been at risk and you would now need an Iraqi visa to visit Mecca.

"It was quite ridiculous to see Iraqi forces, that had ended its almost 10-year long war with Iran, were not only deadly exhausted and tired but also needed to take a rest as well as mending the dents of their devastated economy!"

Poor Iraqi forces, I am sure they were very tired after killing half a million of their neighbors, but they still had enough strength to rape, pillage and murder the Kuwaitis

"Assuring them of full support,

Saddam crushed their uprising mercilessly by killing thousands of them, but they miserably failed to see the US shipment. What a shame! I feel the dead are still cursing and yelling at the US for their unpardonable betrayal."

Just a minute, didn't you just say "but amazingly, the US did not walk out of the region even when the dust of the Desert Storm settled down?"

Do you want the US there or don't you want them there?

You say "What a shame!" I fully agree, but where were the shipments from the Arab countries, shouldn't they feel ashamed for not lifting a finger to help their Muslim brothers or is it just the US.

I am not going to continue picking holes in your article, there is no point. I fully support a free press and believe that it is right that people can voice their opinions. However I find hard to think that you actually believe what you have written, it is clearly aimed at poisoning the minds of the readers.

I am not a US citizen, and I am not anti Arab or anti Muslim. I have spent many years in the Middle East and three years in Yemen. Neither am I under any allusion that everything that the US does is right. There policy of supporting Israel what ever it does is a tragic mistake and the reasons behind the war in Iraq were clearly based on lies.

But the Muslim countries (and especially their journalists) have got to get off this hang-up of feeling persecuted and blaming everything on others. They need to take a hard look at themselves. Are they really helpless victims at the mercy of ruthless US policy? Or is a lot of the problems in there world of there own making?

Letters to the Editor

'Fox News' has nothing to do with us

The press or media that you refer to specifically "FOX News" has very little to do with the educated American's decision to remove Saddam from power. We look at all the information available before we form an opinion. Don't let the facts like Saddam's treatment of the Iraq people cloud your opinion of what the war was truly about.

William Ford
USA
meghtz@aol.com

Why the US is hated

What about the failed policy of the Arab world in failing to protect tens of thousands of murdered Muslims in Iraq? Please do not talk about America's failed policy when the Arabs have betrayed and murdered their own by doing nothing for the past 10 years about the butcher of Baghdad, Saddam. You let your own people be slaughtered by the

thousands and then you have the nerve to object to the US fixing the problem? Surely, you see the hypocrisy in your thought process.

As an American, I am delighted that the US has seen fit to try and protect Muslims from a brutal dictator.

The US is hated because it has put people on notice that terrorism and murder will not be tolerated. Nobody likes a nation which established the rules for other's behavior. When you are the most powerful nation on the earth, it is really easy for others to condemn and criticize.

Of course, the others have no suggestions or ideas at all as to how to fix the terrorism issues and protect innocent people. Muslims could have fixed this Middle East issue, but you did nothing. When Kuwait was invaded 10 years ago by Saddam, you did nothing. In Yemen, you have many terrorists. What did you do? Let them out of prison for Ramadan!!! Are you people

Letters to the Editor

crazy?

Americans are getting really sick of being hated by the world when the rest of the world does nothing about the problems. This American could now care less what other countries think. I want to save lives and protect people, Muslims included even if the Arabs do not care about their own.

Byron Allen
Houston, Texas, USA
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Like father NOT like son

Reading the editorials of Waleed Al-Saqqaf and comparing them to the writings of his blessed late father, one sees a stark contrast in priority of viewpoints. Whereas the late founder of YT was more concerned with Yemen and its internal affairs, we mostly find the current editor's writings discussing external affairs that 99% of Yemenis in Yemen have no control, stake, or any interest in (other than verbally dis-

cussing at Qat sessions).

With all that is going on in Yemen (with some of the worst scenarios of humanity being acted right in front of your eyes) it is disheartening to find our cream of the crop (educated and motivated Yemenis in Yemen) spending their time, effort, and resources in analyzing, pondering, and criticizing external events, when they could simply put all their resources to brainstorm solutions to Yemen's current dilemma's: which run into the thousands as it is going from being the poorest Arab nation to the poorest nation in Asia, and who knows, one day in the whole world.

Since the passing of the Yemen Times' founder, Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the priorities of the newspaper have changed. It has moved from being a vehicle of change to simply another tabloid. This is disheartening.

Majid Shahmaj
shahmaj@hotmail.com

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Occupied Territories

Sharon is
the problem

The obvious fact that is becoming more apparent, is that Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister of Israel, represents the major drawback to the achievement of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem, especially between the Palestinian Authority and Israel. This is not just an Arab or Palestinian claim, or the claim of Europeans, who have now become "Eurocentric anti-Semites", as William Safire of the New York Times alludes. Many prominent Israelis themselves have now also pointed this out on more than one occasion. Many Israeli liberals have often suggested for some time that the Israeli government must display more visible seriousness towards the quest for a peaceful settlement with the Palestinians.

More recently, many Israeli military personnel under uniform went even further. The refusal last month or so of 27 conscientious Israeli pilots to carry out bombing missions against Palestine civilians underscores the serious criticisms by the very elements that Sharon wants to carry out his bloodbath of the Palestinians. The latter was further enhanced by the more recent criticism of the Chief of Staff of the Israeli "defense" forces, as well as the objections raised by four former Shin Bet (Israeli Secret Police) directors against the current policies of the Sharon government in the occupied territories and the deliberate suffering encountered by the Palestinians. All have clearly pointed out that such aggressive policies actually work against the interests of Israel, and in fact undermine the security of Israeli citizens, while Ariel Sharon continues to carry out a determined effort to choke out the Palestinians and render them homeless.

Furthermore, there is the civil society exercise, known as the Geneva Accord, which was undertaken by Yasser Abdo Rabbo, former Information Minister of the Palestine Authority and Yossi Beilin, former Israeli Justice Minister and their respective colleagues. The participants in the exercise represent a cross-section of prominent Palestinian and Israeli prominent figures, most of whom are active in their respective non-governmental sector.

Although the accord did not bear any official weight, it nevertheless showed that it is feasible for both Israeli and Palestinian factions to reach agreement when extreme dogmatism is set aside and a neutral sponsor, such as the Swiss government, steers the negotiations to a viable agreement covering all the issues of concern to both factions - even such sensitive issues as Jerusalem (with all its ramifications), illegal Jewish settlements and Palestinian refugees.

To add to this emerging anti-Sharon phenomenon, the fourth development comes as a severe blow to the public relations of the Israeli government, which emphasizes that persistent Zionist intransigence under the false pretense of "fighting terror", is not so easily digested by international public opinion anymore.

Whitewashing a clearly obvious deliberate campaign to make life (and death) a miserable plight for the Palestinians is simply no longer possible, especially with the well-informed European public. Responding to recent polls, the majority of the people of Europe (in literally every member state of the European Union) viewed Israel as the most serious threat to world peace. Even formerly staunch supporters of the Zionist state, such as the Dutch, concurred with the overall European perspective. Zionist and Zionist supporters' efforts to belittle this inescapable reaction to continued Zionist intransigence in the Holy Land or allude anti-Semitism as the cause of être behind such unexpected European outlook could not dispel the obvious setback dealt to the very expensive and well-organized blemishing efforts in the public media continuously unleashed in the various media channels in Europe and the United States.

Of course, the Sharon government shrugged off all these developments by dubbing them from "treason" to the usual accusation of Anti-Semitism. In the meantime, it is business as usual in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with Israeli troop incursions, destruction of Palestinian homes and infrastructure, settlement building, blocking access to houses of worship (Christian and Moslem) and the continued unabashed construction of the "Security Wall", mostly on Palestinian territory, etc. It is worth noting that for the last two months the Palestinians have not undertaken any violent activities amidst Israeli civilians, albeit with some intermittent operations against military or settlement positions - genuine resistance activities against an illegal occupation.

The continued rude position of the Sharon government is not surprising, with the right wing extremists continuing to hold the political reins in Tel Aviv. However, the American position and the similarly oblivious manner to which recent development have been received by the Bush Administration, continue to encourage Sharon to proceed on his agenda and to display contempt for any genuine efforts towards a peaceful solution of the conflict or to get the "Road Map to Peace" on forward gear. Accordingly, there are really no grounds for expecting any wisdom in US policy in the Middle East to be seen by anyone nor for dismissing Dr. Mahathir Mohammed's last resounding observations before his retirement from the international and domestic Malaysian political arena.



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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No peace, more blood

BY DR AZZAM TAMIMI
FOR THE NEW NATION - BENGALDESH

September 2003 will go down in history as the month when the doors of hell opened in Palestine. History will also record that this might not have happened had it not been for the landmark decision of the European Union's foreign ministers on 6 September 2003 in Italy. The EU finally succumbing to pressure from the US and Britain adopted a resolution blacklisting the political wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine (Hamas).

The rumour was that the government of Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas had pleaded with the US and the EU to proscribe the political wing of Hamas having ordered the closure of a number of Islamic Palestinian charities inside the Gaza Strip to match the Europeans' decision to freeze the bank accounts of several Palestinian charities across Europe. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, who was instrumental in securing the EU's move, was quoted as confiding to a leading Muslim community figure in London that the request had come direct from Mahmud Abbas.

Although Britain had been keen to have a go at Hamas others in the EU, especially France, were rather hesitant. However, US pressure and British brokerage eventually worked and Hamas was declared a terrorist organisation. Ironically, EU's announcement coincided with Mahmud Abbas's submission of resignation to President Yasir Arafat.

Abbas quit after becoming absolutely sure that the Palestinian legislative council would deny him a vote of confidence in response to a motion tabled by a strong lobby loyal to Arafat. If Abu Mazin had indeed requested the assistance of the Americans and the Europeans in curtailing Hamas, he gained no benefit; all the gain was Sharon's.

In no time Israeli Apache helicopters with cover provided by Israeli F16s fired rockets at an apartment block in Gaza where Shaikh Yasin and senior aide Ismail Haniyah were visiting a friend.

The Shaikh escaped with light wounds

Soon afterwards Arafat accepted the resignation of Mahmud Abbas. Few people shed tears since Abbas' cabinet had been perceived by most Palestinians as an Israeli collaborating agency that would be willing to turn Palestinian against Palestinian, accomplish what became known as an impossible mission. Despite the dramatic turns of events, there were some who still had hope in the Road Map.

It was the response of Hamas to the failed assassination attempt on its leader's life on 9 September that pronounced the Road Map dead and beyond resuscitation. If more proof were needed, it was provided by Israel: it reacted to the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem human bombs by leveling Dr Mahmud Al-Zahar's house, wounding the entire household and killing his elder son and his own bodyguard.

Boost for Hamas?

The greatest fear of the Palestinians since the US launched the 'Road Map' in the aftermath of the fall of Baghdad has been the prospect of an internal conflict, especially between the two major factions, Al-Fatah (the backbone of the PLO) and Hamas. It is no secret to the Palestinians or close observers of their affairs that these rivals for the hearts, minds and pockets of the Palestinians, the Hamas and Al-Fatah, have never ceased to treat each other with suspicion and mistrust.

However, the appointment of Mahmud Abbas as prime minister and the formation of a special-task cabinet whose portfolios were entrusted to the likes of Muhammad Dahlan - a confidant of Israel and the US - had sent sig-

nals all over the occupied territories that the Road Map's real objective could never be achieved without drowning the Palestinians in a blood-bath.

Hamas and for that matter other militant factions were to be dismantled and the new Palestinian task force was to take full control to secure the safety of the Israelis. But that was not all! Israel under Sharon's leadership made it a condition that it would not recognise, let alone deal with, Yasir Arafat. That in a sense paved the way for an unprecedented yet undeclared, alliance between Hamas and Arafat.

It was this alliance that made it possible for military wings of both Hamas and Al-Fatah to plan and execute joint military attacks: against Israeli installations in the West Bank and Gaza. Having known each other's weaknesses, Hamas and Arafat recognised their strength in alliance. The secret of this empowering alliance lay in recognising that Mahmud Abbas and his cabinet were a threat to both.

And Mahmud Abbas did not take long to realise the impossibility of his mission: in as much as Arafat was 'unmarginable' Hamas was 'un-dismantlable', so the Road Map was bound to fail.

It is now indisputably certain that soon after the failure of the Camp David summit towards the end of the Clinton administration, the Israeli establishment took an irreversible decision to marginalise Arafat. The creation of a prime minister's post was part of this process. Therefore it was only understandable that right from the beginning an irresolvable dispute over powers and authority broke out between Arafat and his prime minister.

However, it was much earlier, shortly after Camp David in the summer of 2000, that Arafat and his supporters felt threatened and opted to strengthen their position by hardening their stance.

Among the measures which they took were the igniting, or at least aiding, the Intifada (uprising) towards the end of September 2000; setting up Al-Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades; and reconciling differences with Hamas. The Islamic resistance movement seemed to win more hearts and minds of the people within and without Palestine as well as among Arabs and Muslims worldwide. With a shrewdness rarely found among contemporary Arab leaders Arafat's attitude towards Hamas had followed the line, 'if you can't beat them, join them.'

Seeking deliverance: Since the mid-1970s several attempts were made by Islamically inclined members of Al-Fatah to re-connect with the Islamic roots of the movement. The founders of Al-Fatah had all been either committed members of the Muslim Brotherhood or its sympathisers. They were inspired, if at least partly, by the declarations of the founder Hasan Al-Banna (1906-49) on Palestine and his prescription for the Ummah, the global Muslim community, to deliver itself from backwardness and foreign hegemony.

However, Al-Fatah, whose name was derived from a Qur'anic chapter meaning 'glorious victory', rapidly shed its Islamic identity and put on a brand of Arab nationalism doused in Marxism. Those committed to the Islamic agenda had one of two choices: 'either conform or leave!' The way the organisation was structured, funded and run led to the failure of the attempts made by Islamically inclined members to effect a balance let alone reform. These attempts resulted in either being aborted from within, split or liquidated.

At the turn of the new century' Al Fatah young recruits, who had been in rivalry with Hamas counterparts for more than a decade, found themselves identifying with that Hamas was upholding; they could not help but admire the great sacrifices made by its

leaders and recruits.

Meanwhile the crisis within was deepening after the Oslo 'peace process' failed to deliver anything tangible for that Palestinians while the leaders of Al-Fatan seemed to offer the most unacceptable and unthinkable compromises to Israel in the hope of snatching something out of them.

On the eve of the September 2000 Al Aqsa Intifada, Hamas was proving as resilient as ever and showing immense ability to withstand all kinds of pressure from various circles - local, regional and international - to abandon its struggle in favour of the 'peace process'.

The deliverance of Al-Fatah from its predicament came in the form of a regenerated zeal, a revival of armed struggle to quench the thirst of the young recruits and satisfy their desire to exact revenge against their Israeli oppressors. It was time for Al-Fatah's military wing 'Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades' to be born.

The contrast: However, the problem is farm from over for these zealous young men and women. The edifice of their movement will remain brittle and vulnerable. The mildest of political winds may cause it to shift position and change direction.

Hamas was born out of a grassroots organisation that had existed for more than half a century. The founders of the Palestinian Islamic liberation movement were the Muslim

Brotherhood (Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslimun) of Palestine and the local Palestinian chapter of the international umbrella of the Brotherhood movement that had branches across the globe.

The founders of Al-Fatah on the other hand were a small group of middle and upper class Palestinian intellectuals who sowed a seed that later became a massive organisation. It had an extensive bureaucracy that produced branches and interests wherever the Palestinian Diaspora extended.

If one may imagine Hamas to be a pyramid with its tip facing upwards, Al-Fatah is an inverted pyramid hanging on its tip. That reflects the difference in the frame of reference in both cases: in the case of Hamas it is an immutable well founded frame, whereas in the case of Al-Fatah it is as mutable as it can get.

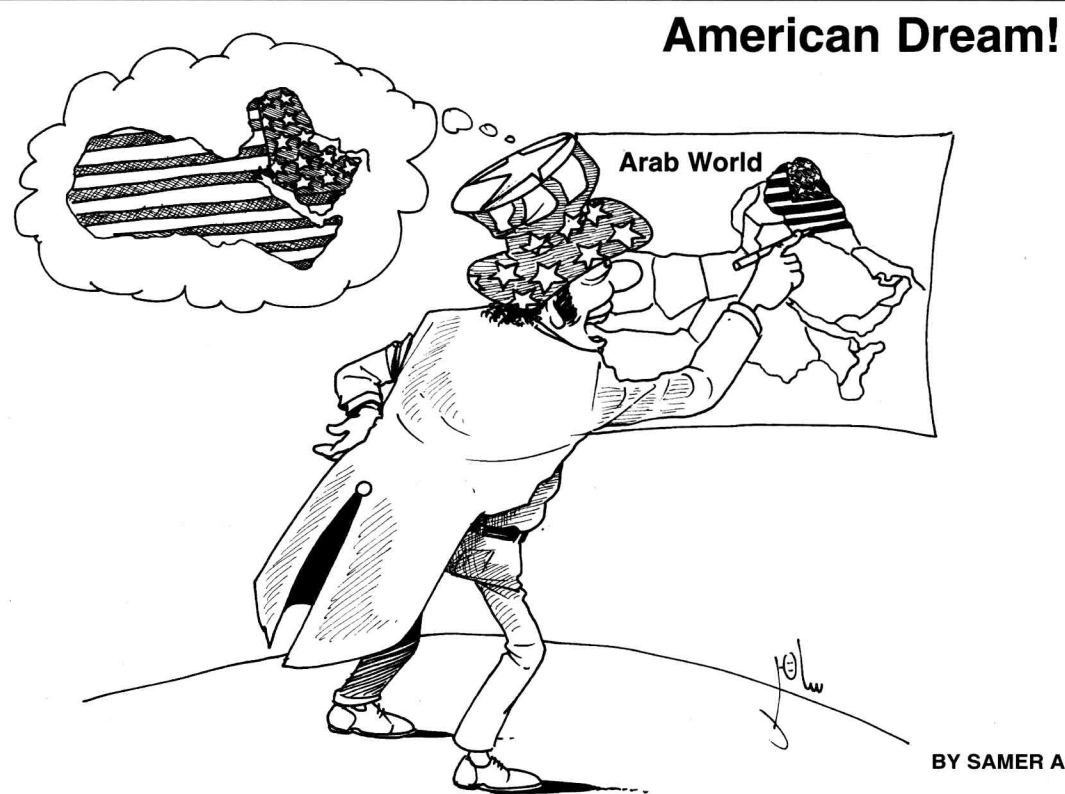
Ten years after the peace agreement was signed on the White House lawn between Israel and the PLO nothing stands vindicated other than Hamas' immutable flame of reference that is above all pragmatism and that is resistant to all utilitarian or Darwinian pretexts. And it is quite a simple one:

Palestine is part of the Arab and Islamic land that fell to colonial control following the liquidation of the Ottoman caliphate, and Israel is a colonial military outpost that sought to solve Europe's own Jewish problem and perpetuate colonial authority in the heart of the Muslim homeland. The Palestinians who are victims of the game of the powerful have every legitimate right to struggle through all legitimate means available to them in order to regain their freedom and homeland.

In this sense, the frame of reference of Hamas is no different from what the Vietnamese freedom fighters, the African National Congress strugglers against apartheid or the French resistance against the Nazi occupation of France would have taken to be their frame of reference.

However, for quite sometime, Hamas could not express its frame of reference in a language that the world could identify with. Its own charter, which had long been forgotten by its own members and leaders, continues to be quoted by its detractors within Zionist circles to associate it with anti-Semitism, a charge that is a contradiction in terms since most Palestinians are Arabs and therefore confirmed Semites.

SKETCHED
OPINION



Rome Statute still needs signature

Yemen must support the International Criminal Court

BY ANNA DAHLBÄCK
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Yemen must build on its proud achievements and join the international community in ensuring the perpetrators of the worst crimes in the world are brought to justice.

Over the past century millions have been victims of crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. Shamefully, only a handful of those responsible have been brought to justice.

When the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was adopted on 17 July 1998, the world took the first step towards ending this culture of impunity. As the Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan, said, "The message from the international community was clear. Never again would it stand aside and let the fabric of humanity be torn asunder by those who commit genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression."

The International Criminal Court is the first permanent international body able to try people for the worst crimes, known to humanity. The Court's first bench of judges were appointed this year, and the first prosecutor of the court is currently conducting preliminary investigations, with a view to launching the first prosecution.

The first case will probably involve the conflict in Ituri, in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where there have recently been mass killings, crimes of sexual violence, and wide-scale recruitment of child soldiers.

The idea for a permanent court to try these crimes can be traced back to 1872 and to one of the founders of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Since then, the call for a permanent court has been heard after crimes against humanity. Eventually, in 1998,

160 countries met in Rome to agree to the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

One hundred thirty nine states have currently signed the Rome Statute, and 92 have ratified it, i.e. become legally bound by it. The court has jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, when committed by nationals of governments that ratify the treaty, or on the territories of such governments.

A situation can also be referred to the court by the UN Security Council. The court's jurisdiction is complementary to national courts, meaning that the ICC will only prosecute crimes where the state concerned is unwilling or unable to do so.

Support for the court has come from all regions of the world. Yemen is one of 11 states from the Middle East, which have taken the first step in support of the court by signing the statute. However, Jordan is the only state that is a party to the statute so far. Jordan's Ambassador to the UN, Prince Zeid who is now the President of the Assembly of States Parties to the ICC, has set out why it is so important that all Middle Eastern states commit to support the ICC. On the day of Jordan's accession, he said:

"Jordan acceded to the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court today, as an expression of its faith in the international community, and in the latter's readiness to pursue and punish all those, wherever they may be and whatever their station, who commit grave crimes. We are honoured to have acceded to this important Treaty, especially in the light of the current circumstances through which our region now passes, and the suffering experienced on a daily basis by the Palestinian people. And so we call upon all states to accede at the earliest possible moment."

It is crucially important that more states from the Middle East, including

Yemen, demonstrate their commitment to the principles of international justice, by ratifying the Rome Statute as soon as possible. Yemen has over the past few years shown its dedication to the protection of human rights by ratifying nearly all the major human rights treaties and by appointing a Minister responsible for Human Rights. Yemen must continue to build on these fundamental steps.

The United Nations Charter includes the principle that a state must not use force or the threat of force against the territorial integrity or the political independence of another state. However, there is currently no way to hold individuals criminally responsible for such acts. One important reason for becoming a state party to the Court in the near future is the possible inclusion of the crime of aggression in the Court's jurisdiction. In a few years time a review conference of states parties to the Court will look at the possibility of including the crime of aggression in the list of crimes that the Court can investigate. In order to influence this debate, Middle Eastern states should become parties to the Statute.

A worldwide coalition of non-governmental organisations, including the Coalition for the International Criminal Court and Amnesty International, are calling on Yemen to ratify the Rome Statute this month. Amnesty International's Lawyers' Group in Sweden has been working to encourage Yemen to ratify the Statute during the past year.

More information and a possibility to join in calling on the government to take action can be found in English and Arabic at: <http://www.amnesty.org/icc/>. We urge the Yemeni government to take this important step in support of international justice as soon as possible.

The writer is the chairwoman of the Lawyers' Group Amnesty International, Sweden

Inside story of how Washington is losing its battle

BY ANDREW NEIL
FOR SCOTSMAN NEWS

In New York the mood is buoyant as the American economy continues to purr at a satisfying rate, but 250 miles to the south in Washington DC there is increasing private gloom among those in the know that events in Afghanistan and Iraq are going badly wrong - and growing despair about what to do about it.

President Bush's bold Thanksgiving trip to Baghdad gave US troops a much-needed fillip and he said all the

right things. But behind the scenes the war on terror is going badly wrong in its two main theatres. "In both places it is worse than you think," I was warned before arriving in the US capital for a series of off-the-record briefings. The warning was accurate.

Take Afghanistan first. You don't read or see much about it these days. The reality is grim. The Taliban is resurgent; al-Qaeda is there too, but not as relevant as it was. Attacks on aid workers are soaring; many are refusing to leave the urban areas. The warlords are back in control of the countryside, where opium production

is already above pre-invasion levels. "Afghanistan is a narco-economy once more," said one intelligence analyst.

The Taliban regularly mounts attacks in the rural areas and is expected to hit urban centres with greater force. "If they knew how weak we were," confided one intelligence source, "they would have done it already." Coalition forces are confined to Vietnam-style strategic hamlets from which they emerge for operations only in great force, before returning to their enclaves. Hamid Karzai's grip on power is tenuous..

Yemen's historic architecture (Part 4 of 4)

Scientists explore the Tarimi Palaces

BY JAMES CONLON,
PAMELA JEROME
AND SELMA AL-RADI*

The al-Kafs helped us develop as strategy for securing these houses through purchase or long-term lease. They also introduced us to several Tarimi mater masons as all of our previous relationships were with individuals from Shibam and other cities in the Hadhramawt Valley.

Our frank discussions with the al-Kafs were facilitated by the Historical Society and by the end of the field season, the three of us had agreed to an open working environment with full sharing of all materials produced by current and future research. We also decided on the common objective of conserving and reusing as many of the households as possible, by no project before this year's work. During the 2002-2003 field season we also conducted many informal meetings with German Technical Aid (GTZ).

These discussions should not go unmentioned. GTZ has been working on a similar restoration and adaptive reuse program occurring on historic houses in Shibam, a World Heritage Site, as part of a larger development project in the city. While we have no formal partnership with GTZ, this dialogue was essential in finding local estimates, and for airing general concerns related to the project. After the end of the field season, Al-Radi presented our work to the Yemen Social Fund for Development, a non-governmental organization supported by the World Bank, and the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY), in order to garner additional support for the project.

As a result of this meeting, the Social Fund has given 1 million YR for the consolidation of the western façade of al-Ishshah. Discussions with the Social Fund over a partnership in a full-scale conservation project continue, but its funding of the emergency stabilization of Qasr al-Ishshah has already proved to be an essential contribution to the project.

Without this repair, further collapse was imminent. Dr. Al-Radi also brought several government of officials to review informally the site and the long-term implications of historic district designation for Tarim.

We had little success in opening dialogue with architectural or structural engineering departments at the regional universities in Yemen. The faculty and, in many cases, the facilities themselves simply do not exist in the Hadhramawt, and we were too focused on completing the immediate fieldwork to explore similar possibilities in the universities of Sana'a or Mukallah.

Educational development in Yemen itself is essential to the success of this and other conservation projects. Al-Radi's work in Rada'a has already demonstrated the social and economic value of informal educational programs (Al-Radi 1997). Architectural and engineering curricula in Yemen generally teach students to build with reinforced concrete skeletons and concrete block or brick infill, along with exterior cladding of stone in some regional contexts.

The use of traditional mud brick technology, the most appropriate construction material for this specific geographical region, is often disregarded, while historic preservation and adaptive reuse are perceived as costly and unnecessary. Our earlier study of traditional construction methods demonstrated the efficacy of mud brick constructed when adapted to contemporary lifestyles and conveniences.

We also found several examples of successful and sympathetic upgrading of historic buildings (Jerome, Chiari, and Borelli 1999). Both points have failed to affect the training of local architects or engineers (Jerome 2002:29). To address this problem, our project plans to organize an adaptive reuse workshop under the auspices of Deputy Governor al-Ulfi for students as well as architects, engineers, and other professionals.

This dialogue may lead to approaches that incorporate local knowledge with our own experiences and expectations, in turn producing a hybrid conservation strategy appro-

priate to the unique conditions in Tarim. Based on the successful use of video as a documentation and community outreach tool (Borelli 2001), we anticipate that media will serve a vital role in our efforts.

Visual perception is not a passive reconf information, but an active element of conceptualization that exercise selective, abstract and creative acts of intellectual formation (Arnheim 1969). In Yemen it has also proved to be a vital tool in opening dialogue between diverse groups of stakeholders. As the work of Shehyeb and Abdel-Hafiz in the Tablita Market of Cairo and Borelli and Jerome in the Hadhramawt have demonstrated, multi-media presentation and visual models function as integral tools by which non-designers may express their ideas (Shehaybe and Abdel-Hafiz 2001; Borelli and Jerome 1999).

Another significant model for this approach is the idea of participatory design as expressed by the Presence Project supported by the European Commission's Intelligent Information Interfaces group (Netherlands Design Institute 1997). John Thackara, chair of the Presence Steering Group, has expressed participatory design as follows: we're beginning to understand what it means to design with people rather than for people.

I know it sounds like a minor semantic distinction, but it's had a major impact on all of our expedition's members: rather than setting off on a project with a preconceived idea about what we're going to do, now we're all committed to working with real people in the real world and starting there, rather than starting with technology and imposing it on a given situation. There is no way to put aside one's preconceptions when entering a project, nor as a group of professionals should we erase our opinions and expectations.

But participatory design places our professional assumptions into lived situations from the inception of the project. It is our objective to engage the potential of this process within the social context of Yemeni society while also introducing a relevant, cost effective set of computer-aided

design, geographic information systems, and visualization resources to our Yemeni partners.

The intention is not to replace local professionals and their vital knowledge – an act that would go against the very principles of conservation – but to provide better options for documenting and representing our work. While the potential of these resources is exciting to a Western audience, we must balance this outlook with data on the average Yemeni's access to information technology.

The World Bank statistics on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for Yemen are not encouraging. Based on statistics from 2000, personal computing and Internet use is rare and expensive in Yemen. Out of Yemen's population of 18 million, there are only 1.9 people per every 1,000 who have a personal computer.

Yemen has only 15,000 Internet users, and the average monthly off-peak service charge for access to the World Wide is \$ 44.50. These averages are well below the rest of the Middle East and North Africa with the exception of the service charge statistic, which is \$ 26.50. (World Bank 2003). Few if any of these statistics predate 2000, so it is impossible to chart the growth of ICT which is generally more promising.

Whereas the ICT infrastructure is experiencing rapid growth in a country like Egypt, and it make sense to engage the potential of these technologies, there is simply no evidence for a parallel in Yemen. Also, there is no information on the distribution of ICT within Yemen. Anecdotal evidence would suggest that these resources are concentrated in Sana'a and Aden as opposed to the Hadhramawt, but this cannot be supported by statistics.

Furthermore, we have no anthropological information on the way Yemenis use computers or even consume media. We cannot take it for granted that there is a pedagogical culture connected to personal computers and the internet, as there is in many other countries. While there are many reasons to be cautious in regard to the use of ICT, there are also the

specific needs of our project to consider. During the field season, our photographs and drawings numbered in the thousands. Our first step was organizing and storing these materials in a database scheme.

Also, with the number of Yemenis living abroad – in particular, members of the Tarim community – a presence on the World Wide Web is necessary. In fact we have received encouragement from Yemeni students and professionals living in the United States and Saudi Arabia who learned of the project through the web site (www.mcah.columbia.edu/tarim).

Many of them will return to the Hadhramawt with a better impression of the architectural heritage of the region. The second stage of media production will focus on developing our raw materials into web-based resources for the study of Tarimi architectural heritage. To this end we are building an integrated, multi-level system that includes digital image collection and delivery and the development of a multi-media pedagogical environment.

In regard to delivering these resources within Yemen, we have to provide both the hardware and the appropriate social spaces within which to distribute them. Again, we can find parallels in Borelli and Jerome's screening of their film in location throughout the Valley (Borelli 2001). This process will begin with demonstrations at our own events, such as the upcoming adaptive reuse workshop, and develop into a set of site-specific resources to be used in educational institutions and museums.

We can work closely with organizations such as the Preservation Society, GTZ, GOAM, and GOPHCY to put together a network of resources that will reach a broader user group. In addition, at this point in time, we can run our resources directly off the hard drive of individual machines so that we do not depend on slow connection speeds.

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A narration The good, bad and ugly

BY ADIL MAHMOUD AHMED ALAMIN*
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Our grandmother Alharam is a woman full of wisdom that she gave us when we are young.

During seasons of harvesting dates, we would travel to north by train to Karima, then by steamer: Alzahra, to Mora, our peaceful small town, where she lives in her lonely nest. Her husband Wad Algeed had died long ago, so she declared sadly "I never tie a donkey at a place of a horse".

Under moonlight, on the soft sands, among dates palms we sat at her feet victim with the marvelous folktales she offers us:

"Once upon a time," she said, "there was a sultan at the lands of never never, where every thing true is not true. Only fairy tales just like me and you. This sultan was a furious man of a stupid and strange diction. So one day he gathered his false hypogreic followers and ordered them to teach his camel how to write and read!! The were very astonished and frightened too, because this portal man must be obeyed.

"Soon after they held a meeting to discuss this Harokis Task, which fall on their imply minds and full stomcks. After a while their Big Boss shouts, just like Archimudus when he discovers his laws of displacement in bathroom.

- "I found it! I found it!" They gazed at him in surprise comfortably.

- "What is it? Our genous wizard." - "It's Alsheck Farah wad taktouk; our worst enemy, who instigates farmers against us."

- "How can you do that?" He combs his long yellow beard with his dirty claws.

- "I shall tell the sultan that no one can do this job better than Alshekh, then we catch two birds by one stone." He follows

- "We'll get rid of both, our worst enemy and this terrible job."

They all agree without exceptions. A day passed the Big Boss told the Sultan, so the plan was settled.

After many days, Alshakh came to the palace, as the sultan was commanded. He was accompanied with four of his excellent students. He agreed with the job, but he requested to be offer seven years interval. The sultan agreed to this strange appeal. The calm gentle man hold the rope of the camel returned with his followers and the camel to the village of Umdwan-ban.

Tag Aldeen, who is the best student of Alshekh was so sad, because he had known the dirty games of Junta of the palace, so he asked his teacher.

- "How can you teach this animal?" - "Oh my son, don't worry about me. After seven year, for any event a speech. Either me or the sultan or the camel may die."

Tag Aldeen and the other followers seemed to be discontent, but they uttered no word. Then Alshakh follows his pearl dropping "oh good sons. Do not sit among rulers, because they distort your principles more than you enjoy their rich and sick life".

After seven years the soldiers of sultan came to the village for Alsheh. He said his prayers and raise his hands for heaven assistance.

- "Oh Almighty God of all. Let your faithful slave never reach Khartoum." The Mercifull Allah fulfills

His poor worshiper will Between Kartoum and Umdwanban Alshekh was dead and buried in sands.

In Khartoum the flood drift the sultan

Out of reach of angry hands. Then the stupid camel rules the lands.

* * *

"It was finished, jumped and inserted in a hole of the youngest of you." Alharam, our lovely grand mother, always finishes her stories in this fishy way. That makes my young brother crying while she burst laughing vigorously. God bless her.

** A writer from Sudan live in Yemen.*

*** A famous small town at the east bank of Blue Nile river, where the fire of holy Qura'an studies/Hewrien shines all the nights. Hence the name Um-dwan-ban*

A Yemen Times series on heroes of Islam

Othman bin Affan, the third Caliph



BY SULAIMAN M.
AL-HABOOB
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Othman Bin Affan spent his early childhood as an orphan and was raised by an aggressive stepfather from the Umayya tribe named Okbah Bin Abi Mu'et who married Othman's Mother after his father died. Othman's mother is the Prophet's (PBUH) aunt.

His violent upbringing set the stage for Othman to get into an alliance with Bani Hashim (Hashim sons) where Abd Shams, the eldest of Bani Umayya (Umayya sons) was the twin brother of Hashim. However, Hashim was kinder, more generous, noble, and tended to be more religiously ideal than his twin brother Umayya.

Othman Bin Affan was known for being handsome and shy, and was the most likeable to the whole of Quraish tribe. Those traits made him attached

to the details of Islamic advocacy as the kind Prophet, PBUH, invited him to Islam.

His mother used to say to Quraish tribe: "Our wealth and ourselves are before Mohammed, PBUH". In becoming a Muslim, Othman entered into the eternal humanitarian and spiritual circle Quraish increased their pressure against Othman which only made him more determined to support the new religion, Islam.

Othman won his marriage to Ruqayyah, one of the Prophet's, PBUH, daughters, and he migrated with her to Ethiopia and later to the Illuminated City (Almadinah Almunawwarah).

Ever since then, he accompanied the Prophet, PBUH, as a companion and writer for the revelations. He was determined to be the richest of Quraish and the most serious merchant. He later used his wealth to prepare the Difficulty Army (Al'usrah Army), the purchase of the well, and the support of Islam to victory. After the death of Othman's wife Ruqayyah, the Prophet, PBUH married him to her sister, Umm

Kulthoom.

In the Prophet's, PBUH, university, Othman learned the art of travel, management and prophetic manners. He memorized the Holy Qur'an, and adopted pure prophetic manners by writing the revelations and memorizing the Prophet, PBUH, traits and behavior.

Othman advanced to the globalization of Islam, and when he was elected as the third Caliph, the Islamic government had reached North Africa and edges of Persia and Rome. This expansion was no less serious than the challenges which faced Abu Baker, may Allah be pleased with him, in his fights against the religious retreats and eliminating them.

It was also not any less challenging than Omar Bin Al-Khattab's facing of Persian and Roman armies on the edges of the Arabian Peninsula. Othman did not forget that Quraish had ambitions to take over the government either. He concentrated on eliminating the effects of unrest as a result of the assassination of the just Khalif, Omar Bin Al-Khattab (planned by the Jews

and Christians), and he was fully capable in determination, opinion and speed in managing the affairs of the government.

This way he was able to control the supply lines and provisions to his armies which were spread in Asia and Africa and determined to maintain the bases of Islam.

Let us read what the bishop of Muslim nation, Abdullah Bin Abbas, as he described Othman Bin Affan, may Allah be pleased with him: "May Allah have mercy over Abi Omar (Omar's father), he was, by Allah, the most generous grandson, the most maintaining of family contacts, the most patient warrior, praying in the later part of the evening, most tearful as he remembered Allah, constantly thinking of what was concerning him night and day, providing of any kindness, seeking every savior avoiding every destroyer, owner of the army and the well, the Prophet married him to both his daughters... May Allah spare sorrow to the Day of Judgment for anyone who insults him."

That is the unique Caliph who fol-

lowed and maintained the traits of his Prophet, PBUH, the administrative legislations of Abu Bakr and Omar, may Allah be pleased with them. He added the scripture of the Holy Qur'an known by his name as the first constitution and Arabic dictionary. He advocated the maintenance of public utilities, the blooming of commerce, organization of markets, and payment of salaries from the treasury.

Othman was full of mercy and patience, as he never ordered anyone killed unless it was a penalty, which encouraged the criminals to advance to the level of killing him, the famous Caliph. There is no room for comparison between that Khalif from Quraish who moved from the limits of the tribe to the globalization of Islam and those leaders of Dahis and Ghabra, and Almunthir and Jiblah and others.

May Allah have mercy over the leader of martyrs, and how we are in disparate need to follow him and the companions of the Prophet, PBUH, and until we meet again with another great and eternal Islamic personality.

World AIDS Day: Hopes pinned on new drug plan

By SHAPI SHACINDA

LIVINGSTONE, Zambia, Dec 1 (Reuters) - A global plan to rush life-saving anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs to millions of AIDS sufferers was launched on Monday amid warnings on World AIDS Day that the war against the disease was being lost.

As world leaders called for urgent action to fight the scourge which has devastated many of the poorest countries in the world, the Vatican defended its controversial position against advocating condoms as protection against HIV.

"We appear to be losing the fight against AIDS at the moment," said U.S. Health Secretary Tommy Thompson, marking World AIDS Day in Zambia, one of the worst-hit nations.

"We need to redouble our efforts. This war has more casualties than any other war as we are losing three million people every year," Thompson said.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu called for "lightning" action to fight AIDS as millions of people marked World AIDS Day around the world with parades and prayers.

While China aired its first officially backed TV ad for condoms, the Vatican said fidelity, chastity and abstinence were the best ways to fight HIV/AIDS in a "pan-sexualist society".

In a clear reference to condoms, Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan said information campaigns should not be "based on policies that foster immoral and hedonistic lifestyles and behaviour, favouring the spread of the evil."

World AIDS Day came amid news of a new \$5.5 billion emergency strategy to supply badly needed drugs to fight a

and were set to rise further as the epidemic maintains its deadly grip on sub-Saharan Africa and spreads across Eastern Europe and Asia.

AIDS will have killed about three million people this year. Five million more will have been infected.

The Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) medical charity said governments should provide AIDS drugs free under the new plan and pharmaceutical firms should cut prices further.

"For the poorest no price will be affordable: governments of both developing and developed countries must meet these costs," MSF President Morten Rostrup said in a statement.

Africa hardest hit

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the worst affected region with about 3.2 million new infections and 2.3 million deaths in 2003.

Ebrahim Samba, WHO's Africa director, told Reuters he was confident modern drugs would defeat Africa's stubborn AIDS stigma by turning a fatal disease into a manageable condition, but it would take time to change attitudes.

"Working in Africa, you have to be pathologically optimistic. A pessimist doesn't survive here," he said.

Archbishop Tutu told South Africa to move like "greased lightning" to treat people with HIV. "It is absolutely blasphemous, totally blasphemous to say that God is punishing us... it is the most awful use of religion," he said.

In Muslim Somalia's breakaway enclave of Somaliland, religious affairs "minister" Sheikh Mohamed Sufi told a rally: "The best way to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS... is to stop com-



Yeb Long, 29, a Cambodian AIDS patient, rests in a hospital bed in the capital Phnom Penh in this November 25, 2003 file photo. Even though authorities believe the overall AIDS situation has stabilised in Cambodia, it remains the worst affected country in the Asia-Pacific region, according to the United Nations. REUTERS



An AIDS victim is attended to by a nurse at the Torax Hospital November 30, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The latest figures show Honduras has almost 19,000 confirmed cases of AIDS and HIV and officials estimate there are almost 60,000 people unaware they are infected. Honduras is home to more than 60 percent of all AIDS cases in Central America. REUTERS

disease now infecting 40 million people around the world.

At least six million people living with HIV-AIDS in developing countries need ARV treatment urgently to stay alive and healthy, but only between 300,000 and 400,000 are getting the costly drugs. The U.N. plan aims to get ARV treatment to half the six million people by the end of 2005.

"Eight thousand people die every day and we recognise this as a moral imperative to act," Dr Bjorn Melgaard, a senior World Health Organisation official, told reporters in Bangkok.

Estimates released by UNAIDS last week showed deaths and new cases reached unprecedented levels in 2003

mitting adultery, and to live as God ordered us to do."

In the Asia-Pacific region one million people were infected this year, taking the total to more than seven million.

Several countries, including China and India, face major epidemics unless effective action is taken, experts say.

In Cambodia, the worst AIDS-affected country in Asia, about 3,000 students, activists and dancers in white and red T-shirts paraded through Phnom Penh before piling into buses to spread the anti-AIDS message in the countryside.

In Singapore women in mini-skirts and tight spandex tops handed out free

condoms on the wealthy island-state where HIV infections rose seven percent in the first 10 months of 2003.

But in Thailand government efforts to promote condom use suffered a setback last week when university students voted against condom-vending machines on campus, saying it would encourage casual sex and was the wrong way to fight AIDS.

In China, long criticised for a slow response to the threat, the first officially backed TV condom ad has finally aired and Beijing has promised free anti-retroviral drugs to poor victims.

But activists continue to point out local cover-ups of blood bank scandals and media stories playing down people's plight. (Additional reporting by Darren Schuettler in Bangkok, Jonathan Ansfield in Beijing, Ed Cropley in Phnom Penh, Jason Szep in Singapore, William Maclean in Nairobi, Philip Pulella in Rome)

What people said about World AIDS Day

NAIROBI, Dec 1 (Reuters) - Here is a selection of quotes from leading figures in the run-up to World AIDS Day on Monday and on the day itself.

U.S. Health Secretary Tommy Thompson:

"We appear to be losing the fight against AIDS at the moment. We need to redouble our efforts."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan:

"I am not winning the war (against

AIDS) because I don't think the leaders of the world are engaged enough.

"I feel angry, I feel distressed, I feel helpless...to live in a world where we have the means...to be able to help all these patients, what is lacking is the political will."

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton:

"Nothing less than the future of Africa is at stake."

Ebrahim Samba, Africa director of WHO:

"Working in Africa you have to be pathologically optimistic. A pessimist doesn't survive here."

"I'm not expecting miracles. This plan will be uphill work. I'd like more political will, more uptake of condoms, more funding. But awareness about ARVs is creeping in."

Pope John Paul:

"AIDS (is) an illness which is unfortunately still growing strongly, especially in the poorest countries."

"I pray for those who have been struck by this scourge, and I offer encouragement to all those in the Church... who do an inestimable service by welcoming, caring and offering spiritual assistance."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair:

"The scale and devastation of the disease is colossal... It is a human tragedy on a massive scale."

"It needs the whole world community to act together. And it is not just a moral duty — it is also in our national interests. Unless we act now and decisively, the deepening poverty and instability will reach far beyond the parts of the world worst affected."

Jack Chow, Assistant Director General of WHO:

"HIV/AIDS is intensifying its destructive fury on this continent (Africa). It is threatening whole new tiers of countries and communities. It is inexorably converting developing nations into AIDS imploding nations."

"The Death-o-dometer from AIDS is spinning at 8,000 lives a day and it is accelerating. These are people whose lives could have been saved through the provision and access to

anti-retroviral medicines that are effective, safe and affordable."

Lee Jong-wook, Director General of WHO:

"Preventing and treating AIDS may be the toughest health assignment the world has ever faced, but it is also the most urgent."

Morten Rostrup, president of the international council of the Medecins sans Frontieres medical charity:

"There should be no patent barriers when it comes to selling and buying these generic drugs. That should be settled once and for all so we don't run into complications and difficulties because of a lot of cumbersome rules on trade."

Rock star Bono:

"We live in an age of celebrity where if you're an actor or a rock star, or a hip hop star, you're supposed to be some kind of hero. Well, really that's bollocks."

"Real heroes are mothers, firemen, people with HIV who are struggling against all odds."

Sheikh Mohamed Sufi, religious affairs "minister" of Somalia's self-declared breakaway enclave of Somaliland:

"The best way to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and its prevention is to stop committing adultery, and to live as God ordered us to do."

Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care:

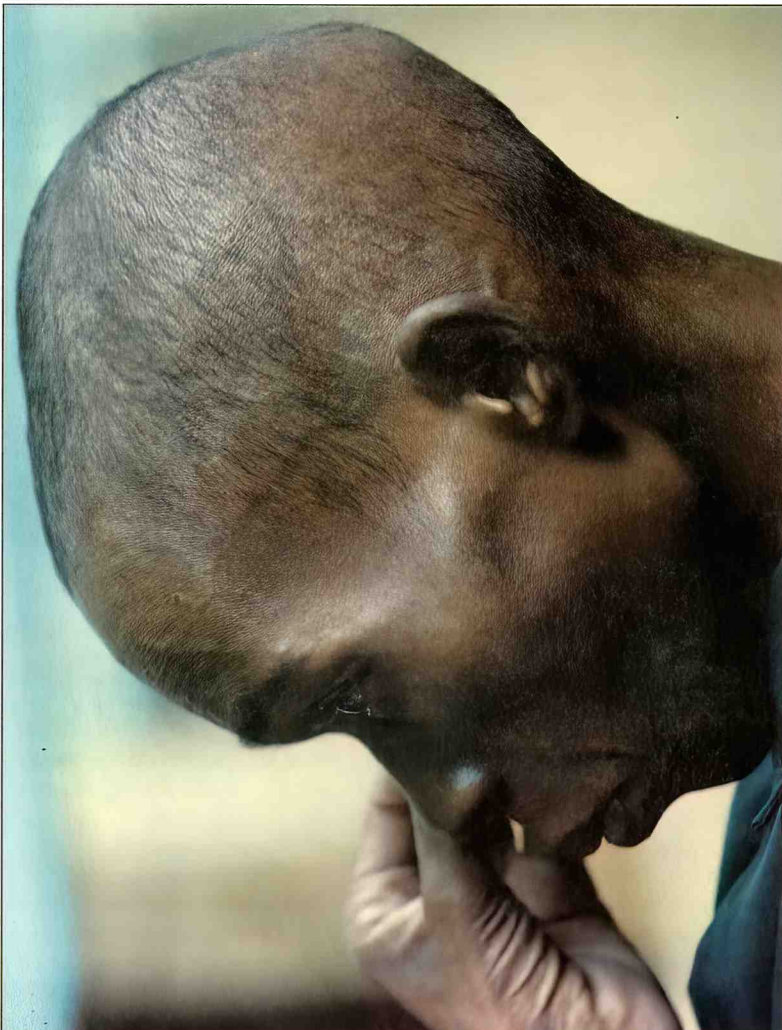
"If the main risk behaviours are pan-sexualism and drug addiction, then poverty, urbanisation, unemployment, mobility immigration and mass media are major contributing factors in the spread of the disease."

He said information campaigns should not be "based on policies that foster immoral and hedonistic lifestyles and behaviour, favouring the spread of the evil."

"The virtue of chastity is of paramount importance for the effective prevention of HIV/AIDS."



A Kenyan nurse prepares anti-retroviral HIV/AIDS drugs for patients at Mbagathi hospital in Nairobi December 1. The United Nations unveiled in Kenya's capital plans to rush life-saving anti-retroviral HIV/AIDS drugs to three million of the world's poor in a \$5.5 billion emergency strategy to fight a disease now killing 8,000 a day. REUTERS



Nicolas Otieno, 33, an HIV/AIDS positive Kenyan, rests outside the Mbagathi hospital in Nairobi December 1. The United Nations unveiled in Kenya's capital plans to rush life-saving anti-retroviral HIV/AIDS drugs to three million of the world's poor in a \$5.5 billion emergency strategy to fight a disease now killing 8,000 a day. REUTERS

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Annas weekly,
1 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- A committee for investigation in "Saif Bin Thiyazzan" scandal
- Human Rights center in Taiz stormed, its personnel attacked
- Accusations against Yemen on collaborating with America in al-Mouayad case

On the phenomenon of goods smuggling columnist Ma'ath al-Shara'bi says the phenomenon of importing from places other than the country of origin is a trading activity emerged largely in the recent times exploiting the principle of free external trade and not abiding by controls and rules of the WTO. This has created an unequal competition represented by flooding markets with expired goods or unknown identity or violating specifications or health conditions. Goods that are nearly expired and those that lost their specifications are re-exported to our local markets official ways or through smuggling and most of them are food stuffs. Importing from countries other than the origin has many effects on the national economy because smuggling is threatens the state economy and life of the society well. Among the main harms inflicted on our national economy as a result of smuggling are:

- this activity has nothing to do with the principle of the free trade and its controls and also the principle of competition in addition to its being destructive to the national economy, particularly financially,
- the beneficiaries of this activity are the pirates and those who tend to sabotage the economy. They do not care about pushing into the market any goods on condition they get profits. Here in this case there is the lack of specifications and quality,
- such an activity also causes damage to the local capital which is part of the public property. It would lead to closing down local factories due to flooding markets in an unorganized and unstudied manner with cheap products but useless,
- this activity would also affect the national economy in that it would cause the loss of equal opportunities agreed upon among the states.
- such an unstudied or unmonitored

Main headlines

- PM opens regional workshop on electronic government
- Parliament resumes sessions Saturday
- 4 martyrs, large-scale Israeli incursion of Ramallah
- Sana'a to host international conference on democracy, law and human rights
- Ibb Appeals Court endorses death sentence against American doctors killer
- Elections Supreme Commission discusses measures for local councils by-elections
- American forces raise death toll in Samarra massacre, north Baghdad
- 30 November, victory for Yemeni people's will
- Bajammal on international conference on democracy: Conference to be an organisation establishes approach and thought of dialogue
- Ministerial plan to set up plan for administrative and development upgrading in Jawf governorate
- Reports on return of Yassin Saeed to the Emirates
- Yemen notified Washington on results of investigations with al-Ahdal
- Mahathir Mohammed criticizes WTO
- American report: third stage of war on terror includes Iran, Syria and Hizbullah
- American statements cause political crisis between Yemen and Saudi Arabia
- Second leader of al-Qaeda in Yemen captured

activity inflicts on the economy heavy losses because the balance of payments goes not in favour of Yemen.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC, 1 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- 250 international personalities invited to attend the international conference on democracy, law and human rights
- GPC competes with 89 candidates, 19 of whom in governorates local councils in the by-elections
- FM al-Qirbi: Cooperation with America and Saudi Arabia in fighting terror, satisfactory to all parties

- Executive council of Arab audition apparatuses convenes in Sana'a Saturday
- Education minister: We expect support for primary education programs to amount to \$90 million in coming four years

On the 30th of November anniversary columnist Ahmed al-Mikhlafi wrote saying in an interview to a Yemeni newspaper last October the British ambassador to Sana'a mentioned that withdrawal of the last British soldiers from Aden in 1967 represented the end of the British Empire and that its country thought then to hand over power in Aden but also to keep a military base. But the power of the revolution and popular pressure caused the colonialists hasten in getting their troops out completely. The Yemeni revolution had expelled Britain from Aden and defeated the strategic thinking of towards the region. Since the beginning of the British colonization of Aden in June 1839 and till the last attempt in 1967 Britain worked for implementing a large group of arrangements and policies aimed at serving its interests and consolidating its presence there. It had concluded tens of agreements with sultans and sheiks and emirs and enhanced division by forming separate protectorates administered them indirectly.



Al-Thawra daily,
2 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Saudi authorities recognise two of implementers of al-Muhaya complex attack in Riyadh
- U.S secretary of State arrive in Morocco
- Turkish official says implementers of Istanbul blasts, linked to al-Qaeda
- NATO discusses possibility of increasing its role in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Arab News Agencies Conference opens in Sana'a Saturday

The newspaper's editorial says following the launching of Geneva document reached between a elite of Palestinian and Israeli politicians many questions have been aroused in Arab and international media on the extent of what this document could produce of results at the level of achieving peace in the region, especially that it has touched on the final stages

that are supposed to lead to a lasting agreement between the two sides. Although all those analyses seemed divided in their estimations and perceptions and readings of articles of the document, they were unanimous that the Arab countries would support any peace plan accepted by the Palestinians, as the

Palestinian decision in this question is to be the basis on which Arab and Islamic stands be built on. Whatever is said and to be said about Geneva document, the sure fact is the peace in the region could not be an actual reality away from just and comprehensive solutions of various aspects and sides of the conflict. Without holding

this string, Israel will keep its maneuvers in the hope of lowering the ceiling of Palestinian demands and getting as much amount as possible of concessions. It is a policy that Israel has been used to follow for evading all determinants placed by the United Nations resolutions and also international initiatives in this regard.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT (HRSP) CREDIT NUMBER 3625

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST LOCAL CONSULTING SERVICES

This request for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue No. 607 dated 16th May 2003, Al-Thawra Newspaper issue No. 13944 dated 28th May 2003, and Yemen Times issue No. 641 dated 12th June 2003.

The Government of Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for short various consulting services for HRSP.

These services include the following:

- Providing short term consultants in various specialties such preparing specifications, preparing designs, studies, surveys, computing, software, hardware, networks, etc.

The Ministry of Public Health & Population, through the Health Reform Support Project now invites eligible local consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services.

Interested consultants must provide sufficient information indicating that they are qualified to perform such services (CV's, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, etc.) as well as a summary of their capabilities.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's

Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers.
January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2000).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 00900 to 1400 hours during official working days.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 31st December 2003.

Dr. Naseeb Qirbi
Credit Administration Unit
Health Reform Support Project
The Ministry of Public Health and Population
4th Floor – Al-Hassaba – Sana'a
Tel: + 967-1-252224
Fax: + 967-1-251622
Email: HRSP@y.net.ye

World Press

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

Egypt

Al Ahram

US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns arrived in Cairo Monday evening on a lightning visit to Egypt.

The American official will have talks with Egyptian officials on means to prepare the way for implementing the US-brokered roadmap.

Al Gomhuria

Dr. Aly Eddin Hilal, minister of youth, will jointly hold a press conference Wednesday morning with chairman of Chinese National Authority for sports and chairman of Chinese Olympic Committee.

The conference will deal with the Egyptian-Chinese relations, means of its enhancement and the exchange of expertise in this field.

Al Akhbar

The number of AIDS-infected patients in Egypt is estimated at 1,300, said Ihab Abderrahman, the official in charge of the national AIDS combat programme.

In a symposium organized by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the UNICEF on Monday to mark the International Aids Combat Day, Abderrahman said 670 AIDS patients have died so far, while 630 are still alive.

The Egyptian Gazette:

President Hosni Mubarak on Monday received Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa, with whom he discussed a set of proposals for improving the performance of the Arab body.

Germany

Die Welt:

German Defense Minister Peter Struck has rejected the criticism of the United States against the EU defense policy.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

German Chancellor Gerhard

Nigeria

This Day

The State Security Service of Nigeria has directed all its officers across the country to be on the alert to prevent any hitch in the arrangements by the country to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the capital Abuja.

The Punch

Eight heads of government and more than 1,000 delegates arrived in Abuja on Monday to attend the

Schroeder will strive to lift the EU weapons sanction against China.

Handelsblatt:

— The long-time leader of the Boeing, Phil Condit, surprisingly resigned Monday, as its board of directors believed the company needed a new leadership.

Commonwealth Business Forum, which starts on Tuesday, one of the major events of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting billed to be kicked off on Friday.

Vanguard

President Olusegun Obasanjo on Tuesday convened an emergency meeting of his economic management team in Abuja to check the current free fall of the Nigerian currency naira.

Philippines

Philippine Daily Inquirer

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said Monday that the government would continue to go after terrorists even if it meant scuttling the peace talks with the separatist Moro Islamic

Liberation Front (MILF). Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said on Sunday that the MILF continued to support the regional terrorist group Jemaah Islamiah's training regime in Mindanao in the south.

Manila Bulletin:

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday ordered the relocation of the Department of Agriculture to Mindanao

to maximize the region's potentials and resources as the country's food basket. The president added that she has directed Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo to hold office in Mindanao to boost the government's agricultural programs.

The Philippine Star

Juanita Amatong officially took over on Monday as officer-in-charge (OIC) of the Department of Finance (DOF). Amatong, a DOF career officer and veteran in the international finance community, said there will be no shift in the government's fiscal policies or revenue targets for the remainder of the Arroyo administration.

India

The Times of India

In a big concession to their flying publics, India and Pakistan have agreed to resume air links from January 1.

Overflight rights, too, will be allowed for each other's aircraft under the terms of an agreement reached by the two governments in New Delhi on Monday.

The Hindu

Four separate exit polls conducted

Kenya

Kenya Times:

The Kenyan government is committed to revive the country's arid and semi-arid lands with a view to improving pastoralists' way of life, Assistant Minister in the Office of the President Kivutha Kibwana said Monday.

East African Standard:

Kenyan Minister for Education George Saitoti said Monday that the

by television channels Monday night agreed on one point: the ruling Congress will retain power in the 70-member Delhi Assembly and the BJP will regain majority in the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly.

Hindustan Times

Between 50 and 60 percent of voters exercised their franchise in the four states that went to the polls on Monday.

country's public university lectures will be paid a new salary package equivalent to what their counterparts in Uganda and Tanzania earn.

Daily Nation

British Airways has slashed Nairobi to London fares on Christmas week as competition heats up following the entry of East African Safari Airways on the route.

Pakistan

Dawn

President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Jamali, in their separate meetings with the visiting Prime Minister of Nepal Surya Bahadur Thapa, hoped on Monday that the 12th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit in Islamabad would give an impetus to SAARC activities, and underlined the need for expanding bilateral ties.

The News:

Pakistan on Monday announced that overflights and direct air-link between Islamabad and New Delhi would resume

simultaneously from January 1, 2004, on reciprocal basis.

The Nation

President General Pervez Musharraf maintained that the string of measures taken by Pakistan for making peace with India is just a beginning and there is a dire need for a sincere dialogue to seek settlement to all the outstanding disputes, including the core issue of Kashmir. He hoped that there would be no repeat of Agra Summit this time when Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee comes to Islamabad to attend SAARC summit in January next year.

Britain

Daily telegraph

US President George W. Bush is on the brink of making two concessions sought by British Prime Minister Tony Blair with the lifting of steel import tariffs that threaten a trade war with Europe and the release of scores of Guantanamo Bay detainees.

The Times:

A British university student has been seized in northern Iraq, suspected of trying to join a terrorist group linked to al Qaeda, which is attacking coalition forces.

The Guardian

British legislation introducing the

biggest overhaul of the domestic violence laws for 30 years is to be published Tuesday with a behind-the-scenes clash between David Blunkett and Harriet Harman unresolved over whether a "provocation" defense should be abolished in such murder cases.

Financial Times:

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown is coming under mounting pressure from senior Labor figures to give a public show of support for the government's policy on university top-up fees, amid signs that the legislation is running into implacable resistance from the party's backbench lawmakers.

Coming to terms with the twentieth-century 'isms' (PART I OF II)

BY DR ANIL K PRASAD,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR &
HEAD,
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FACULTY OF ARTS,
IBB UNIVERSITY,
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'Every mere *ism* is a mere misunderstanding and the death of history' (Martin Heidegger, *What Is A Thing?*: 1967 p 60-61)

Any student of contemporary art, literature, criticism, theory, history and culture today is all at sea with the inundation of new coinages with the affixes of '-ism', 'de/di-' and 'post-', but certainly is not at ease when s/he is trying to come to terms with this sea change in the history of ideas. Now the world of reading/interpreting and teaching/learning contemporary art, literature, criticism, theory, history and culture has witnessed a mystifying change with many patterns of interrelationships between the reader/viewer/audience and the text/discourse/artifact and the word/medium/tool and the world provides the context. Many theories, many approaches, many directions, many milestones make every reading a misreading/anti-reading and create nihilistic doubts in the readers making inroads across the borders of history, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, literary criticism, linguistics, semiotics, folklore, mythology, media studies, cyber culture, digital culture and the list goes on.

Twentieth-century has witnessed a shift from the interest in the canonical to the regional/local, from the study of pure literature to language-based approaches making English language teaching a massive money-spinning global industry. This has given rise to another shift from the aestheticism of art to its utilitarian function and popular appeal, from autonomous utterances of the author to the interplay of social and cultural voices with their unavoidable participation in the common stock of literary and linguistic conventions and procedures that are "always already" in place and constitute the discourse into which we are born (Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, 1999) and finally

from the authority of the author to the death of the author pursuing semantic indeterminacy as a will-o'-the-wisp with the binary oppositions (e.g. good/evil, male/female, nature/culture, speech/writing etc.). It has been an age of 'aesthetic reflection on the nature of modernity' (Giddens, A. *The Consequence of Modernity*, 1990:45) with the innovative, inventive and ground-breaking use of the form and function of language.

It has also witnessed a journey from a nostalgic yearning for a lost sense of unity, and constructs an aesthetics of fragmentation as in Eliot's *Waste Land* (1922) and Joyce's *Ulysses* (1922) with 'the peace that passeth understanding' and the emphatic affirmation of Molly's '...and yes I said yes I will yes.' respectively to the postmodern celebration of fragmentation, negation and hysteria in a carnival of contradictory cultures and worldviews. The Prufrocks of yesterday who hesitatingly retreated into the maze of images of the grand narratives of religion, history and culture are 'now suspended on the flow of ultratechnological images in a consumerist hyperreality across mediascape and mindscreens to which they can only passively surrender' like the tramps in Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* (1948) for who 'Nothing is certain'.

'Unity' and 'wholeness' in form, as concepts central to interpretation, are 'unceremoniously ousted...' and now relegated to the periphery of critical concern...' (Davis, Robert Con. Ed. *Contemporary Literary Criticism: Modernism Through Poststructuralism*, 1986: 9) On the other hand, new historicists see history as co-text, which needs to be re-interpreted. They focus on the historical and cultural production of a 'text', its meanings, its effects, and also for further critical interpretations and evaluations. They are concerned with what Louis Montrose said, 'the historicity of texts and the textuality of history' (Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms* 1999: 183). This is to say that texts are related to other discursive and rhetorical practices and structures, and they are part of the history that is still in the making, still in the process of being written. The death of the author and the subsequent attack on the authority of the text gave birth to a reader who is the 'centre' in the process of reading. Further flights

into the space of hyper reality have given rise to the cyberpunk literature (with the publication of William Gibson's cyberpunk novel, *Neuromancer* in 1982) creating in the modern reader a dread of being transformed, in the future, into a 'cyborg': 'a split, a hybrid identity, a cybernetic organism: a human computer', half human and half computer; living in the world dominated by multinational corporate business empires with fractured identities. In the university curricula, William Wordsworth's description of Nature's beauty: 'The beauty of the morning; silent, bare./Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and the temples lie/ Open unto the fields, and to the sky;/All bright and glittering in the smokeless air' and William Gibson's description of Nature in *Neuromancer*, shaped by the consciousness of technological revolution: 'The sky above the port was the color of television, turned to a dead channel' are being placed side by side.

Now the text is considered a self-sufficient object, a body of writing controlled by linguistic and literary codes, and a play of 'differences' that generate innumerable and mutually contradictory paradigms of 'undecidability and desamentization'. In addition to the opposition to eurocentricism, logocentricism, ethnocentrism and androcentricism, the contexts of culture, gender, history, race, neocolonialism and psychology have also exercised considerable influence on the reading and interpretation of texts. It has been rightly remarked:

In global shifts such as these - dislocating and potentially painful shifts in which sense and nonsense, the central and the marginal, are seen to switch places - we witness ourselves moving from one paradigm to the other, from a world that already made sense to a world that is just now making sense. This revolution in criticism, and the resultant shift in the way we understand literature, poses an ontological difficulty of the highest order. This difficulty more than any other, explains both the challenge and the excitement of (and also the hostility toward) contemporary theory and literature. (Davis, Robert Con. 1986: 9)

In the process of reading/interpretation, teaching/learning, are we influenced by these shifts and swings?

A pragmatic-pedagogic perspective Constraints on translatability of Arabic (PART I OF II)

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Abstract

This paper discusses the untranslatability of Arabic language from a pragmatic perspective with a special focus on the scope of exploiting such knowledge in a broad Arab EFL context. It presents varied examples that reflect the distinctiveness of Arabic that potentially pose problems for translation, for learning English and for interaction with non-Arabs in cross-cultural communications. It ends with some pedagogical implications for EFL in a broader Arab context.

Introduction

It is axiomatic to say that language and culture are inseparable. It is not always possible nor easy to translate the subtle cultural nuances of language. The paper presents several untranslatable expressions in Arabic while touching on the non-linguistic, socio-cultural contexts where these expressions are originated.

Undeniably, Arabic is deeply rooted in its culture and religion unlike English that has got rid of most of its cultural biases since it is used as a worldwide 'contact language'. While communicating, a speaker of Arabic chooses from a wide range of repertoire to convey a certain intended effect on the message receptor. This depends on varied vocabulary, grammar, and long history where Arabic changed from time to time and from place to place. The idiosyncratic cultural features of Arabic gave individuality to the language that shaped the life, personality and worldview of its speakers who grow in a monolingual and mono-cultural society. This deep-rootedness of Arabic (L1) puts a constraint on any cross-cultural communication, particularly on English (L2). Arab learners' misuse of communication strategies in L2 situations is probably due to transfer of L1 strategies. This is caused by choosing vocabulary, grammar and pragmatic rules inherited from the Islamic culture. This results in a pragmatic failure owing to translation (implicitly or explicitly) of L1 in an L2 conversational context. Politeness strategies, for example, in Arabic are distinct in use and they resist translation. Failure takes place not only because of the linguistic form of the target language but due to the pragmatic and socio-linguistic aspects inherent in Arabic itself. Dialogues in Arabic are full of expressions that are culture-specific because of the fact that Arabic draws heavily on its Islamic culture. While translating an Arabic text, one is bound to face a number of words and expressions that have no parallels in English. That is why one finds elaborate footnotes in standard translations to help an outsider who wants to understand the text fully. Moreover, formulaic expressions have no equivalence in English.

Some of these expressions relate to politeness forms that cause breakdown of communications with non-Arabs and cause problems for translation. Some of the common phrases used in an Arab socio-linguistic context need to be discussed to highlight the potential Arabic untranslatability in a pedagogical and translational context. There are other problems in translating cultural items such as idioms, sayings, proverbs, jokes, puns, etc.

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Distinctiveness of Arabic

Here are some examples of the Arabic expressions of politeness forms that cause breakdown in communications with non-Arabs and constrain translatability. The study selects some expressions that relate to religious terms, vocatives, address forms, directness, and use of hedges.

To start with, the expression that is commonly used in Arabic language is *bismillah*, i.e. in Allah's name. This is used as a pious ejaculation, which should precede every act in the Arabic-Islamic socio-linguistic context. This is not difficult to translate but what is difficult is to carry its socio-cultural

connotations to the target language. When an Arab learner begins his exam paper or his class activities, he tends to start with this phrase. Because English has become a secular language due to its worldwide usage, non-Arabs find this phrase not exactly English though it does not affect communication. It is a sort of giving some religious touch to the communicative act.

The speaker then sounds familiar if he commences this talk, using the Arabic style of conversions: الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله, i.e. praise be to Allah, and grace, prayer and blessing be upon His Messenger [Prophet Mohammad], and afterwards... This is also a formulaic expression that begins a written discourse. The idiosyncrasy is in both translation and EFL learning situation. Learns somehow think of this when they want to begin some class activity.

Another phrase that is related to religion is لا حول ولا قوة الا بالله العلي العظيم [la hola wala quata elabillha al ali aladim], i.e. there is no Majesty, and there is no Might save in Allah the Glorious, the Great! This expression is used usually when some is in calamity. This exclamation shows that one is weak in front of the Almighty. It invokes the greatness of the Creator to accept one's fate and destiny if unable to face. Such a phrase is not easily translatable for its cultural overtones. Translators attempt to overlook or replace the phrase with some expression that does not rely transfer the phrase to the intended language for its cultural associations. When it comes to EFL context, it is a hurdle for students who tend to look for an equivalence to express their feeling in the target language but they fail. They feel a kind of dissatisfaction with the target language for it is suffusing their need of expression their emotion.

Many a time a speaker of Arabic falls back on his culture when he finds himself in a difficult situation. For example, he uses استغفر الله [astagfru Allah], i.e. pray pardon of Allah. This is if someone transgresses. It is a phrase that is always repeated also as a prayer to seek the pardon of Allah. Another related expression is [allahumma], i.e. O my God! This means Ya Allah (O Allah) a sort of innovation but with emphasis, especially when someone is in a difficult circumstances. It is followed by a statement that decides the request of this invocation.

This kind of language is part of the linguistic repertoire of an Arab learner of English. This always comes in when such a speaker attempts to converse with non-Arabs. Similarly a non-Arab who wants to be accepted in an Arab conversational context has to observe this aspect while communicating with Arabs whether Arabic is used or a foreign language. The speaker sounds familiar if he commences his talk, using this Arabic style. He is so much respected and taken in, particularly if he is a non-Arab for this gives students some kind of ingroupness with the teacher.

Linguistic and Non-Linguistic Behaviour in Arabic

Religion, as a way of life for a Muslim, lays down the principles that govern relationships among people. Arabic is deeply rooted in Islam that shapes the worldview of its speakers. When Arabs meet, they greet each other with words that signify peace (e.g. السلام عليكم; salaam alaykum, i.e. peace upon you.) This in a way implies Islam. This is why some Arab learners of English sometime feel they need to use this greeting something kind of translation for this phrase. Naturally when they translate it to English and use it as a greeting, non-Arabs feel that students are unable to master the target language.

To leave is to repeat the same greeting [salaam alaykum] so as to stress, peace, brotherhood, solidarity and ingroupness with the addressee. In some religious occasions other forms of greetings are made use of: e.g. رمضان مبارك [Ramadan mubarak], i.e. Happy Ramadan. Other greetings are عيد سعيد او عيد مبارك [Eid mubarak, Eid sayeed], i.e. Happy Eid. Other forms of greetings that are equivalent to good morning [sabah alkir] and good evening [masha Allah fik], are available in Arabic but they are not so favoured because they are devoid of the religious

touch. Complements in Arabic vary. If one finds something so good, he has to bless that by saying ماشاء الله [masha'a Allah], i.e. God be thanked for his creation. If someone sneezes, he has to say الحمد لله [alhamdulillah], i.e. Thanks be to God. The one who listens has to respond with يرحمك الله [yarhamukallah], i.e. Allah have mercy on you. The response from the one who sneezes is يرحمنا ويرحمك الله [yarhamna wa yarhamukallah], i.e. Allah have mercy on us. Not only the linguistic behaviour but also the social behaviour is directed by religion. Deviation from the social norms and cultural pattern is perceived as impolite. For example, if an old man walks with his son, his son has to follow and not to precede him. The one who walks has to greet the one who is sitting, not the other way around. If a visitor comes, he has to stand at the door till he is given permission to enter. When entering, the male visitor has to avoid looking or talking to females in the host's family. To sit in front of an Arab with one's shoes toward his face is offensive. To travel alone is not advisable according to religion; one has to have some companions. If more than two travel, they have to appoint one as a leader for the journey.

As any work has to begin by the name of Allah, an Arab begins food by mentioning the Name of Allah. Food is to be eaten by the right hand; to have it by the left is improper and it is despised socially. Helping others is part of the cultural upbringing. If someone in a difficult condition, people would volunteer to help. In the modern world of the West that leans on individualism and distrust, such a move to help would be suspected. When Arab students travel abroad, they experience diverse forms of misinterpretations due to these cultural differences. Westerners believe that it is their right of privacy to have physical pleasure even in public places. They feel offended to be looked at by passers-by. But there is no social obligation in the Arabic context to prevent passers-by from looking at people in all conditions in public places. On the contrary, any tempting act is seen as offensive for the public. The different cultural perceptions are likely to result in a difficult situation of misjudgement and misinterpretation. Arab students also try to initiate conversations with any person they come into contact with. They disregard the right of privacy maintained by Westerners and for this they look odd in the new context.

In addition to the religious linguistic form of politeness, religion also necessitates one to 'face' the person warmly. To show solidarity and agreement with the addressee, a native speaker of Arabic employs excessively religious terms such as عليه الصلاة والسلام [alayhi aslatu wa salaam], i.e. Peace be upon him, السلام عليكم (alsalaam alaykum, i.e. peace upon you.), الله يرحمك [Allah yarhamu], i.e. May God have mercy on him and كل شيء بالله [kul lu: shai: bi yadi Allah], i.e. everything is in God's hands, etc. are specific to Arabic. When a speaker starts an informal conversation or a formal talk, he begins with certain strategies that characterise Arabic speech style. Even a secular Arab would begin with insinuations to Allah: 'In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Most Gracious, we start...'

Speakers of Arabic usually evoke the assistance of Almighty in their interactions to bless the arrangement and render it a success. This is why one hears people repeat [Allahalhamdulillah], i.e. praise or thanks be to Allah and سامحك الله [samahaka Allah], i.e. God forgive you. People wish success and refer to Allah's willing (إن شاء الله) insha Allah in different context while speaking with each other. In concluding marriage agreement, they read الفاتحة [al fatiha] that is the opening of The Holy Qura'an. An Arabic dialogue, more often than not, contains religious vocabulary as reflected in dialogues of life or literature. Such politeness is part of everyday talk-exchange. Also compliments are related to religion, e.g. احسنت جزاك الله خير [ahsant], i.e. well-done, جزاك الله خير [jazak Allah khair], i.e. God rewards you, بارك الله فيه [baraka Allah fik], i.e. God bless you, عافاك الله [afak Allah], God keep good healthy, etc.



YOUTH FORUM



Against the current

I incinerate all my verses and dreams.
I incinerate all my past...
Every thing is incinerated.
But it is the beginning of a new tragedy.
And it tries to kill me.
But I will oppose it and continue to live
To fight against the current.
And bury the painful past.
And embrace the entirety of passion.
Because life is being and becoming.

FATIMA HAMOUD AL-SANHANI
LEVEL 4, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
FACULTY OF EDUCATION, AL-MAHWEET

Friendship

Friendship is the strong connection between two or more people. It should be based on a strong ground of morals, sincerity, and truth. Such friendship will last forever, whereas a weak friendship is that which is with materialistic motivations. This is very short, and it ends when the friends satisfy their desires.
A testimony of the true friendship is when a friend is ready to sacrifice for his friend whatever may be the cost. A true friend is a really gift from Allah. He will live with you and share you your life whether it is happy or sad. One should have good friends always, because our friends are our mirrors. People judge your

Be a hero on strike

Be a hero on strike...
Do not follow... just start,
And do what you, not others, like,
We depart to meet and meet to depart.

Turn on the light...
Do not turn on the light.
Go around the world, only on a bike,
And be different... metals are not alike.

Light a candle... life is so dark,
Decide at once; never go back.
Walk walk and walk...
Leave only your own track.

HAJAR ISMAIL SHIBAM
SANA'A

And remember

As there is day... there is night
As there is darkness... there is light,
As there is peace... there is fight,
So, be a hero on strike.

SABA JARALLAH
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
FACULTY OF ARTS
SANA'A UNIVERSITY

Looking for life

When smile disappears
When the world darkens
In the whirlpool of live torment
Where would the human being be?
Torture with affliction and agony
Teething with bitterness and desperation
Why does the world suffer thus?
It comes and goes without hope, goal or purpose
But where does it go to?
Love becomes rarest of the rare
And the malevolence appears in its ugliest form
Where is the humanity heading for?
In the desert sand of affliction, bitterness or anguish
Smile from the lips fast withers
Let's discover the inner spring of life
And restore the lost paradise.

HAJAR ISMAIL SHIBAM
SANA'A

Chelsea's Cole banned for West Ham fracas

LONDON (Reuters) - The FA has banned Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole for two matches and fined him 15,000 pounds after a fracas as a West Ham United player in April.

Cole was suspended for two games, starting from December 22, and fined 10,000 pounds for improper conduct and using abusive and insulting language to a match official during West Ham's premier league game at Bolton Wanderers last season.

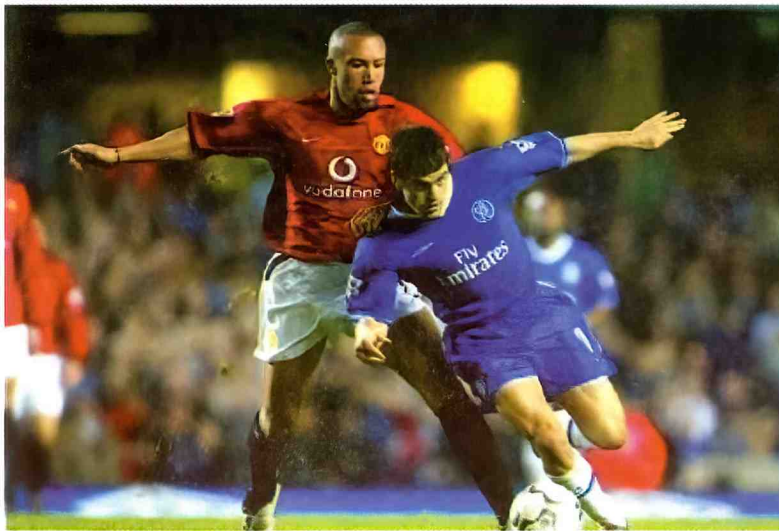
The 22-year-old, who joined Chelsea in the close season after West Ham were relegated to the first division, was also fined 5,000 pounds for improper

conduct in a mass confrontation on the pitch, a Football Association spokesman said on Tuesday.

Cole, now an England regular, was also warned about his future conduct.

The game at the Reebok Stadium on April 19 boiled over just before and again just after the final whistle as West Ham's Ian Pearce was sent off.

Tension had been inevitable in a match between two sides who were both battling to avoid relegation. Bolton's 1-0 victory on the day went a long way to securing the home side's survival and condemning West Ham to the drop.



Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole (R) was banned for two matches and fined 15,000 pounds after a fracas as a West Ham United player in April, the FA said on Tuesday. Cole is pictured as he competes for the ball with Manchester United's French defender Mikael Silvestre during a match last month. REUTERS/Stephen Hird

Klien to race for Jaguar in 2004

BY ALAN BALDWIN

LONDON (Reuters) - Young Austrian Christian Klien will race for Jaguar alongside Australian Mark Webber next year, the Formula One team has announced.

"There is no doubt in our minds about the potential of this exciting new young talent," said Jaguar racing managing director David Pitchforth of a 20-year-old who had his first experience of a Formula One car only last week.

Klien, who was testing with Jaguar in Barcelona on Tuesday, takes the place of Briton Justin Wilson at the Ford-owned team.

Wilson, who competed in the last five

races of the season for Jaguar after Brazilian Antonio Pizzonia was dropped, has an uncertain future, with Minardi and Jordan the only teams still to confirm their lineups.

"It's disappointing," the 25-year-old told Tuesday's Daily Mirror. "I have known this was on the cards for a while. I know why they have made the decision they have and there is little I can do about it."

"I'm still waiting to see what happens about the rule governing test driving. I would like to remain with the team in a test driving role. Minardi is also a possibility."

New rules for 2004 allow the six low-

est-ranked teams to run a third car in Friday practice at grands prix but the driver cannot have competed in six or more races during the past two seasons. That bars Wilson unless the rule is changed.

Hefty backing

Klien was runner-up in German Formula Three last season and impressed Jaguar with his attitude during his debut test last week. He also comes with hefty backing from Austrian energy drink company Red Bull.

"Christian was in as much control of himself as he was the car," said Pitchforth of the Valencia test. "He was extremely calm, composed and didn't seem remotely fazed by his first experience with a Formula One car."

"He worked very well with the race engineers and demonstrated increasing speed as he became familiar with the car...our decision to employ him as a race driver was based on merit, potential and speed."

Klien looked forward to the challenge of working alongside a highly-rated driver who has so far made all his Formula One team mates look slow.

"I have worked tirelessly over the years to get to this point but I appreciate also that the real hard work for me starts now," he said.

Klien will be the first Austrian driver to race in Formula One since Alexander Wurz left Benetton in 2000 to become McLaren's reserve.

Ironically, Klien's debut will come the year after his home grand prix at Spielberg was struck off the calendar.

Pitchforth thanked Wilson for his contribution.

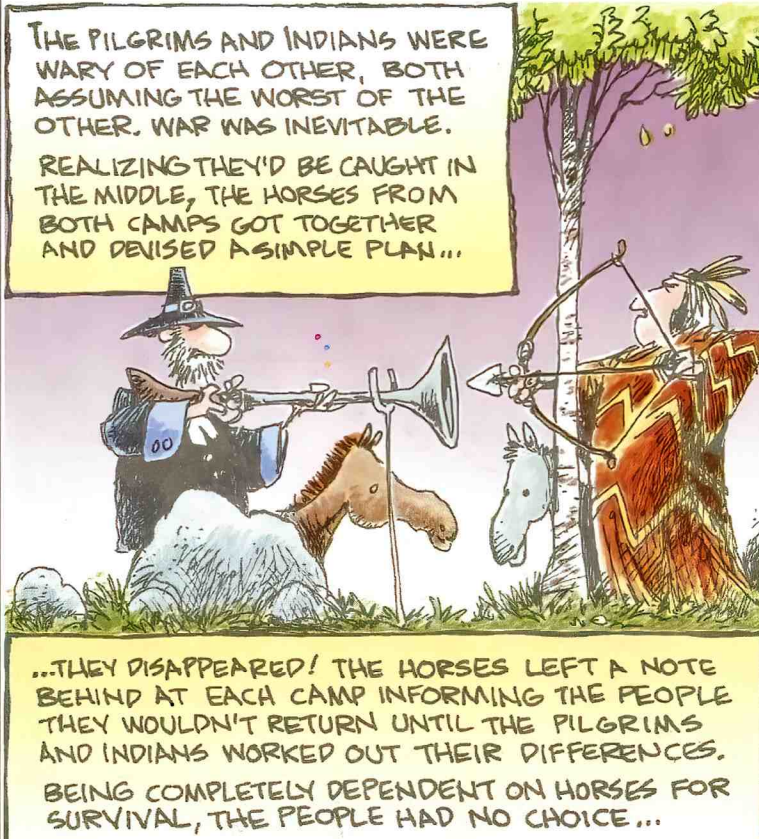
"Justin's speed, focus and experience are exemplary and our decision to put Christian in the race car in no way reflects upon Justin's clear ability as a competitive racing driver," he said.

"We are, however, in discussions with Justin about how Jaguar racing can help with his future career."

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	23	23	24	23	23	23	23
Lo	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
Aden	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	31	33	32	31	32	31	32
Lo	27	27	27	26	24	24	23

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من أجل بشرة أكثر جمالا

كومارك صابون للوجه

- فريد لجمال الوجه
- يزيل الندب والبثور
- أفضل صابون لشوائب الجسم
- مثالي لتبييض الوجه الغامق
- يحافظ على جمال الوجه مساويا للون الجسم

صنع في ألمانيا

كومارك الكريم الليلي

- يزيل الندب والبثور خلال الليل
- يزيل التمش في ثلاثة أسابيع
- يزيل الدوائر القمامة تحت العينين في ثلاثة أسابيع
- يزيل شوائب جلد الوجه في ليال قليلة
- سر جمال الوجه الذي لا يضاهى

صنع في ألمانيا

مايليس كريم طبيعي للتجميل

- يزيل ندبات الجراحة
- يزيل جميع آثار الحروق
- يزيل آثار عمليات التجميل
- يزيل جميع آثار حب الشباب
- يزيل جميع آثار الندبات والجروح
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THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
The way you handle family and friends will be the deciding factor as to the outcome of anything that requires assistance to complete. You may be in need of a change that could revamp your friendships.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
Reevaluating your past in order to move in a direction more suited to your liking is in the picture. A move to another area may be in the works very shortly if you make the right choice today.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
Learning will be half the battle, and having the discipline to follow through will be the other. Someone you meet at an event you attend will give you more to think about.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
You may have a problem with a colleague today. Try to be patient, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. You have a lot to contribute.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
Your decision to move forward will send you on a bit of a whirlwind, but it will also provide you with adventure and experience. You will be thrust into a circle of individuals who can offer very valuable knowledge.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Don't be too quick to take care of everyone else before you take care of yourself. Address each person with a time schedule that will fit well with your own agenda.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Prepare yourself for change and you won't be so surprised when it comes your way. Personal issues may surface that you didn't even know existed. You may have to defend yourself.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Clear up the projects you wanted to finish before the end of the year. Your ability to get things done will enable you to impress people who can make a difference to your future.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You will make things happen today for the people counting on you for entertainment, friendship and help. Taking part in an event that deals with foreign cultures will teach you a great deal.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
It may be difficult to make up your mind today about personal matters. Frustrations can wait until you are better suited to deal with them. Focus on business.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Take the high road and you will be successful. Start your preparation now and you will move quickly into the new year with the prospects of a bright future.

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)
Don't take criticism too personally if it is coming from your peers. A little jealousy may be the reason. Believe in yourself and what you've done.

New format war looms as DVD forum chooses standard

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Toshiba and NEC have won a round in the fight for standardizing the format for DVDs as their technology has been embraced by an industry forum, but the real battle is won by convincing consumers and Hollywood.

Japan's Toshiba and NEC received the support from the DVD Forum last month, but it was only over the weekend that the news spread into the public domain.

Last year, the two companies pitched their version of a blue-laser DVD player against that of a consortium of the world's biggest electronics makers, including Japan's Sony Corp and Matsushita and Dutch firm Philips.

Sony and Philips are also members of the DVD Forum.

Blue-laser DVD players will replace the current generation of red-laser DVD players in a few years time. A blue-laser disc can store around five times more information than red-laser discs -- which is up to three hours of high definition video.

The electronics industry expects that

over the next few years high definition TV will at last reach a critical mass, which in its turn will push the need for higher quality DVDs.

The DVD Forum, an industry association of some 220 electronics and media companies, said it will endorse only one technology. By backing the so-called HD DVD standard from Toshiba and NEC, a new format war is looming.

The electronics industry has plenty of experience with format wars. In fact, the last format war, over recordable DVD discs, is still being fought out in the market.

The DVD Forum did not approve the so-called DVD+RW recordable technology developed by Sony and Philips -- yet, this technology has a significant chunk of the market. Its inventors even claim that it is the dominant standard.

Royalties

Financial analysts said the DVD Forum's choice does not mean Sony and its consortium partners will miss



out on the next stream of technology licensing income, which is what the struggle is really all about.

Licensing fees have become a substantial income source for the notoriously low-margin electronics industry. Philips, for instance, has an official target to double its two to 2.5 percent profit margins with royalty income -- it has a strong patent pool as it has helped invent the CD and the DVD.

Low-cost Chinese electronics makers have often complained about the

high DVD royalty payments, which can run to \$10 per machine. China has therefore invented yet another DVD technology, EVD, which might become a local Chinese standard. For a standard to be successful, the support of Japanese giants Sony and Matsushita, which operates the Panasonic and JVC brands, is crucial, said investment bank J.P. Morgan in a research note. Only with their support will there be sufficient products in the shops.

Asian pirates sell Microsoft's next Windows OS

JOHOR BAHRU, Malaysia (Reuters) - Malaysia's brazen software pirates are hawking the next version of Microsoft Corp's Windows operating system years before it is supposed to be on sale.

Underscoring the scale of U.S. companies' copyright problems in Asia, CDs containing software Microsoft has code named "Longhorn" are on sale for six ringgit (\$1.58) in southern Malaysia. Microsoft's current version of Windows, XP, sells for upwards of \$100 in the United States.

The software is an early version of Longhorn demonstrated and distributed at a conference for Microsoft programmers in Los Angeles in October, Microsoft Corporate Attorney Jonathan Selvasagaram told Reuters.

"It's not a ready product," he said from Malaysia. "Even if it works for a while, I think it's very risky," to install on a home computer, he said.

Chairman Bill Gates has said Longhorn, which is not expected to be released before 2005, would rank as Microsoft's largest software launch this decade.

The software is on sale in the largest shopping complex in Johor Bahru, the Malaysian city bordering Singapore, alongside thousands of pirated programs, music CDs and DVDs.

Discs in plastic covers hang from racks in more than a dozen specialized stores in the Holiday Plaza center, even though it has its own police station.

Such piracy is rampant in Asia, although the United States praised Malaysia for seizing thousands of illegal discs since May. U.S. trade losses due to piracy in Malaysia fell to \$242 million last year from \$316 million in 2001.

Selvasagaram said pirates would shut their shops whenever Malaysian authorities launched a clampdown, only to reopen within days or even hours. He said software companies were working with the authorities on the problem, but the police were more concerned about controlling pornography.

Longhorn promises new methods of storing files, tighter links to the Internet, greater security and fewer annoying reboots, Microsoft has said.

Spammers unleash E-Mail worm to disable critics

LONDON (Reuters) - Anti-spam organizations are the target of a new Internet worm outbreak that tries to knock them offline with a crippling data barrage, computer security experts said Tuesday.

Virus experts believe the worm, W32/Mimail-L, is the work of a vengeful spam e-mail peddler bent on paralyzing organizations that try to deal with spam, the torrents of get-rich-quick schemes and body-enhancement deals that clog in-boxes daily.

"It's the third Mimail variation to come after us, except this one is trying to do more," said Steve Linford, founder of The Spamhaus Project, a British-based group that singles out spammers. Spamhaus was hit by Mimail late Monday.

According to anti-virus and spam-filtering company Sophos Plc, the Mimail-L program comes as an attachment to an e-mail purporting to be from a woman named Wendy who details an erotic encounter and then offers naked photographs.

Clicking on the attachment activates the virus. Once triggered, the worm forwards itself to other e-mail users.

The worm can also turn the affected PC into a "zombie," which can then be remotely commanded to bombard one of a select group of targets, such as Spamhaus, with a disabling blizzard of data -- a so-called denial-of-service attack.

In a new twist, a follow-up e-mail is sent to the infected user stating that an order for a CD containing images of child pornography will be delivered to their postal address.

To stop the order, the e-mail advises,

es, they should respond to what appears to be an e-mail address for billing complaints, but which is actually an e-mail for one of the eight targets.

"So many Internet users are flooding us with complaints about these child porn CDs that we supposedly ordered for them," said Linford, adding that he was cooperating with police.

He believes the worm was the work of one of three organized spam gangs that traffic in stolen credit cards and have hit him with distributed denial-of-service (DDOS) attacks in the past.

"These guys write trojan (viruses), they carry out DDOS attacks and they get their money through selling stolen credit cards and spamming," Linford said.

Virus experts said the outbreak was light compared to the rash of worms and viruses that plagued the Internet last summer. "We have had reports in the dozens, not in the hundreds," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos.

"But what this shows is that there is more evidence that virus writers and spammers are now colluding," he added.

Security experts have been warning that some spammers have adopted virus-writing tactics to silence their biggest critics.

The stakes are high. Anti-spam organizations create black-out lists of known spammers that are then distributed to other Internet service providers to automatically reject messages coming from these sources.

"They are angry with us because we try to stop the spamming cycle," Linford said.

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itsgloballogistic@y.net.ye P.O. Box 25159, Sana'a, R.O.Y. Business Development, 73217750, Customer Service: 73212272 Operations: 73217752 Exemptions: 73214700. Global Logistic Solutions International Freight Forwarding (Land/Sea/ Air). Weather Proof Packing, Removals & Warehousing International Door-to-door services (Worldwide). Customs clearance, Exemptions, www.ITSGLOBALLOGISTICS.COM

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machine, Ladies Tailor- Tailor designer, Tailor with a good experience is required for Beauty Center and Tailors, please contact: 01-441922, 73566232

■ Wanted: Correspondent through the Net for Spectrum Magazine, Ibb univ. For cultural and experience exchange between our university and western universities. This work is volunteering. Please contact to: Sameer Annozaili, P.O.Box: 128-Ibb-Yemen or Sami Ytibb@yahoo.com.

■ A highly qualified, dynamic auto repair and service technician required urgently to manage and run a fully equipped workshop located at a major street in Sana'a on partnership or profit share arrangement. please contact: 418899/ 71101632, Fax: 01-442868

■ Alwaseet Group for Telecom Service, requires a qualified technicians who have enough experience for handset mobile phone repairing, please send C.V's to fax: 40074 or call at: 408509

■ The American International School Announces vacancies for English teachers. Applicants Should have a US native-like accuracy. For details, contact 440466/440468

■ Sana'a Grammar school is looking for music Teacher, please contact 410082-425482.

■ Leader Company needs Trainers in program of SPSS in Taiz, please contact Tel: 04/211401

■ security company for safe keeping and care: head office Sana'a- Taiz street: needs secretary, female and needs other secretary but executioner and trainers, please contact 501706 or 73818132

■ American Academic Institute is looking for teachers who are qualified and experienced enough to teach english for business or business demonstration courses, call to D. Murad, Mobile: 73835748

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A teacher of Islam available for private lessons or classes. Call: AbdulRaman Al-Marwani on 248073.

■ G.P. doctor, having experience in Emergency for many years, a 1997- graduate. Sana'a. Please contact at: 71716893.

■ Dhya'a El-deen jalal, Bs in translation, good experience in correspondences in Arabic and English, ability of using computer and Internet and preparing tenders. Please contact at: 73889710.

■ Marketing and sales manager, 20- years experience, having university degree. Egypt, 3 years in Yemen. Please contact at: 73592815.

■ Young dynamic person having vast working experience, from several countries, is seeking for Administrative, or Exe. Secretary. Good in Computers and English correspondence. Contact: 73816219.

■ Good qualified finance lady candidate looking for part time job. Please contact : 71143269.

■ Excellent English, Computer courses, Toefl, experience in Yemen & Emirates, please contact 345517, 73842717

■ A university graduate, having a bachelor degree of arts, department of english, looking for a teacher job in a private school or any job related to my specialization, please call 04/502401

■ Nagi Al-Taivell, holding a degree in Dental, Seeking work in a dental clinic or Hospital, please contact: 73882111

■ A university graduate, having a bachelor degree in Arts, department of English, looking for a teacher job in a private school or any job related to my specialization, please call at: 04/502401.

■ Abduh Naji Al-Zakri, date of birth 1980, having a bachelor degree in English studies, looking for a driver job with a foreign company or any local company, please contact on mobile: 71829159

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■ For rent villa two story, 10 rooms, 4 bths. good location in Haddah area., good office location, monthly rent \$ 1,200. please contact Ahmed Muraisi: 73802855. Ramadan hours 11a.m-5p.m and 8p.m-midnight.

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■ For rent 2 openings, (show rooms) 14 m.x7m. apx. with 2nd level attic. Haddah st. near shammur building, will available on dec. 1, 003. Pleases contact Ahmed Muraisi: 73802855.

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■ One story and basement, 3 bed rooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, dinning room, study, kitchen with cupboards,

Vehicles

■ For sale: Toyota Prado, 1998, in a very good condition. Customs to be settled by buyer. Interested persons to present their bids in closed envelopes within 2 weeks as from the date of publishing of this ad. to the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Sana'a. For further information: 421800.

■ For sale Toyota Camry, StationWagon, in a very good condition and price is negotiable. Please contact Jamal: 73706820.

■ For sale Toyota, Prado model 1998, in a good condition. Please contact: Umm Aymen 421800.

■ New land cruisers 2003-2004, Prado new cars and Hilux new cars. Please contact: Abdullah Ahmed: 71739768.

■ Ford Expedition in Excellent condition, while color 35000k in good price

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garden, 3-4 car parking, and a large terrace, Haddah area, monthly rent \$ 1,000, please contact Ahmed Muraisi on 73802855

■ A two story villa in Al-Asbahi along its Yard, each story has 5 rooms and 2 bedrooms, for more information please contact Tel: 73677128

■ For rent a two floors Villa with stone tiled courtyard, part of it is a garden, both the floors consist of 8 rooms one saloon, 2big halls, 4bathrooms, 2 kitchens, and 4 telephone lines, Located at Haddah St. near french embassy sana'a, please contact Mr. salem at Tel: 01-240310/504811/12 sana'a

■ A building for rent, consists of 18 apartments, located at Haddah St. in front of Shamar Hotel, for more information please contact Tel: 71110023

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■ For sale Vw-Polo classic car model 2001, please contact 71616171

■ For sale Corona Toyota car 1989, in a very good condition, please contact: 71102061

■ To buy: Corolla, in a very good condition and a good price please contact : 71104733

■ For sale: KIA car model 91, in a very good condition with a prize of 330.000 YR. please contact Mohamed on Mobile: 71921072.

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■ To buy: 92 model Mercedes benz Around 900,000 Riyals contact: Mr. Shibly Al-shamiry, 71277523.

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■ For sale PIH in a very good condition 512 Ram, 500 mhz, 20Gb hard disk, cd Rom, prize \$250 not ready for negotiation, please contact Mr. Abdulla Ahmed, Mobile: 71176455

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■ For sale: Nokia phone 6210, good condition, good price. Please contact Mansoor, mobile: 73707211.

■ For sale: Nokia phone 9210i in a good price, 3 months used, please contact Mr. Sami, Tel: 73216368

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الصحيحي للتواصل: ٧٣٨٠٨٥٠.

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شرقي، مساحة الأرض ٨٠٥ لبة بالقرب من شارع
٥٠ متر و شارع الرئاسة. السعر ٤١,٠٠٥,٠٠٠
اربعة عشر مليون و خمسمائة ألف ريال
للتواصل: ٧٣٨٠٨٥٠.

للبيع: ارضية على شارعین أحدهم شارع ٢٢
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مساحة الأرض ٩ ريفية (لن تسع لن قفط) و الموقع
حد. السعر ١,٠٥٠,٠٠٠ مليون و مائة و خمسين
ألف ريال للبة الواحدة للتواصل: ٧٣٨٠٨٥٠.

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البحر، مساحتها ١٠٠٠ متر مربع، مسطحة،

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تصنيع و التاجر والعروض وتصميم قوالب
المكان حسب الطلب على البارد، للتواصل:
٧٣٦٣٥٥٨.

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شركة تجارية عبر الانترنت للتواصل: ٤٠٨٨٩
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عبد ناجي يحيى الزكري، حاصل على ليسانس
لغة إنجليزية، خبرة في القيادة، أرغب في العمل
كمندوب مبيعات أو في التوزيع لدى شركة أو مؤسسة
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ماجستير حسابة بشعبه جديد، شهادة
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متخصصة، خبرة في مجال الحاسبات والإنترنت
و المراسلات بالبريد الإلكتروني، أرغب في العمل لدى
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علاء مسلم الحاري، عراقي الجنسية، حاصل على
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اللغة الألمانية والتحدث بها بطلاقة، معرفة في
اللغة الإنجليزية، دورية في ويندوز، أرغب في العمل
في المجال السياحي كمرشد سياحي، للتواصل:
٧٣٦٣٥٥٨.

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شارع القص، رقم ١٣ عمارة
العوي، خلف البنك العربي،
صنعا، تلفون: ٢٧٢٩٧٦

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المنظم مع خبرة في مجال الحاسبة لا تقل عن
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٣- موظفة في قسم مبيعات تذاكر طيران مع توفر
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التواصل: ٧١٧٢٩٧/٦٠٣٠٧ صنعا.

يعلم كوافير العود، شارع بينون عن حاجته
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على: ٧١١٢٤٩٦

مطلوب: مشغل خياطة، خياطات بخبرة جيدة،
مفصلة ازياء، ت: ٤٤٩٤٢٢-٧٣٦٣٢٢

مطلوب: لمركب تجميل، محببة بمعرفة تامة، مخفظة
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مطلوب: موظف مبيعات في مجال السفريات لدى
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صنعا، الرجاء، التواصل على: ٧٣٧٧٠٣٥.

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اللغة بالغة الإنجليزية، صنعا، الهاتف: ٥٢٠٥٥-
فاكس: ٥٢٠٥٩٦.

شركة رائدة في مجال الإعلانات و وظائف
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الشركة عبر هاتف: ٥٠٣٥٦/٧ صنعا.

خبرة تجميل وتجهيز عرائس، خبرة بشره ذات
خبرة على أجهزة البشرة الكيز، مصممة تفصيل
وقص وخياطة، خياطات بمعرفة باليد والدور،
مخفظة ومحببة، للتواصل على: ت: ٤٤٩٢٤-٥٠١

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الطفي) شارع بيروت، ت: ٢٨٥٨٧٧
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٢٦١٨١٨، ص.ب: ١٩٠٥٦

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مطلوب: مهندس مدني شرط ان يكون
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السفير للترجمة صنعا، ش. الزيري، أمام
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مطلوب: كوافير لدية خبرة سابقة
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[illegible]

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الموظفين. التواصل: ٧٣٨١-٤٦٦ ٧٣٤٥٢٥٠
صنعاء.

■ مؤسسة إعلانية رائدة تعلن عن حاجتها إلى
مندوبي ومندوبات تسويق لأبوابها، من يجد في نفسه
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■ مطلوب: مندوب عمل لشركة أدوية على أن يكون
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■ مطلوب: مدير عام، مهندس تجاريين عدد ٤ مدراء،
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٧٣٠١٢٩ صنعاء

■ مطلوب: مبرمج مشروع طرقات متخصص في
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■ مطلوب مهندس مدني (مساحة) بشرط الخبرة في
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■ مطلوب: مدير مبيعات بشرط أن يكون لديه خبرة
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■ مدرس رياضيات وفيزياء لكل المراحل اللغتين
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العملات. **TOEFL** و **IELTS** للتواصل: ٦٠٤٠٦

■ ضياء الدين جلال، بكالوريوس ترجمة، خبرة في
المراسلة التجارية باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية،
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■ حاصل على الشهادة العامة (علمي)، بدوام
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عد الله)

■ استاذ جامعي بكتايب الحقن المصرية. مستعد
لشروع اعداد القائلون لطلبة كلية الحقن، وقضين
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■ اذارت تدريس طفلك أو اطفالك لاحدى أحد
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■ حسان مصطفی صبحي، (طب عام ٢٠٢٠م)
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■ المهندس لقمان حبيب، مهندس ميكانيك

■ **للبيع:** أراضي تجارية: ١ منطقة عدد ٢٨، تسع
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■ عمارة مكونة من شقة واسعة ويوجد في
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■ **للبيع:** أرضية: حرة، مسورة، شوارع مسفلت، تقع
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■ **للبيع:** مواقع تجارية على شارع ٢٢م^٢، مسكلت
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■ **للبيع:** أرضية: حرة، في عدد خلف فندق حدة
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■ **دور وبدروم كبير، جديد، بناه جريوان**
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■ **للبيع:** سيارة فئترا جديدة، بأربعة أبواب، كاملة
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■ **للبيع:** سيارة هوندا موتو ٨٦ اكرو
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■ **للبيع:** سيارة سوزوكي كوري ٨٢ و بسعر
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■ **للبيع:** فورد اكسبيديون حالتها ممتازة، مويل
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■ **للبيع:** سيارات صالين جديدة ٢٠٠٤-٢٠٠٥
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■ **للبيع:** سياره مرسيدس سوار، اللون E٢٣٠
مويل ٤٢ بحالة جيدة ونظيفة وسعر معقول جداً
للتواصل منصور: ٧٣٧١١٠٧٧١

■ **للبيع:** راس فاطمة راس FH٧٢ حوالي ٩٩
وشيل كورسبوتو مستعمل ١٠٠ كيلو فقط حديث
بمواصفات الايطا وسعر ومجموعة دايكاست
مويل عن ٩٢ - ٩٨ و اوسا دايهاتسو موبلات من
٩٨ - ٢٠٠ و سيارات اخرى، التواصل: عبدالله
أحمد محمد: ٧٣٧٧٩٧٨

■ **للبيع:** سيارة جريوان، حوالي ٨٧ مويل، ريتي،
جديد، ثلعة ١,٠٠٠ كم، بدون جمرار، كماله
١٥٠,٠٠٠ كما يوجد جريوان بايجور، حوالي ٧٣
طويل، لونها ابيض، نظيفة، لون زيتي-
السعر ٨٥٠,٠٠٠ للتواصل المهندس خالد اليوسفي
على: ٧٣٧١٢٢٢

■ **للبيع:** اجنيتي ديزل ببيع سيارته، رارك ٤ (بترو)

For a bizarre speech given in 2002: Rumsfeld wins "Foot in Mouth" award

LONDON (Reuters) - A bizarre comment by U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on the hunt for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has been awarded the "Foot in Mouth" prize by the Plain English Campaign.

Rumsfeld, renowned for his uncompromising tough talking, received the prize for the most baffling comment by a public figure.

"Reports that say something hasn't happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know," Rumsfeld told a press briefing.

"We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns -- the ones we don't know we don't know."

John Lister, spokesman for the campaign which strives to have public information deliv-

ered in clear, straightforward English, said: "We think we know what he means. But we don't know if we really know."

Although Rumsfeld's comments were made at a press briefing in February 2002, they were nominated for this year's award.

Rumsfeld, whose boss U.S. President George W. Bush is often singled out by language critics for his sometimes unusual use of English, took the booby prize ahead of a bizarre effort from actor-turned politician Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"I think that gay marriage is something that should be between a man and a woman," was the odd statement from the new California Governor.

Previous holders of the award include U.S. actress Alicia Silverstone and Chancellor Gordon Brown. Last year's winner was actor Richard Gere.



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld speaks on NBC's "Meet the Press" during a taping at the NBC studios in Washington, November 2. Rumsfeld was awarded the "Foot in Mouth" award for a bizarre speech given in 2002 on the hunt for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. REUTERS

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Palestinian baby shows signs of a miracle

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (Reuters) - A baby born in Bethlehem is drawing crowds by the thousands. Palestinians in the West Bank town revered by Christians as Jesus' birthplace have been thronging to the adjacent Aida refugee camp for a glimpse of the 11-day-old infant many are calling a "miracle baby."

The boy has gained attention for being born with a large birthmark across his cheek that roughly forms in Arabic letters the name of his uncle, Ala, a Hamas militant killed by Israeli troops after he was alleged to have planned a suicide bombing.

The family, devout Muslims, called it a divine message of support for the Palestinians against Israel.

The Israeli army declined comment but one security source said: "It sounds very

freaky." The family denied any hoax.

The security source said the baby's uncle, who was shot dead eight months ago, was suspected of masterminding a bombing that killed 12 people on a Jerusalem bus in November 2002.

Cradling the baby in her arms, the infant's grandmother, Aysha Ayyad, 58, said her son secretly joined the Islamic group Hamas shortly after he was beaten by Israeli soldiers.

She said the birthmark was a sign "the soldiers can kill our sons but not our spirit." She voiced hope Israelis and Palestinians would make peace and allow her grandson to grow up free from violence.

As she spoke, an Israeli army patrol fired teargas at stone-throwing youths near-

by. Despite the commotion, the imam from the camp's main mosque entered the crowded living room, traced a finger along the swirling birthmark -- which finishes behind the baby's right ear -- and pronounced it a "gift from God."

Adding to a tale spread mostly by word of mouth and published Monday in the Jerusalem Post, the baby -- named in honor of his dead uncle -- was born on the 27th day of the holy month of Ramadan, revered as the night the Koran was revealed to the prophet Mohammad.

When local Muslim clerics learned of the baby's birthmark, they announced it on mosque loudspeakers. The family said several thousand people had converged on the house since then.



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