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Names kept secret ... for now

Key Arabs funding terror?

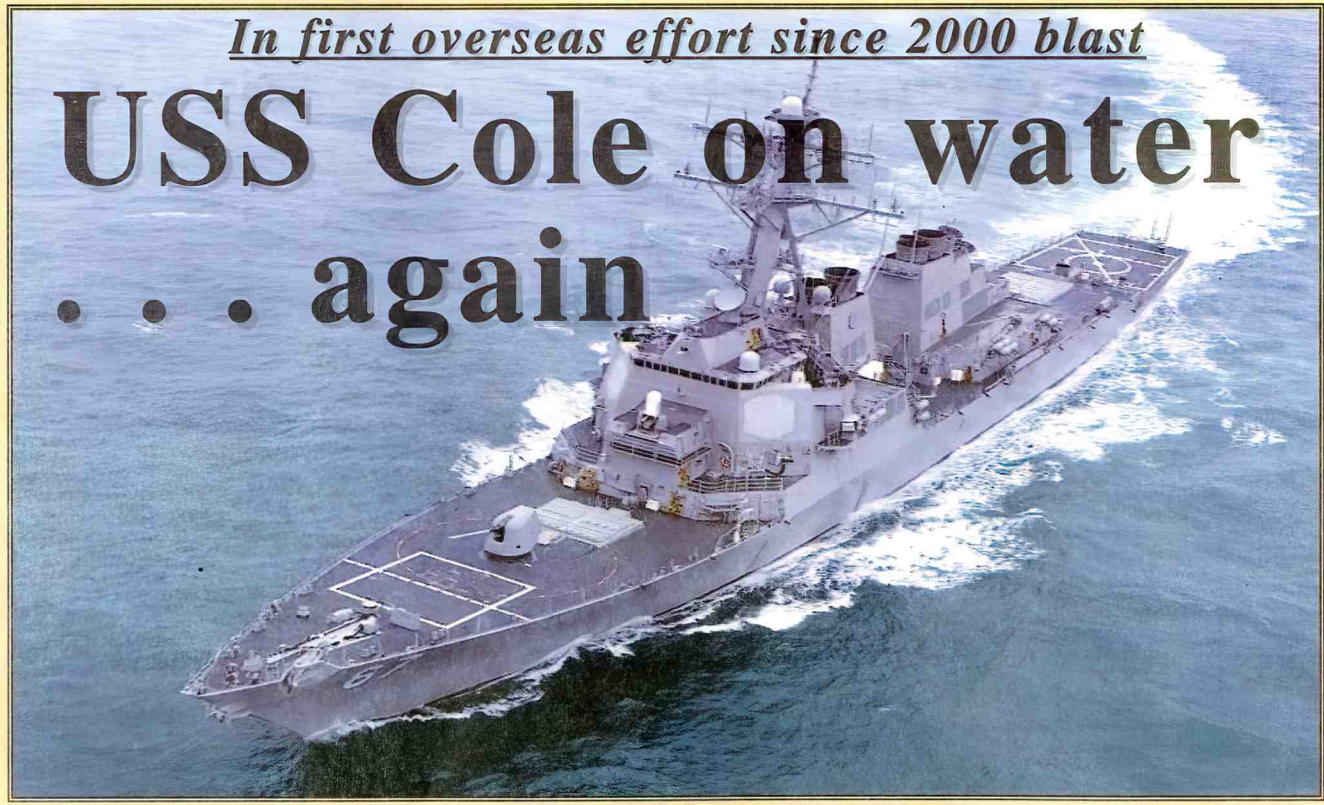
BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
AND NEWS SERVICES

SANA'A, Dec. 6 — The initial interrogation of a top figure in the Yemen branch of Al-Qaeda, Mohamed Hamdi Al-Ahdal, alias Abu Issam Al-Maki, has revealed financial dealings between him and important figures in Arab countries.

"Ahdal provided important information to Yemeni investigators which implicates important personalities in Arab states regarding financial dealings with Ahdal," a source close to the investigation said. The ongoing investigation is likely to reveal additional important information about terrorist operations in Yemen in recent years and the identity of those involved, he added.

the key Arabs linked to al-Qaeda funding at the moment for security reasons. They believe Ahdal is 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 a November 2002 in a missile attack by the US Central Intelligence Agency in the desert region of Al-Naqaa in Marib province, east of Sanaa.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



In first overseas effort since 2000 blast

USS Cole on water ... again

After extensive repairs following the October 2000 terrorist attack in Aden, the USS Cole is seen here after it returned to the fleet. She is seen here on sea trials, which were carried out in April 2003. (Reuters Photo)

NORFOLK, Va. — The USS Cole and its crew of 340 pulled out of port this week for the destroyer's first overseas deployment since bombed by terrorists in Aden in 2000. A crowd of about 100 family members watched as the ship left the Naval Station Norfolk at 12:55 p.m. "The families are sad to see their sailors leave, but they know they have a job," said Lieutenant Junior Grade Kelley Anderson, a

Navy spokeswoman. The guided-missile destroyer was brought back to the United States and underwent \$250 million in repairs at Northrop Grumman's Ingalls shipyard in Mississippi following the Oct. 12, 2000, attack. Two suicide bombers had driven an explosive-packed boat into the side of the Cole, tearing a large hole in it. The explosion killed 17 crew members, wounded 39, and nearly sank the destroyer. Earlier this week, Yemeni security forces captured the suspected mastermind of the

attack, Mohammed Hamdi al-Ahdal. A US counterterrorism official in Washington who confirmed the Tuesday capture said Ahdal had been among the top 20 Al Qaeda figures at large. The Cole and two other destroyers in the Norfolk-based Surface Strike Group, the USS Thorn and USS Gonzalez, are now scheduled to head to the Mediterranean Sea for about six months, Anderson said. Officially, they are part of the Enterprise carrier strike group, which left in October.

Suspects in Hashid?

Official killed in ambush

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES
The governor of the southeastern Yemeni province of Shabwa, Ali Ahmad Arrassas, was injured and his brother, an intelligence officer, killed Dec. 4 in a highway ambush. Police said the governor was traveling to Shabwa from the province of Al-Baidhaa

when gunmen opened fire on his car. They said the governor escaped the apparent assassination bid with arm injuries while his brother, Mersas Ahmad Arrassas, was killed on the spot. The attack took place near Masuara town on a highway linking Shabwa with Al-Baidhaa, 170 km south of Sanaa. Medical sources said the governor was immediately taken to a hospital in Al-Baidhaa for surgery, and then brought to Sanaa on a military helicopter for further medical treatment. Sources close to the governor accused the fundamentalist groups al-Hijrah and Takfeer of being responsible. Although the interior ministry described the attack as a criminal incident, it did not deny information linking it to those extremists.

Other sources said that tribal conflict between the governor and the attackers is the cause. The interior ministry said security people are looking for the suspects. Tribal sources in the area told Yemen Times that the attackers escaped to Hashid for tribal protection. It was the second highway killing in two days. On Dec. 2, a man from Aal Jam'an (Al-Jid'an) tribe was killed by military police at a checkpoint on the Sana'a - Marib highway. Sources indicated police shot the man as he did not stop his vehicle, which was allegedly stolen. The incident intensified the tense relationship between Al-Kureimat tribe and the military police on duty, indicating that it may be a revenge for their colleagues killed by the tribe prior to Eid Al-Fitr.

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Pled guilty in plea bargain Yemeni gets 10 years in U.S. jail

BUFFALO, N.Y. (Reuters) - One of six Yemeni-American men who admitted taking military-style training with al Qaeda before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks was sentenced to 10 years in prison on Wednesday in a case the Bush administration said was a model for fighting its war on terrorism.

Mukhtar al-Bakri, 23, told FBI agents when he was arrested hours after his wedding in Bahrain last year that he and five acquaintances from the former steel town of Lackawanna near Buffalo, New York, on the Canadian border attended a camp in Afghanistan run by Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network in spring 2001.

Mukhtar al-Bakri, 23, told FBI agents when he was arrested hours after his wedding in Bahrain last year that he and five acquaintances from the former steel town of Lackawanna near Buffalo, New York, on the Canadian border attended a camp in Afghanistan run by Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network in spring 2001.

U.S. District Court Judge William Skretny sentenced al-Bakri, the youngest, to 10 years in prison and ordered that he be supervised for three years following his release. The judge also imposed a fine of \$2,000 on al-Bakri, who wore casual clothes in court and at one point smiled nervously.

"By your own admission you broke the law," the judge said. "You are not being punished for the actions of al Qaeda worldwide, not for what you think or the possibility that you may be dangerous or ... simply for your association with others who may or may not

be terrorists."

Al-Bakri and the others pleaded guilty to giving "material support to a foreign terrorist organization" by providing "personnel" under a 1996 anti-terrorism law. Initially, all pleaded not guilty when they were indicted in October 2002.

Al-Bakri was the first to be sentenced and over the next two weeks, the other five were to receive their prison terms under a plea deal. They face between seven and 10 years.

Earlier this year, the men known as the "Lackawanna 6" struck plea bargains in exchange for lighter sentences. If they had gone to trial and been convicted, they faced a possible 25 years imprisonment.

The government's case against the men, pushed as part of the U.S. war on terrorism, was criticized by civil rights lawyers for putting Americans in jail for guilt by association with the militant Islamist group blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked plane strikes and other attacks.

The six were never accused of involvement in the attacks or planning another one, or any violent crime. Prosecutors said they engaged in a "conspiracy of silence" after returning home to the United States after their visit to the al Farooq camp between April and June 2001.

Al-Bakri said in his May 19 plea agreement that he met personally with bin Laden. At the camp, he received instruction in using firearms, including a Kalashnikov rifle, 9mm handgun, M16 automatic rifle and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

Free speech, education, women's rights are keys

Arab Human Development Report released

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's release of the Second Arab Human Development Report: Building a Knowledge Society was held last Thursday.

The release of the report, which shines a light on progress in the Arab world, was co-sponsored by the UNDP and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

In his speech, Dr. Abdulkareem al-Iryani, one of the report's readers, said that Arabs must be empowered by knowledge and skills to be able to join the new century with its challenges and needs.

He stressed that the Arab world needs to pursue freedom of speech and expression; overhaul its education to turn it into a knowledge producer rather than a mere consumer, so it can improve its economic drive.

He also demanded that women in Arab countries be given more freedom and be empowered to carry out their roles in development.

He said that the launch and debate of such reports is of great significance as it informs the public and enhances the debate between the decision-makers and the public.

Iryani showed optimism that something can be done to face the social, economic and political challenges.

UNDP representative James Rawley also highlighted the importance of issuing such reports.

"Since the first report was launched, several Arab governments and institutions have taken significant steps towards grappling with the challenges it set out. In line with the first report's recommendations, several Arab countries crossed new thresholds, especially in terms of empowering women and enhancing their political participation," he said.

He highlighted the report's comment that Arab countries will not be able to make much progress in the long term without acquiring both knowledge and the technological capacities that are the lifeblood of prosperity in the new millennium.

However, Rawley pointed out that the potential for developing knowledge capabilities of Arab countries is enormous. "Human capital in the Arab world, under more promising conditions, could offer a substantial base for an Arab knowledge renaissance," he said.

"It is hoped that Arab countries will pay close attention to the methods for improving and accelerating the production, diffusion, and application of knowledge in all economic, social and political fields; and for raising the level of Arab human development," he added, noting that over the next two years, further reports will examine other critical challenges facing the region-freedom.

Ahmad Sufan, Vice PM and Minister of Development and International Cooperation (DIC), said that the report should be debated in each Arab state and that Yemen, through the Consultative Council, DIC and in cooperation with the UNDP would run a series of debate and discussions with a participation of a number of Yemeni intellectuals so as to study and scrutinize the report which he said has even given the useful proposals.

The most important issues in the report were presented followed by debates and discussion on the part of the people who attended the event.

The report affirms that knowledge can help the region to expand the scope of human freedoms, enhance the capacity to guarantee those freedoms through good governance and achieve the higher moral human goals of justice and human dignity. It also underlines the importance of knowledge to Arab countries as a powerful driver of economic growth through higher productivity.

Its closing section puts forward a vision for creating knowledge-based societies in the Arab world based on five pillars: guaranteeing key freedoms; disseminating quality education; embedding science; shifting towards knowledge-based production; and developing an enlightened Arab knowledge model.

Bajamal blames terrorism for lack of democracy

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajamal blames violence and terror attacks and the absence of tolerance and dialogue in the Arab world for a lack of democracy and misleading ideology.

He said in his speech to the 31st annual meeting of the Arab News Agencies in Sana'a Saturday that "mistaken policies and false ideologies have been the reason for our Arab nation's political, economic and security collapse."

"We have dealt with falsehood and avoided the truth and we ended up into misleading the conscious of the

people, setting up a totalitarian and nihilist sense and the result is this disaster," he added.

He said "we all do not like the truth as our culture has been set up on the basis of sentimental favoritism."

He called on the chiefs of these news agencies to avoid favoritism, working hard to make news information a means to produce a culture that can accept but the truth, away from being influenced by the political, social or cultural sentimentalism.

He pointed out the importance of belief in transparency, credibility and openness to cope with the needs to live in a democratic society.

"The new technological era entails that we must deal with the truth

regardless of the ideologists and politicians attempts to shape according to their own satisfactions," he said.

On his part, Nasr Taha Mustafa, head of board and chief editor of Yemen News Agency - Saba, said that the meeting is significant as it is being held in the light of the changes that came as a result of the Iraq war, adding that the developments in the political and security levels will find their way to and influence on the programs and policies of media.

The meeting discussed several issues related to the work of the Arab news agencies and their cooperation and elected a new administrative authority.

American delegation in Sana'a

By Hasan Al-Zayedi
Yemen Times Staff

An American delegation with officials from the Department of State, National Security and Customs and Revenue Service arrived in Sana'a Dec. 6.

This is the first visit of an American delegation after the successful operation executed by the Yemeni security

forces in apprehending Abu Asim, the second in command in Al-Qaeda in Yemen, and three of his companions in Sana'a on Nov. 26.

The delegation, whose visit lasts for five days, will discuss several security issues with Yemeni officials as well as the support which the United States will give to Yemen in order to improve work mechanisms at border crossings and airports, in addition to customs

cooperation and the fight against smuggling.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that the United States expressed its annoyance because some terrorist elements in Saudi Arabia obtained American-made surface-to-air (SAM) missiles, which were sold to the Yemeni Ministry of Defense, but somehow were bought by terrorists who in turn smuggled them into Saudi Arabia.

Readers' Voice

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

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

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

Do you believe that the Geneva peace accord is helpful in bringing peace to the Middle East?

- Yes, it is a positive step.
- No, it is a setback.
- It depends...

LAST EDITION'S

QUESTION:

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

- Yes, he was indeed 35%
- He was not responsible for them in any way 31%
- He is among many who were responsible for them 26%
- He does belong to a terrorist group but had nothing to do with them 8%

Go to our website at:
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nation 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. SGP 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 deferent 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>

In Brief

Man killed on Sana'a - Marib highway

A man from Aal Jam'an (Al-Jid'an) tribe was shot dead last Tuesday by the military police at a checkpoint on the Sana'a - Marib highway.

Sources indicated that the police shot the man as he did not stop his vehicle, which was allegedly stolen.

The incident intensified the already tense relationship between Al-Kureimat tribe and the military police on duty, indicating that it may be a revenge for their colleagues killed by the tribe prior to Eid Al-Fitr holidays.

Yemen supports giving Iran observer seat at AL

An official at the Yemeni foreign ministry has said that Yemen welcomes Iran's request to participate in the Arab League as an observer member.

The official said that "Yemen notified the AL about its consent on the Iranian request, and also its welcome of the participation of any Islamic state at the AL as an observer member." The official added that "this participation is to enhance the role of the Arab League, and the fraternal cooperation between the Arab and Islamic states."

The spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry Hamid Rida Asifi said that Iran asked for the participation in the AL as an observer.

Fingerprints for Visas now

The American Embassy in Sana'a announced on Dec. 3 that a new system for issuing U. S. visas will go into effect starting Dec. 13. This new system, according to the U. S. Consul Susan Alexander, makes use of the applicant's electronic fingerprints, which is considered one of the effective techniques in the fight against terrorism.

Alexander pointed out that it also comes within the framework of international efforts for improving the techniques of identifying travelers, and hinders their movements within the United States. She indicated that this system is implemented in many countries of the world.

Yemeni Lawyers Union attends meetings in Beirut

The Yemeni Lawyers Union, is attending meetings of the Arab Bar Association which will convene in Beirut, Lebanon during the period 8th through 10th of December. The Lawyers Union delegation will be headed by Mr. Abulfattah Saleh Al-Baseer, Yemeni Lawyers Union Chairman.

The delegation comprises of Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Rajih, Mr. Salahdeen Hamed, Mr. Najeeb Khameesh, and Mr. Abdullah Abdullah Al-Mahdi as members.

During Eid, 141 accidents kill 32

Traffic Departments in all governorates of the Republic recorded 141 traffic accidents during the Eid Al-Fitr holidays varying from hitting pedestrians, collisions, capsizing, etc., resulting in 32 fatalities, and 206 injuries. Sana'a alone had the lion's share of those traffic accidents as it recorded 75, with 7 fatalities and 61 injuries, 34 of which are serious. Officials in the Traffic Department indicated that Sana'a usually comes on top of the list of any statistics including traffic accidents as holidays are usually associated with traffic jams.

Wife murderer found dead in cell

Awadh Mohammed Awadh Al-Sammakh, a convicted prisoner for the murder of his wife, was found dead in his cell during the Eid holidays, in the Central Prison in Taiz.

Awadh had killed his wife in the coastal city of Mukha, on the Red Sea.

The security authorities in Taiz have conducted an investigation to determine the reasons for death.

Water managers get trained

A three-day training course for managers of the water and sanitation sector was started in Sana'a Dec. 6.

Organized by the General Establishment for Water and in cooperation with the German project (GTZ). 21 trainees from the Ministry of Water and Environment, General Establishment for Water, and local establishments in all governorates of the Republic took part.

The course offered a number of lectures on various skills, and methods of delegating authorities to middle management.

Forum meets to discuss key issues

Local governance key to stability

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Organized by the UNDP's Regional Bureau of Arab States (RBAS), a four-day Arab States Local Governance Forum has been held to strengthen democratic decentralization and local governance in Arab states.

The forum was to provide a platform for building advocacy networks throughout the region, and provide a space for networking, and documenting best practices and lessons for the region.

The event was intended to be a policy-oriented event of concrete relevance and utility to the participants, so they will have the chance to learn from the past experience of multiple stakeholders and define future directions and strategies for improving local governance in the region through local efforts.

In his speech, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, UNDP Deputy Regional Director, said that holding this forum has been a priority for the Arab States Bureau and UNDP "due to the critical importance of local governance for overall governance."

"Without the involvement of local governance within the decision-making processes and systems of central government, good governance can not materialize. It is the integration of all levels of government with its citizens that defines good democratic governance."

He pointed out that the Arab States region has shown progress in the area of local governance over the last several years as some of these countries have instituted local elections.

Many have renewed municipal legislation, introduced new regulations and invested in building the capacity of local authorities.

He said that governance is UNDP's main area of focus, and thus as a globally networked organization, we can provide both the lessons learned and best practices found around the world.

Arab States country offices have used



or will be using a variety of entry-points including: policy issues and support for legislative reform; information and communication technology or reinforce participatory processes; engaging citizens and local communities in policy dialogue, agenda-setting and local/municipal affairs; strengthening the role of the non-governmental organizations in local governance; introducing municipal elections; strengthening the capacity of local governments in participatory planning; promoting women's participation; supporting fiscal decentralization; and developing public service delivery structures, he said.

He also said that the UNDP will be working with governments in the region on providing e-governance solutions on all levels.

James Rawley, UNDP resident representative in Yemen highlighted some of the good steps Yemen has taken in terms of local governance as well as at the political and economic levels.

In spite of these achievements, according to Rawley, Yemen continues to be classified as one of the least developed countries in the world. He said that Yemen's government started reforms with respect to local governance but to him, "the government fully recognizes that decentralization reforms are not yet

always felt on the ground."

These years after their election, most district local authorities do not yet function as the law intends them to. Indeed, with some notable exceptions, councils do not yet have the administrative capacity to plan for their jurisdictions' development, nor do they possess sufficient financial resources for local service delivery.

And much work has to be done to establish mechanisms for holding local authorities accountable, he said

According to Rawley, decentralization reforms everywhere, and certainly in Yemen, raise formidable implementation challenges of both an administrative and fiscal nature.

"For decentralization to be formidable, newly created local authorities need support for the development of local administrative and technical capacities and require adequate funds to address local needs," he stressed.

He said that decentralization and local governance can be key factors on the path towards promoting and enhancing equitable human development in the region, adding that the decentralization initiative in Yemen is both sincere and ambitious. However, making decentralization a reality presents an enormous challenge for

31st conference Arab News Agencies meet in Sana'a



By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) ended its three-day 31st conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Sana'a on Dec. 8.

The conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister with the attendance of several government officials, leaderships of local news agencies, correspondents of newspapers and news agencies, and Arab and international radio and television channels correspondents as well.

The conference discussed a number of topics relating to the present and future of the Arab Agencies, and the mechanisms of improving their performance and capabilities as well as improving their foundations.

The conference also discussed the relationships with other regional and international news agencies.

In his opening remarks, the Prime Minister pointed to the importance of the conference in enhancing the role of the Arab media in the context of truth, sensitivity, the opinion and the other opinion. He called upon them to renew the mechanisms of their performance improvement in line with globalization and modern technologies such as the Internet and similar capabilities.

Nasr Taha Mustafa, Chairman of the Board of Yemen News Agency, Saba,

said in his remarks: "The core of the conference discussions aimed at tightening professional ties among Arab agencies, and created better potentials for distributing their news materials among themselves. This pours in the direction of enhancing the role of Arab new agencies and their presence in international media arenas."

The conference also evaluated the Federation's methodic activities, contributions, foreign relations and their effects on professional and technical improvements which the member agencies are executing.

The Chairman of the Federation of Arab News Agencies, Ahmad Al-Hamr, said that the conference came out with good results by accomplishing the tasks relating to the field of joint media cooperation, and extending the connection bridges with similar regional and international masses.

The General Secretariat of the Federation of Arab News Agencies, Faeed Ayyar, explained that the work of the conference included several topics pertaining to the profession of journalism, and the activities of Arab news agencies, and said: "The Conference discussed a number of studies and papers presented such as the Arabization of the Internet, plus a number of agreement projects between the Federation and a number of similar media organizations and establishments."

Traffic accidents down this Eid

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF TAIZ

The Eid holidays is usually a time when people use roads excessively whether on highways or in cities, as they head either to another city in the Republic or a village to spend the holidays with their loved ones.

And with these traffic activities, accidents, sometimes very tragic, take place. Not as many this year! At least in Taiz.

The average of accidents in Taiz governorate declined, and Yemen Times obtained a summary of traffic statistics during this year's Eid holidays which came only 25 traffic accidents that caused the death of 4 males, and 2 females, 9 serious injuries and 24 minor injuries.

Speeding was the cause of 12 accidents, technical faults 2, driver negligence 3 and pedestrian negligence 3.

Financial loss is estimated at YR 1.4 million.

This shows the relative decline from last year's Eid holidays where the total accidents reached 31 with the death of 6 males, 3 females, 42 serious injuries, and 52 minor injuries.

Last year there were 21 vehicular accidents against pedestrians 21, 12 collisions 12, five and turnovers The financial loss was estimated at YR 1.8 million.

The decline of traffic accidents is attributed to the efforts exerted by the Traffic Department in Taiz under the leadership of Colonel Yahya Mohammed Zaher.

Those efforts adopted an aggressive campaign to educate the general public on traffic and fostered the issuance of Nida' Assalamah (safety call) periodical whose editor-in-chief is Abdulkareem Mohammed Al-Aroof.

This shows improvements which the Taiz Traffic Department is undergoing, and its effective utilization of all available resources.

Continued from page 1

Key Arabs funding terror?

Al-Ahdal was arrested in Sana'a Nov. 25, along with other four men. He 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 Yemen's coast.

Meanwhile, the government denies reports that plotted terrorist attacks targeting some important institutions have been recently foiled.

A Yemeni official described such information as "baseless."

However, some security and media reports confirm that terrorist operations were thwarted. Security sources said that the plot was meant to attack the premises of a key television and radio station, the ministry of information, the passport and immigration authority and some other important trade centers.

The number of the arrested people behind the plot is not known.

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Yemen.

A press release issued by UNDP/ Yemen office said that many Arab countries in the region have undertaken some steps 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 makes the undermined local authorities

unable to meet expectations and this erodes participation which is very important for good local governance.

The event addressed several other issues related to local governance, like national legal frameworks and the regional disparities in local governance, international innovations and good practices in local governance, decentralization and empowerment, fiscal decentralization, development and service delivery.

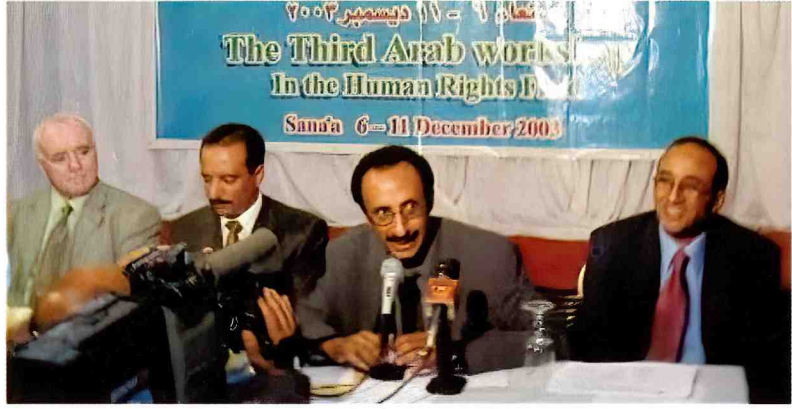
The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, a regional NGO, was contracted to be the substantive facilitator of the event in which a number of Arab and foreign countries, UN agencies, GTZ and various other NGOs took part.

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Third Arab session on Human Rights starts

Meetings of the third Arab course on human rights began in Sana'a on Dec. 6, to be concluded on the 11th. The event was organised by Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) in co-operation with the German organisation of Konrad Adenauer, 40 trainees from various Arab countries are taking part. Head of the HRITC Izzudin al-Asbahi reviewed what the course would offer in awareness of human rights at the regional level.

Al-Asbahi said the course would focus on the process of watching and documenting human rights violations as well as preparing reports similar to non-governmental organisations, reviewing the role those organisations play in this field. In his address to the course, Rashad Ahmed al-Rassas, Minister of Legal Affairs, reviewed the distance the Yemeni government had traversed in its endeavor for safeguarding basic human rights.



Solar heater plant opened in Sana'a

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Minister of Water and Environment Mohammed Lutf Al-Iryani, inaugurated a solar heaters plant in Sana'a on Dec. 3. The plant is owned by the Solar Company Limited. Ibrahim Al-Hayyooti, plant manager, and Habeeb Ahmad Is-haq, chief executive officer for the heaters project, gave the audience a detailed description of the of the plant, and its production of solar heaters. They also reviewed economic and environmental benefits of the project. The Minister of Water and Environment assured that the government will encourage investments in the

field of solar power technology, as it is not only an environment-friendly energy alternative, but economically beneficial. The minister also assured that investments in this and similar fields will reduce pressures on power plants, pointing out that Yemen enjoys an ample supply of solar energy. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by the German ambassador in Sana'a, who stressed that Germany was supportive of Yemeni projects which are directed towards maintaining the environment, and encouraged any effort in that direction. He complimented the solar heaters project indicating that Germany was among the countries which encourage the development of solar power.

Training and research conference held

BY HASAN AL-ZAYEDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Training and Scientific Research Committee Conference commenced Dec. 6 at the Taj Sheba hotel in Sana'a. This is the technical committee charged with planning and providing training needs for the Arab group for upper management of Financial and Accounting Control Boards. It works side by side with the General Secretariat, and the Executive Council to improve methods and means, which revitalize training and scientific research among Arab Control Boards.

The committee will use the two-day conference to discuss a number of topics on the agenda which were transferred from the Executive Council covering a preparation of a plan for training and scientific research for the year 2004, and evaluating last year's plan.

The study of proposals is submitted by group members, and reports prepared by branch committees.

The committee is expected to reach a number of decisions and recommendations, which it will present to the Executive Council for discussion and approval.

Abdullah Abdullah Al-Sanafi, chairman of the Central Board for Control and Accounting, delivered a welcoming speech complimenting the efforts exerted by the committee in order to improve and modernize training and enhance the capabilities and skills of staff working in Arab control boards.

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Taliban-style politics

The "Liberation Party - Yemen Rule" is here

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

After the Unification of Yemen on 22 May 1990, and the allowance of political pluralism, hidden political parties started coming out in the open and practicing their political activities.

Most of these political parties have Arabic and international political and intellectual roots especially national and communist parties, such as the Baath Party of Yemen's region, and other similar parties.

No political party emerged with its own line of thinking from within Yemen except the ruling party, the National People's Conference, and other smaller parties which have limited effects and activities.

A couple of weeks ago, a new political party emerged under the name of the Liberation Party of Yemen Rule, represented by a black flag that has 'No God but Allah, Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah' written on a reduced image of the earth.

Despite the announcement of its rule of Yemen, and convening its first conference, for some unknown reasons, it has not yet been able to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Interior, and the Committee of Political Parties to practice its activities.

The Party, nevertheless, is practicing their political activities according to what the constitution has guaranteed, according to one of its leaders.

The Liberation Party - Yemen Rule called in its first conference to adopt a caliphate (succession) system as the only and most effective solution to all Muslim and world issues thereby imitating the Afghan Taliban Islamic approaches and structure.

Some politicians observers who have been following the affairs of Islamic movements see that the creation of the Liberation Party - Yemen Rule, and its announcement in this way is merely an attempt by the government to satisfy some Islamic Extremist elements which were affiliated with Al-Qaeda, or adopted the same ideas.

This may very well have been a compliment to the agreement reached between these elements and their leaderships (most of whose members were detained) on the one hand, and the government on the other hand, through the Dialogue Committee created lately by the President. According to those experts, the Committee encouraged those elements and their leaderships to abandon their extremist ideas, which could lead them to terrorist activities against foreign interests in Yemen.

The idea of allowing them to have their own unique Islamic political party that stands out from the rest aims at confining and supervising them. In addition, the experts say, it gives them some room to release some of their intellectual and religious energies, which could lead them to organize suicide attacks, as is the case in many countries especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The base for this theory is the attendance of the Chairman of the Dialogue Committee, Judge Hamoud Al-Hattar, to the activities of the Party. However, the Rule of the Liberation Party in Yemen sees that the commencement of its work calls for the same idea as that of Shaikh Taqiyyaddeen Annabhani, which considered that the base of the eternal redevelopment of the Islamic Nation was the return of the caliphate (succession) system as it existed in 1953 in Haifa, occupied Palestine, the Land of the present struggle.

The leadership activities of the Liberation Party - Yemen Rule are still surrounded by fear, secrecy and pressure in the context of the fight against terrorism. For example, one of its prominent leaders, Dr. Abdullah Batheeb, indicated to me during the conference that he had just been released from detention by Political Security in Al-Mukalla a week prior to the conference after having been detained close to three months.

In studying the Liberation Party - Yemen Rule, we are attempting to present a summary of its political and ideological principles, which its elements use as a staging point in Yemen. This political party adopts Islam as its principal, and politics is its work. It works in and with the Nation to advocate Islam as its eternal principle, and to lead it to the re-adaptation of following, implementing and complying with what Allah sent down to earth. Liberation Party - Yemen Rule is a political rather than spiritual, scientific, educational, or welfare coalition, and the Islamic Principle is the spirit of its body, the nucleus and secret of its life.

Reasons for the party
The leaderships of the Liberation Party

- Yemen Rule see that its creation was in response to what Allah says in Aal Imran chapter, verse 104: "Let there be a group of thee advocating good deeds, implementing of virtue and preventing of vice, those are the successful." It aims to re-elevate the Islamic Nation from the extreme slope it has reached, and liberating it from the atheist ideologies, systems and rules, and from atheist governments, their controls and influences. The rest of the work will be concentrated on the re-establishment of an Islamic caliphate state so governing with what Allah revelation may resume.

Goals

The goals of Liberation Party - Yemen Rule are the resumption of the Islamic lifestyle, spread of Islam to the world, and assist Muslims to return to Islamic lifestyle in the Muslim country complying with Islamic rules (Sahri'ah). This is the party's starting point, which is close to the Wahabi's movement. It adopts the principle of what is and what is not allowed in Islam under an Islamic rule, (the caliphate state).

In this system of government, Muslims elect their caliph and consent to abide his rule following the Book of Allah, and teachings of the Prophet, Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH). The caliph would spread Islam to the world and call for Jihad (Holy war against those not embracing Islam or paying taxes). The Liberation Party - Yemen Rule aims to return the Islamic Nation to the prestige and glory and it once had by taking over the initiatives from world nations thereby becoming the first nation in the world with an Islamic rule. It also aims to guide mankind to the right path, and lead the Nation in conflicts against atheism and its ideologies and systems until Islam prevails.

Membership and business

The Liberation Party - Yemen Rule has no discrimination amongst its members based on sex, national origin, color, or religious doctrine. Islam is the only common base that its member are expected to embrace, and adopt the Party's ideology. It, however, separate the sexes.

The method in which the Liberation Party - Yemen Rule conducts business stems from its Islamic principle of changing society to an Islamic one by modifying its present ideology to the Party's.

Political action

The Liberation Party - Yemen Rule defines its political works by educating the Nation with Islamic culture stemming from its ideology and ridding it of the effects of the modern ideologies which represent the atheist countries. Ideological conflict and political struggle come to light in its political work as well. Ideological conflict is represented by conflicts with atheism and its systems, and the Islamic rule that pertains to them. The political struggle, on the other hand, is represented by opposing the atheist occupation, ridding the nation of their control, liberating it from their influences, and eradicating their ideological, intellectual, political, economic, military and other roots from Muslim countries, and offering selected alternatives. The party also works on holding officials accountable, and exposed their infidelities and conspiracies against the Islamic Nation and penalizing them if found guilty of violating the Islamic law.

The party's location

The Liberation Party - Yemen Rule sees that its location is international. However, it sees to establish a certain location or locations where most of the work will be performed and where the Islamic Nation will come to being. It is presently working in Arab as well as Islamic countries.

Duties

The summary of the duties of member of the Liberation Party - Yemen Rule aim to expand the general comprehension of its members as well as the nation, fighting the ideologies, beliefs, and systems of Western countries. Holding Arab and Islamic rules accountable and penalizing them when found guilty of violating the Islamic Law, and undermining their reign to be replaced by Islamic rule. Adopting the affairs of the Muslim Nation according to Islamic law.

Interview with the Yemeni community's president in Qatar

Yemenis in Qatar: a vibrant community

BY YASER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A great percentage of people have migrated from their homeland of Yemen, and Yemeni communities abroad are well-known.

While visiting Qatar, I had the opportunity to meet with Zain Muhsin al-Murqeb, head of the Yemeni community there. Dialoguing about the issues relating to Yemenis in Qatar and their concerns and hopes. Here are some of his comments.

Q. Could you tell us about about the Yemeni community in Qatar?

A. It is one of the oldest in Qatar, as Yemenis traveled to Qatar right from the early forties of the last century. The long history of Yemenis in Qatar has given them the advantage of being able to merge with the society. This is due to the similarity between the two cultures.

Yemenis have received kind treatment from the Qatar authorities, especially that Yemenis around the world are known for their kindness and well behavior as well as hardwork and loyalty in their work. Such characteristics have made Yemenis popular and loved in the Qatar society, and today there are around 7 thousand

Yemenis in Qatar.

The Yemeni community was established in mid-70s. Eventually procedures became more organized, and in mid 1996 elections took place for the president and the council members. From this election, six committees emerged representing the administrative body of the Yemeni community in Qatar. These committees include the social committees, sports, financial, media, cultural, and women's committee. The community participated in the first and second conference for immigrants and the last elections took place on April 27.

Q. What are the main fields which Yemenis in Qatar work in?

A. In the past Yemenis in Qatar used to work in security and the armed forces. But today and with the advancing technologies Yemenis in Qatar studied and graduated from various universities and now they are working in different fields and in critical disciplines such as medicine, engineering, media and sports. There are many Yemenis working al-Jazeera channel itself.

Q. What are the services which the community committees provides to the Yemenis in Qatar?



Zain Muhsin al-Murqeb

A. The committees support Yemenis in so many ways and cares for issues and problems such as residency papers and education for the children due to the high expenses of education. These people need help and support and we are committed to providing them with the help they require.

The financial support we provide comes from the donations from the Yemenis themselves. It comes from the community's resources as well, as we used to have other resources in the past. Now they are no longer available. For

example when we were invited to Sana'a on the occasion of 10 years since unity, we were hoping to get a million Yemeni Riyals for the community's sports team, but unfortunately received only half of the amount, and this support stopped completely without any explanation.

Q. Do the Yemeni abroad get help from authorities in Yemen?

A. Firstly, I want to clarify that the Yemeni community is considered the most important community in Qatar. Also I want to emphasize that in many occasions they do not receive the proper support.

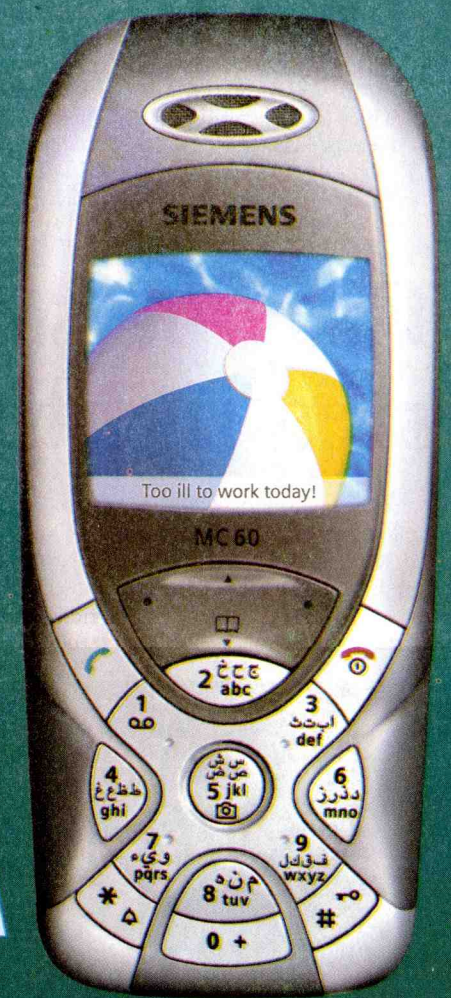
The Yemeni embassy does its work effectively and in many cases it solves the problems there. But in cases where the files are sent to Yemeni authorities, such as ministry of education or ministry of interior affairs, they do not receive the desired care and in many cases they are dumped and ignored.

We have raised these complaints in the first and second immigration conference in Sana'a, and we hope that the authorities realise the importance of the issues and start working more effectively, because a lot of hope falls on the Yemenis abroad for the development and progress of the country.

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Rumsfeld wants more Iraqi security forces deployed

BAGHDAD (Reuters, Dec 6) - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, architect of the war to oust Saddam Hussein, said on Saturday he wanted to further accelerate the deployment of Iraqi security forces and defended the Pentagon's handling of Iraq.

Rumsfeld quizzed top U.S. commanders and watched American soldiers train new Iraqi security forces in the one-day trip to Iraq, his third visit since Saddam fell in April.

Senior generals gave Rumsfeld an upbeat assessment of recent aggressive military operations against insurgents they say are led by Saddam loyalists.

"There have been a lot of people who have said 'oh my goodness, you ought to have more troops, you ought to do this, and something else ought to be done'," Rumsfeld said.

"But I am convinced that the direction that we set from the outset is the right one and that is being executed exceedingly well, and that the security circumstances in the country will be passed over time to Iraqi security forces of various types, and that they will be able to do it."

Rumsfeld has come under fire over post-war planning for Iraq, as insurgents mount daring attacks against U.S. forces and allies as well as Iraqis cooperating with the occupation.

On Friday, a bomb exploded in the middle of a busy Baghdad road as a U.S. military convoy and a minibus passed in opposite directions, killing an American soldier and four Iraqis.

The attack took to 190 the toll of U.S. service personnel killed in action in Iraq since Washington declared major combat over on May 1. Scores of Iraqis have also died in almost daily attacks by anti-American insurgents or from U.S. fire.

In the northern city of Mosul, an

Iraqi policeman was killed on Saturday in a drive-by shooting. Police said Omar Saleh was shot dead as he left his house to go to work. Police have often been targeted in shootings and bomb attacks in Iraq.

"The shots were fired from a vehicle with three men inside," said Lieutenant Shahr Khader, investigating officer at Saleh's local police station. "The officer was in uniform and it appears he was killed just because he was a policeman."

America's allies in Iraq have also suffered losses.

In Tokyo, Japan bade an emotional farewell to two diplomats shot dead in Iraq last weekend when they stopped at a roadside food stall near Saddam's hometown Tikrit.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi vowed at their funeral service to carry on with efforts to help rebuild Iraq. The deaths have intensified debate in Japan over whether to go ahead with a deployment of non-combat troops to the country. Rumsfeld said he would like to speed up the recruitment, training and deployment of Iraqis serving in various security forces backed by the United States.

Iraqi security personnel trained by the United States now outnumber the nearly 130,000 U.S. troops in the country.

"Foreign forces ultimately are unnatural, they ought not to be in a country," Rumsfeld said. The United States has made it clear that the sooner Iraqis can take responsibility for their own security, the sooner U.S. forces can withdraw.

Rumsfeld took a helicopter to a base in southern Baghdad where he watched U.S. training, looking on as a U.S. soldier showed Iraqis sitting on the floor how to clean their rifles.



U.S. troops patrol through a flooded street after heavy rain in Baghdad Dec. 6. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, architect of the war to oust Saddam Hussein, said on Saturday there was no chance American forces would stumble on key Iraqi fugitives including the former dictator. Rumsfeld flew into the northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk on Saturday just one day after a deadly street bombing in Baghdad. REUTERS

Europe to help North Africa fight terror at roots

GAZA, Dec 6 (Reuters) - Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian teenager in the southern Gaza Strip as militants made fresh threats to stage attacks against Israel despite a ceasefire bid, Palestinian medics said

Saturday.

Jihad al-Akhras, 16, of Rafah refugee camp near Egypt, was shot six times in the head, chest and back late Friday, doctors at Rafah Hospital told Reuters.

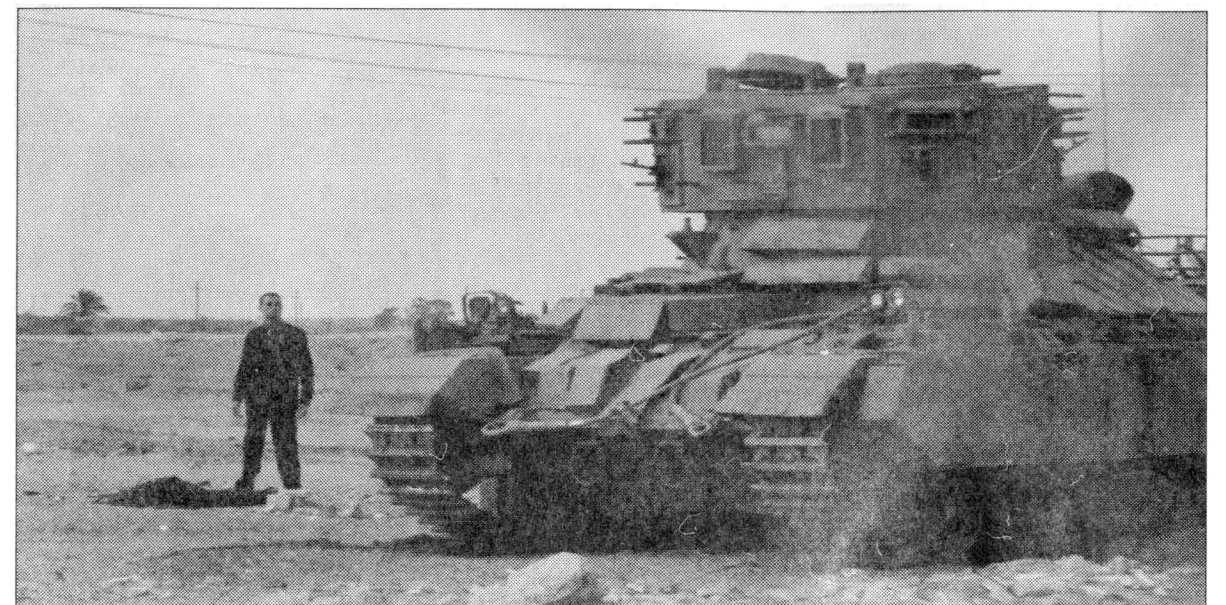
An Israeli military source said soldiers had opened fire "at a suspicious" figure crawling toward an army outpost in a zone policed by Israel to prevent weapons smuggling from Egypt.

It was unclear whether al-Akhras was armed and no militant group has made a statement on the shooting. Funeral services were planned for Saturday afternoon.

Yusuf al-Akhras, 24, told Reuters his brother, the victim, was at the Rafah-Egypt border terminal where he was a baggage handler and "was running there to help someone with his luggage" when he was shot.

Rafah has been a frequent site of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad threatened in a statement in Gaza to stage more attacks against Israel despite efforts in Cairo to arrange a ceasefire among militant



A paramedic (L) looks at an Israeli army APC for permission to lift the body of Jihad Al-Akhras, a 16-year-old Palestinian teenager, near the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza Strip on Dec. 6. Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian teenager in Gaza as militants made fresh threats to stage attacks against Israel in defiance of ceasefire bid. REUTERS

groups.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie was expected in Cairo on Saturday to attend a final session of talks, seen as crucial to U.S.-backed efforts to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Saudi wants militants, offers reward

RIYADH (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia named 26 suspects on Saturday it said were wanted in connection with "terrorist events" in the kingdom and offered a \$1.9 million reward to anyone who thwarted a militant attack.

The list of suspects, whose pictures were shown on state television included 23 Saudi nationals, two Moroccans and one Yemeni.

An Interior Ministry statement offered one million riyals for infor-

mation leading to the arrest of a suspect, five million for the arrest of a group, and seven million for information which helped foil an attack.

It said anyone who cooperated with the suspects would face punishment.

Suicide bombers killed 18 people in an attack on a foreign resident's compound in Riyadh last month. In May, 35 people died in triple suicide bombings in the Saudi capital.

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Zimbabwe urged not to quit

ABUJA (Reuters) - The executive head of the Commonwealth urged a fuming Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to "take a breath" on Saturday before quitting the group in retaliation for his suspension over democratic failings.

Mugabe made his clearest threat yet on Saturday to leave the 54-nation club of mainly former British colonies, saying in Zimbabwe: "If we say we are doing this, we will do it. We will never retreat."

Thousands of miles away at the Commonwealth summit in Nigeria, the group's Secretary-General Don McKinnon virtually simultaneously sent Mugabe a message to reconsider his repeated threats to withdraw.

"I would hope that President Mugabe would take a breath on this one and realise that the Commonwealth meeting here in Abuja does want to engage with Zimbabwe," McKinnon said.

"The benefits of countries belonging to the Commonwealth certainly vastly outweigh not belonging to the Commonwealth. I would believe that the population of Zimbabwe would wish to be heard on a matter such as that," he told reporters.

Membership of the Commonwealth, which groups 1.7 billion people or a third of the world's population, offers poor nations an

international stage as well as aid and trade benefits.

The brinkmanship will come to a head on Sunday when a six-strong committee of "wise men" among Commonwealth leaders is due to recommend specific criteria for eventually allowing Zimbabwe back into the group. Diplomats and Commonwealth sources ruled out a lifting of the suspension as some fellow African states want. Rather, they said, Mugabe would be set moderate democratic benchmarks to give him a realistic chance of re-admission.

The racially charged Zimbabwe row has dominated the four-day biennial Commonwealth summit in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, to the frustration of many delegates eager to discuss other topics like fair trade, AIDS and terrorism.

Western nations are leading a majority faction that insists Zimbabwe must return to democracy before ending the suspension, while some African states backed by other non-Western countries accuse Britain and others of imposing a new imperialism.

"Why must we be told to do certain things by the white members of the Commonwealth? Malaysia's New Straits Times paper quoted its foreign minister, Syed Hamid Albar, as saying

Commonwealth like "animal farm?"

After Saturday's meeting of his ruling ZANU-PF party, Mugabe said the Commonwealth had been hijacked by racists interfering in Zimbabwe's internal affairs.

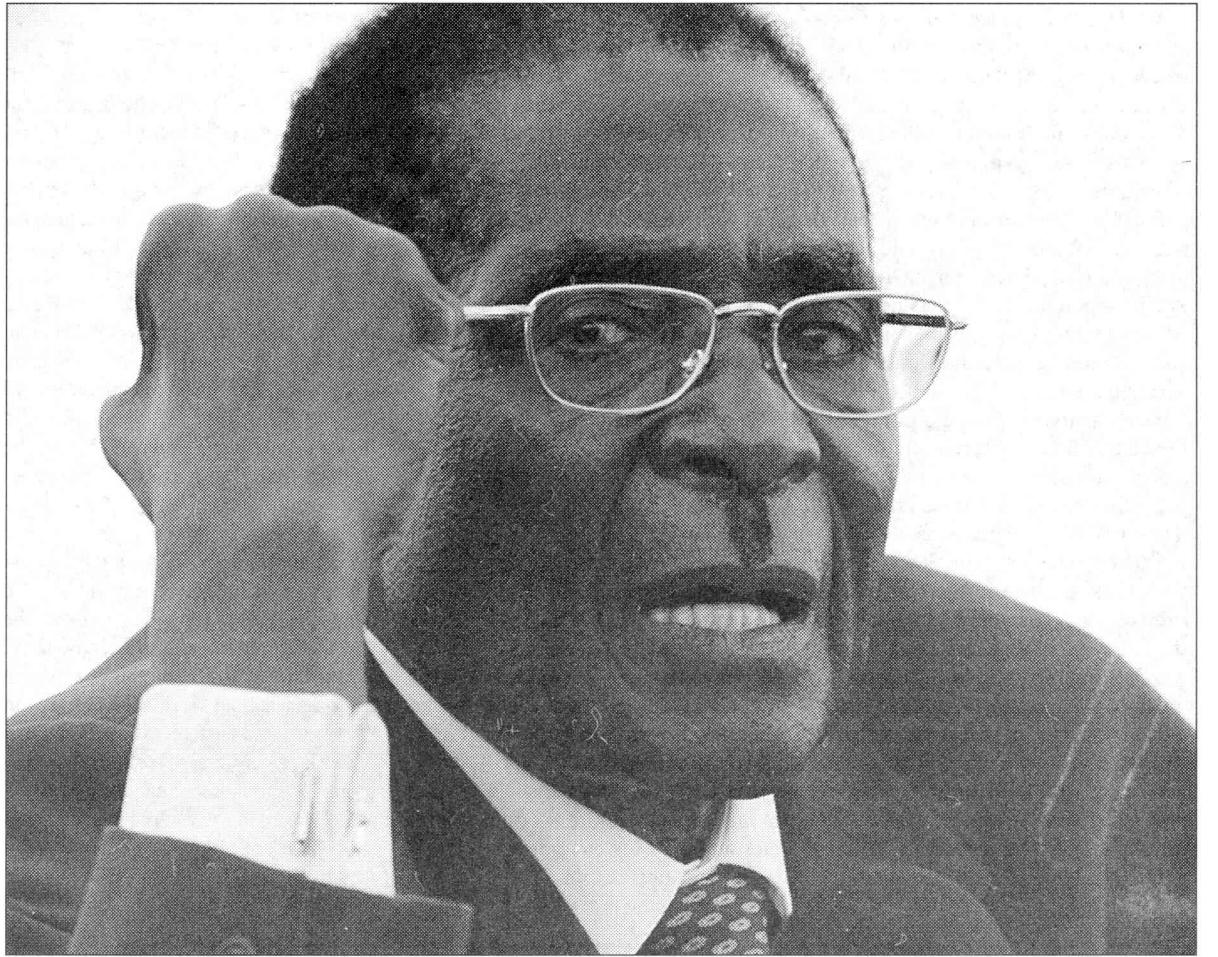
"The Commonwealth is a mere club, but it has become like an 'Animal Farm' where some members are more equal than others," he said in reference to English author George Orwell's political satire. "How can (British leader Tony) Blair claim to regulate and direct events and still say all of us are equals?"

Despite the rhetoric, Mugabe gave no indication of when the southern African country could withdraw.

The Commonwealth suspended Zimbabwe last year on the grounds Mugabe had rigged elections and was harassing his opponents.

The six leaders met earlier on Saturday but had not reached consensus before retiring with others to President Olusegun Obasanjo's luxurious villa for a private retreat.

The task force is made up of leaders from Australia and Canada, who oppose readmission; from Zimbabwe's neighbours Mozambique and South Africa, who are in favour; and from India and Jamaica, whose positions are less known.



Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe sings the national anthem at the closing of the ruling ZANU (PF) annual conference in Masvingo, 300 km south of Harare Dec. 6. REUTERS/Howard Burditt

Japan bids farewell to diplomats killed in Iraq

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan bade a sad farewell on Saturday to two diplomats killed in Iraq and an emotional Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi vowed to carry on with efforts to help re-build the middle eastern nation.

Koizumi, Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, foreign diplomats and government officials were among those who gathered for the funeral service in Tokyo.

"The loss of two extremely capable diplomats who made utmost efforts for reconstruction aid for Iraq saddens me deeply, and I feel strong anger toward a cruel and unjust crime," Koizumi told the mourners.

Katsuhiko Oku, 45, and Masamori Inoue, 30, were gunned down last Saturday near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, becoming the first Japanese killed in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March.

Koizumi seemed overcome with emotion as he read a message of condolence before an altar adorned with white flowers on which stood black-bordered photographs of Oku and Inoue.

His voice faltered after he paused at one point in reading the message, in which he vowed to continue efforts to help re-build Iraq.

"The Japanese government will inherit your wishes and continue to cooperate with the international community and work toward the reconstruction of Iraq," Koizumi said.

DEBATE OVER TROOPS

The diplomats' deaths and growing attacks on non-U.S. personnel in Iraq have intensified debate in Japan over whether to go ahead with a deployment of non-combat troops to help rebuild the country.

Domestic media have said Koizumi's cabinet was likely to approve early next week a plan to allow the dispatch of about 1,000 personnel -- Japan's biggest overseas military deployment since World War Two.



Japan's Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi delivers a speech during a funeral ceremony for two Japanese diplomats Katsuhiko Oku and Masamori Inoue slain in Iraq, at Aoyama funeral hall in Tokyo Dec. 6. REUTERS

In the latest such report, daily Asahi Shimbun said the cabinet was likely to approve the basic plan on Tuesday.

The plan, however, is not expected to contain details such as the timing of the dispatch.

Japan may send a total of 550 ground troops, 300 from the navy and 150 from the air force, news agency Kyodo said on Friday.

The dispatch would probably be led by members from Japan's Air Self Defence Force, which could leave in January, and ground troops could be sent in February, Kyodo said.

The Yomiuri Shimbun said Koizumi was considering visiting Iraq after Japan sends the non-combat troops to Iraq, but added the possibility and timing of such a visit would hinge on security conditions there.

Koizumi later said he wanted to visit Iraq some day.

"I don't know when it will be, but I am thinking that I would like to go in the future," Yomiuri quoted Koizumi as telling reporters at his residence after returning from the funeral.

A law allowing troops to be sent to help rebuild Iraq was enacted in July. But in line with Japan's pacifist constitution, it specifies that troops would be sent only to "non-combat" zones -- hence the dithering now over deploying troops.

India on alert for Ayodhya anniversary

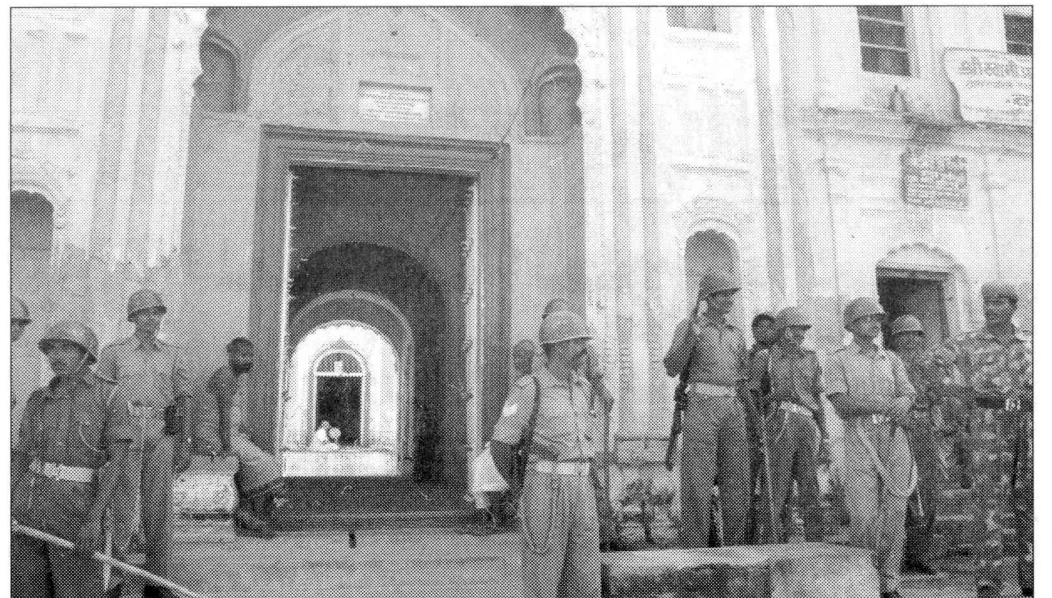
LUCKNOW, India, Dec 6 (Reuters) - Police and federal forces were on alert in India's temple town of Ayodhya on Saturday as Hindu hardliners geared up for celebrations and Muslims planned protests on the eleventh anniversary of the razing of a mosque.

More than 3,000 people died in riots after a Hindu mob destroyed the 16th century Babri mosque on December 6, 1992 and the row over the site has become a symbol of, and trigger for, Hindu-Muslim tensions ever since.

"Security has also been provided at various important shrines and police patrolling was also being carried out by the police along the railway tracks to prevent any untoward incident," district administrator Dipak Kumar told Reuters by telephone.

India's over one billion people are about 82 percent Hindu, while Muslims make up about 12 percent of the population. Hindu hardliners believe the mosque stood on the birthplace, long before recorded history, of god-king Ram and want a temple in his honour.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a prominent Hindu group, said it planned a meeting of activists and holy men later in the day although its main hardline leaders would not attend, VHP spokesman Sharad Sharma told Reuters. Local Muslim leaders said they would observe a "black day" and keep businesses closed as a mark of protest.



Indian policemen stand guard outside a Hindu temple in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya Dec. 6. Police and federal forces were on high alert in India's temple town of Ayodhya on Saturday as Hindu hardliners geared up for celebrations and Muslims planned protests on the eleventh anniversary of the razing of a mosque. REUTERS

Senior Management Opportunity for Yemeni Nationals

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Russia boosts security ahead of poll

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia tightened security at polling booths, train stations and markets on Saturday ahead of elections overshadowed by a commuter-train bombing which killed at least 42 people near rebel Chechnya.

President Vladimir Putin's party, running on a strong law and order platform, is expected to make gains in Sunday's poll due to a weak and divided opposition, but it was unclear if the attack in southern Russia would affect voting patterns.

Many analysts have said politicians feared low levels of turnout in the former Soviet state of 145 million people, after colorless campaigning has failed to catch imaginations.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a human rights body grouping 55 member states, said pre-election campaigning was marred by pro-Kremlin bias in the media -- particularly across state-owned television. At least 150 people were also wounded when Friday's suspected suicide bombing ripped through the packed train in southern Russia. Justice Minister Yuri Chaika pointed the finger at Chechen separatist guerrillas, but they denied

involvement.

On Saturday investigators combed the area for clues to who was behind the attack as officials boosted security.

Russia's election chief said "unprecedented measures" would be taken to ensure every Russian could cast their vote.

"I am convinced that the measures which the security structures take -- and in Moscow they will be unprecedented -- will secure the safety of all election stations which will be organizing the vote tomorrow," Alexander Veshnyakov, head of the Central Election Commission, told local television. "This will happen not just in Moscow but across Russia."

Another vote, another attack

The election, in which voting starts first in the farthest east of Russia's 11 time zones, is seen as a popularity test for Putin who will face a presidential poll in March next year. The former KGB spy hopes to gain his first majority in the chamber.

His United Russia party is expected to make gains despite what many predict will be a lower turnout. But analysts were not certain Friday's attack would affect the poll where Chechnya,

far from Moscow, has not been a key issue. Instead Putin's allies have campaigned on his growing world standing while opponents criticized him for an increasingly "autocratic" style.

Friday's explosion killed students and workers in Russia's north Caucasus region. A local Emergencies Ministry official said a 42nd victim died overnight, a 16-year-old girl.

It reminded Russians that Putin, despite tough talk, has yet to rein in separatist guerrillas in nearby Chechnya. He has made the restoration of firm central state control a major policy plank since taking office. Past guerrilla attacks have served to increase his popularity.

In 1999, as prime minister he won strong support for his tough stance on security after apartment bombings in Moscow and other cities marred the last parliamentary election campaign.

But this time, few on the streets said his harsh stance on Chechnya would move them to cast votes for the leader.

Boris, a university lecturer, said the attack would not change his vote. "The explosion is a terrible thing," he said. "We are already used to terrorist acts in Russia. It will not influence the way I vote on Sunday."



Russian soldiers in armored vehicles patrol the central street of the Chechen capital Grozny on Dec. 6. Russia tightened security ahead of parliamentary poll overshadowed by a suspected suicide bomb attack that killed at least 42 people aboard a packed commuter train near rebel Chechnya. Photo by Adlan Khasanov/Reuters

Castro says Cuban revolution will outlast Bush and himself

CARDENAS, Cuba (Reuters) - Cuban President Fidel Castro said on Friday he will outlast any Bush Administration plans to oust him and Cuba's one-party communist state will survive his death.

"The group of idiots that met in the White House will die of bitterness and frustration," the 77-year-old Cuban leader said in an address to school children celebrating the 10th birthday of Elian Gonzalez, the shipwrecked boy at the center of an international custody battle in 2000.

Top Bush aides met on Friday at the White House and decided tighter inspec-

tions of U.S. citizens traveling to Cuba and a crackdown on illegal business with the Caribbean island to enforce four-decade-old sanctions aimed at undermining Castro.

The Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, created in October by President George W. Bush to foster a democratic transition on the island and headed by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Cuban-born Housing Secretary Mel Martinez, met for the first time on Friday at the White House with Bush's national security advisor Condoleezza Rice. "This little meeting does not worry us ... they would be bet-

ter off dedicating their time to drinking whiskey and smoking marijuana," Castro said, speaking to hundreds of school children. "They hope that 15 minutes after my death the revolution will collapse. They don't know that this country has thousands of leaders," he added.

Castro, who overthrew a U.S.-backed right-wing dictator in a 1959 guerrilla uprising, has outlasted the hostility of nine U.S. presidents after building a Soviet-styled communist society 140 kms from the United States.

Since he arrived in the White House, Bush has tightened the screws on Cuba,

reducing travel there by academic and cultural exchange groups, and cracking down on Americans who visit the island without a special U.S. Treasury Department permit.

Bush has vowed to veto efforts to amend trade sanctions, such as the lifting of travel restrictions advocated by business groups. Three years ago, U.S. farmers and agribusiness companies successfully lobbied for an exception to the embargo allowing sales of food to Cuba. Havana says Bush is pandering to a vocal community of anti-Castro exiles in Florida, a key state in his election and his re-election plans.

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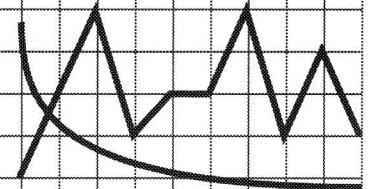
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YT Business



Migrants continue to look abroad

Jobs harder to find in tightening labour market

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A growing number of Yemeni who are able to work, including more university graduates than ever before, are unable to find jobs within the country's labour market.

It's estimated that up to 200,000 adults enter the labor pool every year, but economic growth is stagnant and there is a drop in job opportunities.

A recent labour study notes that there is a drop in wages, which is also leading to a migration of national labour. The study shows that Yemen's labour market is also suffering from disparities between male and female employees and between local and expatriate labour.

The study indicates that the number of Yemeni university graduates has risen from 20,000 in 1998 to 100,000 in 2002. At the same time, the needs of the private sector could hire only 1.6 per cent of them and the government sector could hire only 17 per cent of those graduates.

The same study shows hard times in the private sector for a large number of graduates from technical institutes. The private sector accommodated just 2 per

cent of those graduates from 1998-2002 while the government sector employed 31 per cent of the graduates.

Yemen's migrating labour force is described as temporary. The study mentioned that the number of migrants to various world countries total 6.5 million. Asian countries receive the most Yemeni migrants, accommodating 5.6 million or 84 per cent of the total expatriate labour.

The Gulf states and other Arab countries receive 12.1 per cent of Yemen's migrants, while the African countries take most of the balance, along with American and European countries.

Pay for Yemen's expatriates dropped in 2002 to \$1.2 million, while in 2000 it was \$1.3 million in 2000.

The study has come out with many recommendations, mainly:

- Revamping the education systems and reducing of the amount of university graduates,

- Concentrating on technical and vocational institutes and centers for training, according to the labour market needs.

The study concluded that the increase of the Yemeni labour and the population structure in Yemen could be altered into a great economic gain for the country, with training of the labour market, so it can compete in foreign markets.



After winning bid to operate Yemen's Teleyemen network

High expectations in France Telecom

Yemenis throughout the country have expressed high expectations and hope in France Telecom, after the French telecommunications operator won an \$11.3 million contract to manage and operate the Tele Yemen network for five years from the start of 2004.

Consumers hope that the company would work vigorously to improve the quality and reduce prices of international phone call services and Internet infrastructure.

 **france telecom**

Among the expectations is providing Digital Subscriber Links (DSL) to residents of main cities with relatively affordable prices.

On the other hand, France Telecom bucked the current European negative economic trend by gaining 3.4 per cent in its European stock shares just after

Yemen had announced its decision to select the company among several competing prestigious companies.

The contract was previously held by Cable & Wireless, which has done a relatively good job in bringing a solid infrastructure to the country's telecommunication network.

Japan extends further support to education sector in Yemen

Sanaa - An agreement to execute the project for Supplying School Textbook Printing Equipment was signed today at the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation between H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning & International Cooperation and Mr. Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Yemen.

In accordance with this agreement, the Government of Japan will extend a grant up to five and a half million US Dollars (\$ 5,500,000) to supply the

School TextBook General Corporation with modern printing equipment for its branch in Mukalla.

With regard to Japanese cooperation in the field of education, it is worthwhile mentioning that Japan extended two grants amounting up to eleven million nine hundred thousand US Dollars (\$ 11,900,000) in November 2002 and May 2003, to construct 30 schools for basic education in Taiz and Ibb Governorates.

Those have been aimed at supporting the efforts of the Yemeni Government, which has been committed to put more

focus on the Strategy Paper and the National Basic Education Strategy. These grants will play an important role in reducing the high illiteracy rate and increasing the percentage of enrollment in the schools. Education is a basis for promoting human development, which is a central concept of Japan's development assistance.

Japan, therefore, has decided to extend such grants in order to help the Yemeni Government move forward human development so that it can achieve sustainable social development.

Yemen Times helps print it

New directory outlines standards of quality

By Imad al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times Staff
Taiz Bureau

Taking into account that economic development is a right way for realizing development prosperity, many countries have been keen on achieving the biggest amount of it, especially while coping with the rapid changes in various fields.

When these countries got deeply engaged in the economic development, the man was undoubtedly its goal of

development, whatever its means are, as he is influenced by production of industry, and the orientation it adopts in the field of its economic direction.

When markets were flooded with products of unknown origin and others get into markets illegally, the society began showing anxiety for its safety, health and food security in general. That was especially important at the appearance of some products not having good quality or not appropriate or human consumption and health harms resulting from consuming them, whether they are local or external goods.

Out of keenness on keeping pace with the age and sticking to aspects elements of economic and comprehensive development security, Yemen has embarked on establishing the State Authority for Specifications and Standardizations with the aim of pushing national industries to criteria of quality that creates consumer trust, as it is well-known that quality of the product is the strong link between the factory and the consumer.

Nevertheless, some civil organizations have appeared concerned with awareness with both the factory and the consumer, but their role remains weak

and sometimes absent because of the non-relation between them and the media.

In order to shake the stagnant waters, the Yemen Times has taken the initiative and joined forces with the State Authority for Specifications and Standardizations to produce this directory that undertakes definition of quality, containing indispensable instructions to be presented to the consumer in its simplified form. The work has also depended on a study and questionnaire conducted by the Yemen Times and the Consumer Protection society in Taiz.

The authority leadership, represented by engineer Abdulsallam Ghalib al-Qamash, his deputy Ahmed al-Basha and Jamal Mohammed Abdulrahman, director of the Authority's branch in Taiz, played an effective role in supplying us with information and showing their keenness on conveying the service to the consumer and the factory simultaneously.

We would not in this regard forget the role of the private sector in participating in this directory, though their participation is not a testimony from us as much as it is an indication to its interest in presenting high quality product.

The importance of national industry and its role in building the society, urges us to have a sense of national responsibility for encouraging and supporting our national industries and feeling aware of their significance in taking part in advancement of the homeland economically, socially and culturally, citing the industrialized states that consider the national industry part of their identity and in return they are requested today to offer the best and for building the man and achieving comprehensive economic development.

Electrical company sues delinquent subscribers

Last month, after exhausting other alternatives, the General Establishment for Electricity initiated legal proceedings against tens of its customers who are behind in paying bills in excess of YR 10 billion.

Many of those who were not paying their bills were prominent figures or strong sheikhs, who continued to defy the law and on some occasions connect electricity cables without the knowledge or consent of the authorities, including the General Establishment for Electricity itself.

It is worthy to mention that those delinquent customers represent an elite group of big electric consumers, private entities and prominent social personalities.

Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR
OPINION

2003:

Another
pathetic year

There is no doubt that the year 2003 was again another scar left on Arab history: a year of continuous failures and setbacks. With a war in Iraq, leading to another occupation in the region, we have shown how weak we truly are as an Arab people group.

Our economic inefficiency has continued to demonstrate itself in 2003 with more unemployment, higher poverty rates, lower GNP and GDP rates, and of course, weaker presence in the global market.

Our failure in adopting proper decisions to bring freedom and democracy have also taken its toll this year marking a tremendously high level of human rights violations and of course less freedom for Arab citizens.

Our inability to apply political change to better enforce the law and bring stricter regulations against law breakers, have led to more instability and less security in our countries.

All of this is added to the humiliation we went through at the hands of the UN Security Council and other arenas when we couldn't prevent the war on Iraq despite all our complaints, denunciations, and loud crying.

Just as all the above cannot be denied, we should not deny that all of this have and will continue to have negative implications on us as Arab people and regimes. Today, we continue to demonstrate our inability to act decisively on major issues and on the other hand find ourselves forced to give more compromise than ever before.

Just yesterday, I was talking to European friend, who said that Arabs simply don't deserve so many natural resources because they cannot, and will never be able, to use them properly for the sake of their own people. In contrast, massive amounts of money are spent on 'corrupt leaders and officials, who cannot care less for their country'.

We have put ourselves in the conditions we are living in today, and self-criticism is a must to know where we truly are and how to improve.

I am serious in emphasizing the fact that it is up to us to make ourselves a strong, influential Arab nation or just be seen as the least developed and insignificant in a time of intense competition and unmerciful hostility among world nations.

We are the ones who have made ourselves what we are today. Let us not allow the conspiracy theory take over our minds. Let us not bring back the illusion that the whole world is against us, causing us to be in the backwardness, poverty, and vulnerability we are in today.

We are saying goodbye to a year full of misery and sadness. We are today living a time, many would prefer to have not lived because of our own wrongdoings.

But the future is still ahead, and we ought to not lose faith. Let us remember that after every decline there is a comeback.

Let's work on making 2004 the year signaling this comeback and making us regain our confidence and build a better future.

The Editor

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

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Society needs both men and women

Setting the gender
issue straight

By Amal al-Hanhaneh
For The Yemen Times

The relationship between man and woman in the society has always been subject to a longstanding controversy, particularly in Yemeni society. Each gender gives itself an importance and effect and influence in the progress of the society more than the other one, as if they are in competition. The woman brings forward evidence to prove her more importance and stronger influence in the society and on the other hand the man offers his own arguments and evidence in this regard. It is really a matter deserves discussion and clarification and dissemination of awareness particularly among the majority of the people because it is a question of interest not only among the intelligentsia but mainly among the majority of the people as a whole.

It is the majority of the ordinary people that hold wrong ideas about the role of both man and woman in the society and those ideas are the cause of the imbalanced relationship between man and woman in the society. I want in this short article to put this question on the table of discussion because it plays a great role in our life.

Women constitute half of the society and in some societies the proportion exceeds that percentage, as is the case in

our Yemeni society. Nevertheless, it is found even among the intellectuals that some of them do not recognize her importance other than a housewife raising children and taking care of them and the entire household.

They ignore her role outside the house by underestimating her potentials and mental capabilities and creativity in various fields even in those that men think they are exclusive for them. This is really an injustice done to women, who in many societies proved to be no less capable than man in all walks of life. The family as the most important component of the society, and the most significant establishment in it, the major role in running it is upon the shoulders of the woman.

And the man is incapable to have the same patience and endurance the woman entertains in running the affairs of the family. In addition to that sacred role the woman also plays a recognized role outside the family sphere as she proved to be successful teachers, doctors, engineers and in other areas of social development activities.

She is the mother of the society and does more than one role; her job as a housewife and her role in the development of the society whereas man's role is mainly outside the family sphere.

Moreover ever the successes scored by man are imprints of women who help in their ideas and encourage them in the accomplishment of those successes. And

thus in many cases she is behind his success. Her great responsibility in providing stable and happy life inside the family is in itself an effective factor in man's success. She is an indispensable energy possessing an indispensable role.

Religiously, the Islam has given the woman a very high status in the society and our prophet Mohammed, the messenger of God has always looked with high appreciation and respect to the woman. We as Muslims have to take his attitude towards the woman as an example to follow. Our prophet has never dispensed with consulting his wives and sometimes in major questions regarding the policy towards Muslims and Islam.

Our glorious history has abundance of examples of great women successful in various aspects of life; in politics, religion, education and fighting beside their brothers men. So why we don't follow the example of our prophet Mohammed and the great Muslim leaders, who have built the greatest Muslim nation, the world over? Why do not we relinquish the backward ideas and impressions we have built up upon generations of backwardness and be fair to our women and society?

The intelligentsia and sociologists have to do their hardest job in enlightening the society about the mutual role played by both men and women in building an advanced society where both men and women are equal in importance and roles played in life.

Letters to the Editor

About 'Sodom & Gomorrah'

I just read your article on Sodom & Gomorrah and I can only hope that you don't believe that everyone in my country (US) believes in what the State of Massachusetts has done. I agree with you, it is not natural, but there is a small group of people who wish to push this idea. It will take time but they will be defeated.

If you get a chance, give my best wishes to your countrymen at OGM.

Roger Motten
rmotten@trib.com

Assault on Islam continues

One can look not only to immoral terror attacks around the world for insight into the assault on Islam. One can also look to the pages of this publication to see the threads attacking and undermining Islam.

Educated writers have explained the Muslim faith, concepts of right and wrong, proper conduct in war. And it is this basic goodness and rightness that is under assault, because right action is very limiting.

This assault does not come from other faiths and neither does it come from governments. They do not have the power to control another's faith or behavior.

This assault comes from Muslims, at least in name.

That hate would allow death and bombings. Hate would allow killing civilians. Hate would allow the destruction of the infrastructure, the murder of police, disruption of education, and damaging of hospitals and their workers.

It is clear that this hate is empowering, freeing people of the law and teaching. Free to ignore civility. Free to abandon care of one's family.

It appears that Allah cannot stand the onslaught of hate, and so the assault on Islam is well underway; an assault from the inside, which is not clearly seen and may be unstoppable.

There is neither one Christian preacher nor US general that presents a threat to Islam that is as close to this threat.

One can find glee in the difficulties in rebuilding

Iraq.

And so, dialogue is a good thing. We all live on this small globe. But hate is a powerful and he seems to have many followers.

David J. Lockhorn
Ohio, USA
nightshift@fuse.net

What to do to regain lost readers

I'd like to pay your attention to some kind of articles that you are short of in your paper. Actually, I'm an undergraduate student that was so interested in your paper two years ago but the reason I stopped reading it was because I can't find the kind of articles I need and like. I think it's the same reason why students lost their interest in your paper, too. To be honest if there was a really good section for articles related to technology, health and what's new in the world's industry, your paper would be so informative that a lot of students and who are fascinated in such articles would find your paper useful and Yemen will be so proud to have such a newspaper.

As a matter of fact, I like to write for you the kind of articles I just mentioned. If you are attracted by the idea, please let me know.

Ahmed Almalmi
handsome.guy122@yahoo.com

Dear Ahmed,

Thank you for your comments. I will surely welcome your contributions to the paper. Please do send them and we'll be happy to publish them once they meet our criteria.

—Editor

Politics in the USA is dishonest

I noted in checking the state of Illinois campaign financing on the internet that state senator Rauschenberger's financial record has been changed from about \$1 million in contributions too about \$100,000 in contributions. Somebody is dishonest, but I am not surprised.

When I was in politics 30 years ago, honesty was much less important than attendance at political meetings. However the foundation of our political system is educa-

Letters to the Editor

tion, and when this is neglected, crime increases, and production decreases.

At present, education in Illinois is neglected, but our governor made promises to conservative interest in the state not to pass income taxes, and he has good reason to be worried. The last two elected democratic governors in Illinois were sent to jail, and if he passes an income tax, he could be the third.

However, this lack of honesty seems to be world wide. In capitalistic countries, the rich take advantage of the poor. Under socialist and religious governments, those in power, take advantage of everyone else.

This is the way it has been for several thousand years, but now we have atomic bombs. Our earth has a crust that is between 50 and 200 miles thick. If that crust is broken, the earth will explode like a balloon.

When dishonesty in government creates angry people, some of them become dangerous, and in time they will learn how to make atomic bombs. Ultimately, we cannot control learning, but we can create an international bill of rights.

We can address in international court the complaints of angry people, and to some extent, mute the dishonesty of government.

Robert W. Carlson
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Why is the world this way?

So many times I ask myself why the world is the way it is today? Why are all Muslim countries living in poverty and weakness?

There is only one answer to this question in my point of view. Muslims have become weak religiously speaking and are unable to face or do anything about any form of slavery that is imposed on them by the big powers of this world we are living in. No Muslim country is able to defend Iraq or Afghanistan or anywhere else. Why? Because unfortunately, no Muslim country can build itself to become powerful and able to defend its people.

Preoccupation with new technology, such as internet

chats and international TV programs presented by satellite dishes are destroying the minds of many Muslims instead of building them.

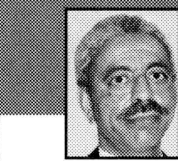
Today, many Muslims are busy making more friends on the net than learning more about religion and becoming better Muslims so that they benefit their society in any way possible. By the way, anyone can be the victim of Satan's production (chatterboxes) given the availability and worldly problems one is facing in their lives which they need to run away from and forget by entering the world of chat.

In fact, many people today are being treated from a psychological disease called internet addiction and unfortunately, this disease is on us as well but in its worst forms (the chat form of the internet). At least, in the western world, most people use the internet as an information tool and for education. Unfortunately, most people in Muslim countries use the internet as a chatting tool and benefit less education wise (I would love to be corrected if I am wrong).

Also, Muslims today have become preoccupied with something called the "Satellite Dish". People spend hours and hours watching television programs that are on 24/7. In fact, the availability of 100's of channels that are useless because they connect people to the world and make them see the world according to what those programs portray. Within those channels, the number of religious programs that can be of benefit to our Muslim society is countable and thus we seem to not mind why? Because we are becoming weaker and weaker in faith and that is exactly the purpose behind any type of technology that occupies people to the point that they become slaves to it.

I really feel sorry for our Muslim society and fear much for its future. Hope that we all be wise and wake up from the dreams that we live in and start living Islam fully rather than taking Islam the way that suits us. Only then we will be strong.

Neena A.
Neena2255@hotmail.com

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Peace at last
in the Sudan?

The long-standing civil strife in the Sudan may have come to a long awaited peaceful settlement. This is welcome news indeed, not only for our Sudanese brothers, but for all the people, who have an affection and admiration for the Sudanese people. This good news also comes amidst all the heartbreaking news out of the Arab World that is dominating the media. Needless to say, many past efforts at ending the regional rebellion of the South (one would not call it secession, for the rebels all along the period contended that they are in this for all of the Sudanese people and had no aspirations for regional independence – a plus for the rebellious leadership of the southern opposition) have all faltered even before the ink of the respective agreements dried up. The most noteworthy of these efforts was actually worked out in the late Eighties between the former short-lived democratic government in Khartoum, headed by Prime Minister (duly and freely elected) Dr. Sadik Al-Mahdi and the Southern Sudanese Liberation Front headed by Mr. John Greng (who is still the head of the Southern Opposition). When the Military Brass took over in Khartoum, in the late Eighties, the apparently viable peaceful settlement was thrown out the window along with the democracy, no thanks to the prodding by the so called Islamic Salvation Front headed by Dr. Hassan Al-Turabi. The latter and the Generals wanted no less than unconditional surrender of the southern rebels. The end of democratic rule and the rejection of the accord represented a sad turning point in the modern history of the Sudan, and also brought on the despair of many lovers of the Sudan. The latter had then been watching developments in the Sudan with great admiration for the possibilities of the Sudan becoming a shining beacon of viable democratic rule amidst a region plagued by autocratic and totalitarian regimes. For sure, regional interference had a great deal to do with the arrangement of the coup and for sure the orientation the new regime took on was farther than actually serving the interests of the Sudanese people and furthering democratic rule in the Arab World and Africa. For sure also, the resumption of fighting in the South was no more than a drain of the vital resources (human and material), that the Sudan was far in greater need of to bring on the potential development that these resources could be mobilized for and reign in prosperity and better standards of living for the Sudanese people. But the political and regional winds were not biased towards the interests of the Sudanese people and the Sudanese people were subjected to incalculable resource waste and irreparable human suffering.

Once the Generals decided to change the political equations in the home front through the return of Dr. Sadik Al-Mahdi and the gradual disassociation of the Turabi Salvation Front the efforts at reaching an end to the bloodshed in the South were intensified. Several attempts faltered, but the latest accord reached between the combatants offered a more hopeful venue that the situation in the Sudan could be taking a more positive direction. The observer is inclined to believe that all the Sudanese, including the Southerners have just about had enough of all the wanton waste of blood and resources and the Sudanese people deserve a more stable and peaceful setting, if the Sudan (North and South) was ever to hope to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

The latest accord is accorded more credence by the fact that concrete measures have been taken to make the accord worth applauding, since the Southern Opposition, has been allowed to display a tangible permanent presence in Khartoum and President General Omer Hassan Al-Bashir was ready to declare that, for all practical purposes, the War in the South is over.

A peaceful situation in the Sudan has very important regional implications, for both Africa and the Arab World. For one thing, neighboring states will find less cordial grounds for interference in factional or regional strife in the Sudan. This is especially so, when considering that a peace accord that guarantees the national unity and sovereignty of all the territorial area of the Sudan has been set firmly in place. Moreover, a stable Sudan can turn towards harnessing all the vast resources of the country towards improving the lot of the Sudanese and thus relinquishing the need for foreign meddling in the internal affairs of the Sudan. With the extreme fundamentalists finding a less welcome environment in the Sudan, this foreign meddling would be less inclined to have weight in future Sudanese politics, as was the case when the Generals and the Islamic Salvation Movement (prodded by foreign influence) did away with promising democratic rule. This observer recalls how the official media of a proximate Arab State to the Sudan, the day following the coup, went out of its way to try to discredit the Al-Mahdi Government and to hail the bloodless coup in the late Eighties, without any real consideration for the views of the Sudanese people.

One is also inclined to give credit to the other opposition forces in the Sudan for the role that they played in bringing about the latest accord and for remaining steadfast in their efforts to resume democratic rule in the Sudan, albeit through peaceful means. In the end, one is impressed that the Sudanese, if left alone can really work out their problems peacefully and that all factions in the Sudan, in Government or in the opposition, are genuinely working for the genuine interest of the Sudan and its admirable and peace loving people. We wish them all the best.

Causes Of Anti-Semitism

BY JIHAD AL-KHAZEN
FOR DAR AL-HAYAT

There is an inherent feeling of anti-Semitism in Europe; and nowadays, there is a new kind of anti-Semitism. While the reasons for the first are historical, the first and foremost reason for the second is war criminal Ariel Sharon.

With every new crime committed by the Israeli prime minister, the number of anti-Semites increases in Europe and around the world. Personally, I utterly and strongly condemn anti-Semitism, I also condemn Sharon and his actions that breed this movement.

When Sharon is not busy with killing or destruction, he is making Nazi statements that encourage the hatred of Jews around the globe, although most Jews have nothing to do with him.

The latest barbaric statement Sharon made claimed that there are 70 million Muslims in Europe, and they are responsible for the new wave of anti-Semitism. Is this true? This is a double lie: first, there is a European allergy towards the increasing number of Muslims, and there is a marked discomfort over this issue. Second, because the well-known EU survey did not include Muslims, and it clearly showed that a wide European majority views Israel as the main threat to world peace.

Of course, when the subject is about Sharon, then a single rudeness is certainly not enough. He continued by saying that the bombing of Gaza and Jenin

did not contribute in increasing the amount of Israel's enemies (this could be read in last Monday's Times, The Guardian of Tuesday, and Eupolitic.com online magazine). Only a killer like Sharon could imagine that killing and destruction do not lead to enmity, as these things are like air and water for him, and thus he continues claiming that the goal of anti-Semitism is to prevent the Jews from protecting themselves.

I understand of this that Sharon is applying a self-defense strategy in Gaza and Jenin, and not killing women and children to an extent that mobilized Israeli pilots against him, and made drafted soldiers prefer prison over obeying his orders. In Sharonian logic, these pilots and soldiers are considered anti-Semites, or "traitors," which is the adjective he uses in describing his opponents.

In addition to Sharon's betrayal of the Israeli people by locking them inside a crime trap that has no exit, I can add that he is the first terrorist in the Middle East, and the first anti-Semite, since he is the cause of the new wave of anti-Semitism in Europe and elsewhere.

Israeli professor Yaaron Yizrahi reminded that when Rabin and Peres were leaders of Israel, at the time of the peace process, Israel was the West's favorite state, and was strongly supported by Europe and its people. He then wondered why the feelings of anti-Semitism were so limited during the terms of Rabin and Peres, who gave the world the impression that Israel was

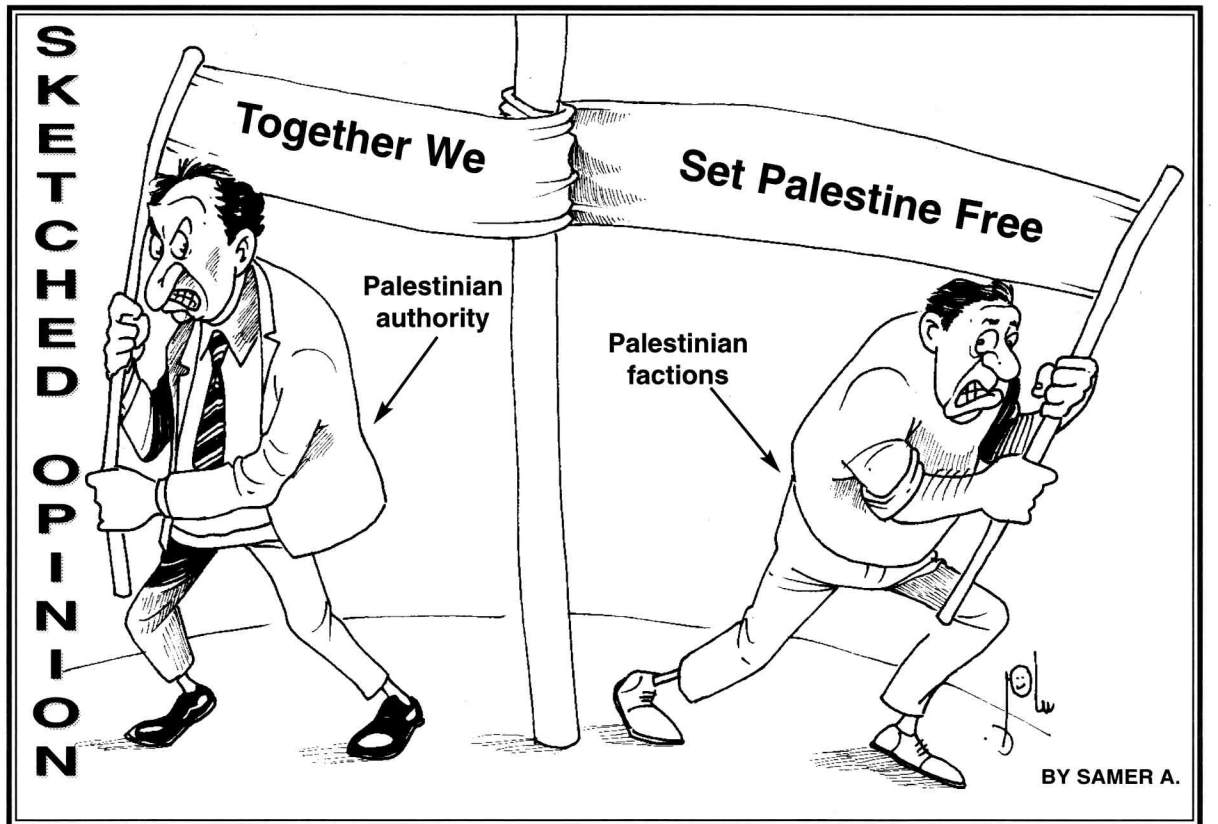
willing to let go of the occupied territories. He said that Sharon has a long record of accusing critics of Israel and its policy of being traitors, and that Israel's left movement is worried that Sharon's policies might threaten the future of Israel, by promoting the spirit of violence and anti-Semitism.

This is what an Israeli political scientist said, which is exactly my opinion as well. I can only add that the new wave of anti-Semitism will never deny that Sharon was its reason. On the other hand, the director of the Vidal Sassoon Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem complained that human rights were only a cover for anti-Semitism, and that Jews are seen as part of a conspiracy that plans to control the world.

I would advise this man to check out Yizrahi's words, since he is in a position that requires knowledge and intelligence; I cannot accuse him of stupidity, but I accuse him of cowardice for not naming Sharon as the reason of the new wave of anti-Semitism, or of taking part in the crime, if he is from the supporters of the Israeli prime minister.

I also address this latter accusation to Natan Sharansky, the Russian minister in the Nazi Sharon government, who said that anti-Semitism has become politically accepted in Europe, but did not explain the reasons behind this ideology's resurgence.

Once again, anti-Semitism will not cave in to the lies surrounding it and ignore the obvious reason. The Israeli forum for coordinating the struggle



against anti-Semitism identified three types of existing anti-Semitism: traditional, new, and Islamic, with the Islamic anti-Semitism being the most dangerous; it then spoke of the 70 million Muslims living in Europe today.

Members of this forum include Israeli intelligence officials and members of the Israeli foreign ministry; they are all professional liars who try to cover up the crimes of Sharon's government with the smokescreen of Islamic anti-Semitism and its other forms. I have a simple answer to these people, which is that during the terms of Rabin and Peres, there were also 70 million Muslims in Europe, but there was no apparent anti-Semitism, apart from a few Europeans.

And I tell the Jews, before addressing Arabs and Muslims, that Sharon is a

danger to them before being a danger to the Palestinians, and that they will not rest until they rectify their mistake of having elected him to the premiership. He achieved nothing other than the total collapse of Israel's security, the loss of the peace process, and the destruction of Israel's reputation all around the world.

On November 23rd, Sharon announced the postponing of his expected meeting with Ahmad Qureih, after two guards of the security wall were killed. This is anti-Semitism in itself, for Sharon kills every day, but he gets angry when two Israelis are killed, as if only the Jewish victim matters, while the Palestinian is like an insect that does not deserve to be mourned.

Today, anyone who defends Sharon is a murderous anti-Semite like him.

These are characteristics and not insults, and rather objective and rational ones.

My personal consolation is that the majority of Jews in Israel and around the world wants peace. I was reading the latest statements by Sharon, and Rabbi Eric Asherman, who heads the Rabbis for Human Rights Address Abuse in the Occupied Territories. This man lives a present danger when walking around in the Palestinian occupied territories everyday, in order to defend them and present himself as a human shield to protect them from the occupation army. This Rabbi, who came with his wife and two children from California, is himself the future hope of the Palestinian-Israeli relations, not Sharon and his allies, the enemies of peace and of humanity itself.

Casualty rate higher than Vietnam

The cost of the Iraq war

BY BARKATULLAH MARWAT
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Although the great Oxford historian, A.J.P. Taylor, cautioned against drawing historical parallels, one significant fact that has escaped the notice of many is that the official US death toll in Iraq in the first nine months of the war has exceeded the number of American soldiers killed during the first three years of the Vietnam War, a conflict which ultimately claimed the lives of 58,000 American soldiers and forced the US into a humiliating retreat from Southeast Asia.

The Vietnam War, which, according to the US Army Center of Military History, officially began on December 11, 1961, inflicted a total of 392 fatalities from 1962 through 1964, when American troop levels in Southeast Asia stood at just over 17,000. By comparison, the US Army's 4th Infantry Division soldier who was killed when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in the town of Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad on November 23 brought to 432 the tally of American soldiers dead in Iraq, where US forces number approximately 130,000 troops - the same number reached in Vietnam by October 1965.

The fatality rate for Iraq apparently surpassed the Vietnam figure on

November 9 when 24-year old US Army Reserve Sergeant Nicholas A. Tomko, killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack south of Baghdad, became the conflict's 393rd American fatal casualty since the Iraq War began on March 20.

According to the Pentagon's own statistics, Vietnam casualties, which amounted to 25 deaths from 1956 through 1961, climbed to 53 in 1962, 123 in 1963 and 216 in 1964. However, not until 1965, after United States Congress had approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, did the US begin its massive troop deployment, casualties in Vietnam rose to 1,926 in 1965 and peaked at 16,869 in 1968, the year of the Tet Offensive.

In Iraq this year alone, the US lost 65 soldiers in March, 73 in April, 37 in May, 29 in June, 46 in July, 35 in August, 31 in September, 42 in October and 74 (so far) in November - the bloodiest month since the conflict began. More than half of the American deaths have occurred since May 1, the day when the US military boasted "Mission Accomplished" and George W. Bush announced the end of major combat operations in Iraq (139 US troops were killed between March 20 and May 1, whereas 293 have been killed between May 1 and November 23.)

On November 11, the US military commander in Iraq, Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, confirmed that the average number of daily attacks

against US troops in Iraq has soared to thirty. Since the war began, the US has been losing, on average, two soldiers a day. The statistics on wounded soldiers are also not impressive - a total of 2,408 have been wounded since the war began out of which 2,061 were due to hostile activities and 347 due to non-hostile activities.

These statistics suggest a 'killed to wounded' ratio of about 1:4. In other words, for every four American soldiers wounded in Iraq, one American soldier is killed. In military terms, this is a very high ratio. Among those wounded are many whose limbs have been amputated - thus permanently putting them out of commission. The month of October registered the highest number of wounded yet - 422.

The total number of US casualties - troops killed, wounded or evacuated due to injury or illness - has surpassed 9,000. According to the US Army Surgeon General's Office, between March 19 and October 30, in addition to the 397 US troops who died and the 1,967 who were wounded, 6,861 troops were medically evacuated for non-combat conditions. That brings total casualties among all services to more than 9,200, and represents an increase of nearly 3,000 non-combat medical evacuations reported since the first week of October 2003.

In the US Army's Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC, since April 2003, when the first casualties began arriving, more than 1,875 US

soldiers have been treated for injuries inflicted in Iraq, averaging about 10 a day (or 300 a month). These are the statistics from just one hospital among many dozens catering to US war wounded around the world. According to US Senator Patrick Leahy, "The wounded are brought back after midnight, making sure the press does not see the planes coming in."

The problems faced by the US military can be gauged by another interesting fact. For the first time since the Vietnam War, soldiers from a company of the Old Guard, the soldiers who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C., have been deployed in Djibouti - in anticipation of an Iraq tour of duty. It is the first time that a unit from the Old Guard will be deployed abroad since the Vietnam War, and it underscores a shortage of fresh troops.

As of November 23, there have been 510 confirmed coalition deaths in the Iraq War - 432 Americans, 53 British, 17 Italians, 3 Ukrainians, 3 Spanish, 1 Polish and 1 Danish.

The situation in Iraq has become a quagmire for the US military, whose nose is being bloodied on a daily basis with increasing ferocity and ingenuity. So much so, that in the so-called "land of the free", the media has been banned by the government from showing pictures of coffins and funerals of the returning dead US soldiers, lest they should demoralize national morale.

Put the blame on Cheney for U.S. mess in Iraq

By James Klurfeld
For the New York Newsday

This isn't how Papa Bush and the handlers thought it would work out. Not when they put solid Dick Cheney in charge of the kid's government.

With all of his experience in government, from White House chief of staff to congressional leader to secretary of defense, Cheney was the one who would avoid the big mistakes, who would make up for Junior's lack of experience.

And yet President George W. Bush is going into his re-election year with one huge mess on his hands in Iraq. It isn't only that much of the world is bewildered if not downright scared at the administration's arrogant unilateralism; it's that a good segment of the American people have begun to question the president's judgment and credibility because of how Iraq was handled.

Cheney was supposed to prevent something like this from happening. He was supposed to protect the not so well prepared W. from the big mistakes. And yet, as more accounts of the maneuvering inside the administration are revealed, it is increasingly clear that it was Cheney who was the moving force behind the decision to fight a war of choice against Iraq.

What is particularly disturbing is how the administration misused intelligence information to make its case for war and failed to plan competently for the postwar period. Two recent articles, one by George Packer in The New Yorker and another by David Rieff in The New York Times Magazine, provide detailed, on-the-record accounts of how the Pentagon deliberately ignored almost all the expert advice coming from the State Department, the CIA and from almost anywhere else about what had to be done after the war.

There was plenty of information available about how difficult the post-war project would be, but the Pentagon planners, with utter disdain for anything coming from the State Department, ignored it. They believed that once Saddam Hussein and his top lieutenants were eliminat-

ed, the people of Iraq would greet the Americans with open arms. The State Department experts told them otherwise. Their information was trashed.

You could blame that on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and his band of neoconservative warriors led by Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz. But bitter conflict between State and Defense is common in every administration. It's the White House that is supposed to sort it out and make sure the president acts upon accurate information.

But Cheney turned out to be the leading neoconservative. According to one account, he told Bush in February of 2002 that he believed it was a mistake to have not eliminated Hussein during Bush I and that now was the time to do it. And he then drove the policy through to war. Cheney was put there to prevent Bush from being duped by those with axes to grind, yet the vice president turned out to be the chief ax grinder.

The same story is true on the run-up to the war. In the Dec. 4 edition of The New York Review of Books, Thomas Powers examines the administration's contention that Iraq posed an imminent threat. He particularly cites 29 claims made by Secretary of State Colin Powell in his very influential Feb. 5 speech to the United Nations and finds that so far not one has been shown to be the case. And Powell was more cautious than others.

The problem, Powers says, is that the White House exerted enormous pressure on the CIA to produce intelligence that coincided with its policy predilections. This is very dangerous, of course. And, given Bush's lack of background, it's easy to understand why he might not have understood how intelligence can be misused. It was Cheney, the seasoned, solid expert in national security matters, who was supposed to make certain the intelligence was straight, who was going to protect the president's credibility. But it turns out he was the one pushing for information to confirm his preconceived notions.

Yes, the buck stops with the president, but the more I learn about what happened behind the scenes the more I say put the blame on Cheney.

Decision is harmful

BY TOM USHER
FOR USA TODAY

The decision to lift the steel tariffs is wrong. By yielding to the threats of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and our trading partners, we have complicated the historic restructuring underway in the industry and have given the American people one more reason to believe we aren't getting a fair shake on trade.

The president made the right call in 2002, when he realized that after 50 years of foreign-market distortions and more than 30 bankruptcies, this indus-

try needed breathing space from imports. That action was supported by the unanimous opinion of the non-partisan International Trade Commission (ITC), which found that surging imports of foreign steel, much of it dumped and subsidized, were devastating the industry.

Just two months ago, the ITC released a report showing that American steelmakers were doing everything asked of us. We've spent more than \$3 billion to consolidate this industry, reached groundbreaking new agreements with our workers and spent hundreds of millions more to upgrade our facilities. The ITC also found that

steel consumers performed better - not worse - after the steel tariffs were put in place.

The administration wanted to use this steel program to address the underlying problems that have faced the global steel industry for decades: foreign excess capacity and government subsidies. By removing the discipline in the market created by the steel tariffs, this decision will make it far more difficult to convince our trading partners to address these market distortions.

Backing down to the WTO and our trading partners sends the wrong message. The unelected, unaccountable

bureaucrats at the WTO seem to have the power to overrule the president and Congress, rewrite U.S. laws and deny American workers and companies the rights they were promised in international negotiations. With America's \$500 billion trade deficit and growing manufacturing crisis, letting the WTO push us around will only hurt the cause for free trade in this country.

While we are disappointed, this industry will not abandon its efforts to become more competitive and resist unfair trade. The president has pledged to be more aggressive in enforcing our trade laws, and we intend to hold him to that promise.

A Yemen Times series on heroes of Islam

Khalid bin al-Walid: The "Sword of God"



By SULAIMAN M.
AL-HABOOB
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Khalid's father – al-Walid bin al-Mugheera – used to be known as Raihana Quraish (fragrance of Quraish) because he combined wealth, good looks and bravery amongst Quraish and especially among his tribe "Bani Makhzoom."

They were the war trainers of Quraish, and were one of the four main tribes who carried the black stone when rebuilding the Ka'aba.

This tribe also maintained the honor of dressing the Ka'aba alternatively with the rest of Quraish for they were extremely rich, which is another reason for why they provided one third of the army in the battle of Badr.

Due to all this, al-Walid bin al-Mugheera used to complain that he was more worthy of prophethood than Mohammed (MPBUH), especially that the Prophet (MPBUH) and al-Walid belonged to the same family line. Bani Makhzoom specialized in arms war a fact that prepared its youth to become strong warriors whereas Bani Hashim (Prophet's tribe) focused more on trade.

Raised in such a tribe and environment, Khalid was brought up to be a strong hard well trained warrior. He was trained in arts of fight and in planning for battles and defeating enemies in al-Yaman, al-Hijaz and other places. And although he was rich, yet he forced himself to become detached and get used to the hardships of life.

The Quran narrates the story of Khalid's father when he arrogantly rejected the Quran and said that it is an act of magic, and that it is not the words

of God and forces Quraish to follow his belief.

What he didn't know then that his own son would follow the new religion of Islam in a mysterious way following the Battle of Badr. For when al-Waleed took a Muslim man -al-Ahab- in custody and put him in Khalid's hands, he did not know that al-Ahab would influence Khalid and convince him to embrace Islam. Consequently al-Waleed left Mecca once he declared his revert to Islam and walked all the way to al-Madina al-Munawara where prophet Mohammed (MPBUH) resided, leaving behind all the glory of his tribe.

When the battle of Uhod, Khalid had displayed a trick of war which led to the defeat of the Muslims, this incident attracted prophet's attention to Khalid's skills and he asked God to support the Islam with a man like Khalid.

It wasn't so far from that incident when Khalid again went in 200 knights wanting to stop the Prophet and those with him coming for pilgrimage, that was when he saw the Muslims detached from all worldly needs and how they dropped their weapons while praying the noon prayer.

So when it was the next prayer Khalid intended to attack them while they were off guard. To his surprise when the next prayer prophet felt Khalid's intentions so he (MPBUH) ordered the Muslims to pray prayer of fear where half of the people stay guarding the others while the others are in prayer and vice versa. That was the starting point of Khalid's interest in this religion for he was convinced that this kind of act was not a coincidence.

This was followed by Battle of al-Ahزاب, al-Khandaq and the story of the winds running in favor of the prophet and his followers, all those helped in attracting Khalid to Islam.

And finally when Qursih fled during

a battle leaving Khalid, Amr bin al-A'as and Othman bin Talaha to protect the defeated army's rear, the three decided it was time to embrace the new religion and so although the three were seen as one of the strongest sources of power for Quraish, they left for Madina and declared their embracing of Islam.

Since his conversion to Islam, Khalid bin al-Waleed fought for Islam and he was God's sword on the disbelievers as the Prophet (MPBUH) said. Khalid was the Prophet's messenger to Najran and al-Yaman calling people to Islam.

The Prophet made use of Khalid's courage and war skills in keeping the Islamic state settled and that is why he was sent to Khuja'a and other tribes from Hamdan who were known for their strength. Khalid was also of the heroes in the other battles and he trained the Muslim armies and lead them in many battles.

Even after Prophet Mohammed (MPBUH) passed away Khalid continued working for the glory of Islam and fought under Abu Bakr's leadership and reached with his armies to Iran and Rome.

With all his might and skills Khalid was not an arrogant man. He would obey orders like an obedient soldier and would not feel any grudge if he was not give his chances as long as Islam was served.

He played a significant role during the Ridda wars when lots of new Muslims converted from Islam to their previous religions when the prophet died, and he defeated the Romans in Rome and the Persians in Iran, and in seven years Islam was the dominating religion in two continents.

Yet he died in his bed and not in the battle field as he always dreamed. May God have mercy on Khalid ibn al-Waleed the sword of God, a man whom we really need today more than ever.

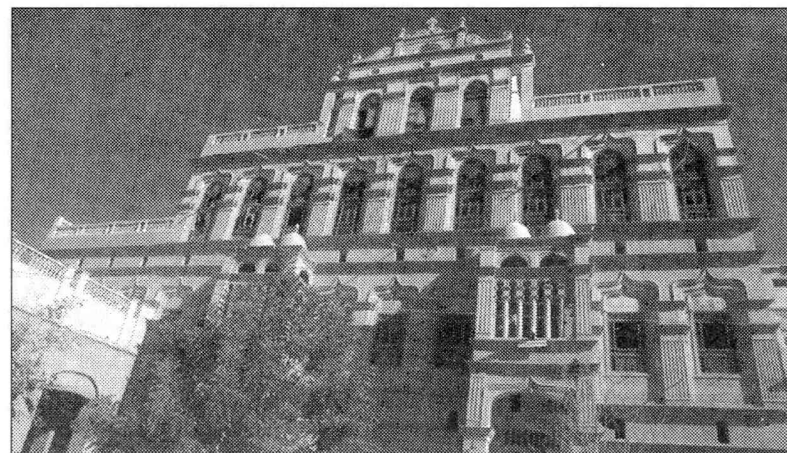
Yemen's historic architecture (Part 3 of 4)

Scientists explore the Tarimi Palaces

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

b. Dialogue, planning, and outreach

It was also our objective to establish working relationships with both governmental and non-governmental organization in Yemen, as well as with stakeholders in the local community, by taking as our model projects that begin by assembling a broad group of participants (Daher 1996). The object is to facilitate the planning and implementation of national heritage status for this buildings, and then for a full group of historic buildings and sites in Tarim. Several organizations have helped our project in the past, showing particular attention to the conservation of Tarim and Qasr al-'Ishshah, and their support continued through this season. The Historical Society for the Preservation of Tarim currently operates par of the house as a museum; however, due to large-scale collapse and a lack of funding and expertise, they have been unable to present the entire house to the public. The Society also publishes information on the cultural heritage of Tarim and raises funds for their projects. They have been amongst our most active partners. In addition to the society, the General Organization of Antiquities and Museums (GOAM), a governmental ministry has played a substantial role in our efforts. They sponsored our work by providing permits and employees to work on the project. Local GOAM employees from the Seyoun Museum were especially supportive, providing both a high level of expertise and knowledge of local architectural history, materials and building professionals. The museum also made storage space available to us during the off season. In exchange for their support, we helped train several GOAM employees in our methods of condition assessment and documentation. The local government also showed interest in our efforts this season. In an arrangement initiated by the



head of the Seyoun Museum, Abd al-Rahman al-Saqqaf, we had the opportunity to meet with Deputy Governor Abd al-Rahman Muhamed al-'Ulfi to discuss our ideas and the general need for a more active governmental role in the conservation of national heritage. Deputy Governor al-'Ulfi, himself an engineer by training, was supportive of our project and set up a meeting between our group and other organizations working in the area, but to date three has been little movement towards official governmental recognition of Tarim as a protected national heritage site. We also spoke extensively with al-Kaf family members still living in Tarim, all of whom have partial ownership rights in the house. These discussions fell into the categories of ethnographic and historical interviews, and logistical consultation and evaluation. Our discussions shed light onto the site history, folklore, and building sequence of al-'Ishshah as discussed above. They also clarified which relatives legally own the house and the extent of their claims. These conversations laid out potential conflicts in the conservation process that we had not anticipated: our discussion with Deputy Governor al-'Ulfi was reported on local radio, and while we considered his response to our proposal to be extremely positive, the al-Kafs we spoke

with found it threatening. They expressed fears over the renewed potential of governmental seizure of their property that may accompany listing the house as a national heritage monument. During the 1970s and 1980s, the Qasr al-'Ishshah was expropriated by the government of South Yemen, and the structure received little maintenance. As a consequence, much of the damage in the building stems from this period. On top of this, the al-Kafs were never compensated for these actions and the family members we spoke with do not feel responsible for many of the repair expenses. Meeting with family members was essential in order to address the concerns of the al-Kaf family concerns over these financial burdens, as well as their new fears that came out of our discussions with the government

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Erratum:

For the technical reasons part 4 appeared in last issue, skipping part 3. Please accept our apology.

بشرى سارة للجمهور الكريم، أسعار مغرية لسيارات أودي
من شركة أودي بمناسبة العام الجديد، ولفترة محدودة

شركة الأحول للتجارة العامة التضامنية صنعاء ت: ٤٤٧٤١٥، عدن ت: ٣٨٧٤٥٨، الحديدة ت: ٢٣٠٩١٤

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Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Sahwa weekly,
4 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- America releases younger Guantanamo detainees
- Dr Saadudin Wahba: Democracy makes moderateness
- A law suit against Taiz education office
- Military medical teams resume their work in Hadramout and Mareb

On the attack the HRITC in Taiz recently came under Rashad al-Shara'abi said in an article that the strange thing is that while the armed attack took place against the HRITC offices Mr Izzudin Saeed Ahmed was presenting his shadow report in Geneva on the extent of the Yemeni government commitment to the agreement of anti-torture and the agreement on the economic, social and cultural rights. It is unknown for us yet whether the attack was a pure coincidence or a planned for crime perpetrated by individuals or groups.

The crime of attacking the center was a surprise for the chairman of the center and its staff. Head of the center Mr Izzudin Saeed said the motives of the perpetrators were not known yet and also about the sides behind the incident, adding that all possibilities were probable since the center is working in the field of human rights and freedoms that may agitate anger of some persons.

It is the first crime of its kind against a civil institution working in the field of enlightenment and qualification in the field of the culture of human rights and such an incident may be an introduction to danger that may be inflicted on civil society organizations and their leaders and activists.



Al-Ra'ie al-A'am weekly,
2 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Military medical teams in Hadramout and Mareb continue carrying out their program
- Negligence in al-Qattan district of Hadramout

- Spread of a phenomena of robbing trade shops in Mukalla

On the American occupation practices in Iraq the newspaper wrote saying the American terror in Iraq the country of civilization is considered one of the ugliest forms of American terror. The crimes committed by the American troops are considered by political analysts and the organization of human rights as massacres and blood shedding of the Iraqis. The American occupying forces have a week ago perpetrated a massacre by killing 54 Iraqi citizens without having committed any guilt. Unlike what Bush said in his surprise visit to Baghdad that the aim of America was to liberate the Iraq, the Americans consider Iraq as a fertile farm and its people are colonized and must be liquidated. It is no harm to keep some of the Iraqis alive, especially those whose stay is necessary for serving the occupation.

The resistance of American occupation by the heroic men of Iraq confirms that the occupation soldiers would not return home but killed or escapees bearing rancor against Bush who was the cause of their fate. The American crimes are evident proof that the are the origin of terror and the allies of America have to realize that the killing and aggression they are committing against the Iraqis would increase the Iraqi people's for power and challenge, especially that their history mentions that they had always been heroes and mighty people. Bush and his administration would ultimately not reap but defeat and destruction.



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

Main headlines:

- Chairing a meeting of the national committee on declaring Sana'a capital of Arab culture,
- President Saleh puts stress on good preparation for the demonstration that Sana'a and its history deserves
- Presidential directives for development of Yemeni diplomacy career
- FM: Signing sea borders agreement with Oman on December 14
- Denouncing the media campaign

Main headlines

- Symptoms of a crisis between Kuwait and Yemen, Kuwaiti MP accuses the president of advising Saddam on occupying Kuwait
- Al-Mouayad refuses lawyers appointed by America
- An attacker on HRITC arrested
- Appeals approves execution of Abed
- President urges Bajammal government to improve citizens living conditions
- Americans practice terror in Iraq, carry out a carnage deemed as war crime
- Demand for solving boundary dispute between the secretariat and governorate of Sana'a
- Embezzlements at education office in Sana'a governorate
- Al-Ahdal discloses serious information on operations and activity of al-Qaeda in Yemen
- In Hudeidah governorate, influential persons kidnap and torture citizens, security denies its knowledge of the incident
- U.S. occupation forces fail to arrest al-Douri, capture his aide
- Saudi Arabia arrests a person suspected to be involved in al-Muhaya blasts
- Attempts to reactivate al-Qaeda cells in Aden aborted
- Intensive Yemeni contacts to be sure of Washington's intention of handing over 54 Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo
- Who is behind escape of a Chinese ship from Aden fishing port?
- 11 thousand AIDS cases in Yemen
- Gaddafi's son: Attacks on coalition troops in Iraq not terrorist acts

against Yemen, official source: These fabrications would not preclude Yemen from continuing its stands in fighting terror

- Under chairmanship of PM, Plenary meeting on discussing best mechanism for levying Zakat

The newspaper editorial says the phenomenon of terror does not only threaten security and stability of economic and social interests of the international community but impact of its

damage extends to many countries of the world and it has not certain religion or ideology or a limited arena for its movement. The Yemeni people consider the phenomenon of terror as intruding and alien in our society and contradicts their civilized heritage, values and their noble humane thoughts.

Yemen as part of the international community and an active member in it has always been keen through its foreign policy and official stands on sup-

porting all steps and decisions taken by world countries with regard to fighting the terror. It has also contributed to curbing sabotage and acts of terrorism and has been an initiator in calling on the international community for holding a world conference for defining terror and to come out with recommendations and executive mechanisms guaranteeing effectiveness and success in fighting and ending terrorism.



Al-Isbou weekly,
4 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Engagements with 20 military groups as a because of dispute between Amran cement factory and citizens
- Ibb intelligence director killed, Shabwa governor wounded in Baidha
- WB & IMF threaten government of halting loans and aid
- Indicators of openness in Eman University urge a professor to resign

The newspaper's leading story says there are high-level consultations going on between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to heal the tension that affected lately the two countries relations in the wake of media reports based on American intelligence source claiming that weapons sold to Yemen were found with terrorist groups involved in recent Riyadh operations. The source did not identify himself but observers have said that the U.S would try to fish in troubled waters between the two countries. They stressed it was not for the two countries' interest to expand their differences.

Yemeni statements have strongly refuted what had been mentioned by the American intelligence source while some press sources mentioned that Saudi Arabia was behind leaking of news of this kind but no Saudi official comment has been issued so far. Yemen had earlier halted the handing over of 15 Saudi nationals to the Saudi authorities just one hour before the sides ending the process of exchanging the wanted. In response to Riyadh leaks on seizing Yemeni weapons with

Saudi groups, press information from unidentified sources mentioned that it was a kind of pressure on the Saudi part to push Yemen hand over the wanted Saudis.



Al-Shumou weekly,
6 Dec. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Reports on presence of difference between the government and Parliament on housing law
- A military intelligence official killed, his brother wounded in Shabwa governorate
- Government passes on contracts of YR300 worth without subjecting them to competition

Political editor of the newspaper says in his article that acuteness of conflicts is escalating day by day between the opposition political parties in Yemen especially those grouped in the JMP, as a tactical rend in the effort to face the ruling party and as a political ideology for their political march in fighting their battle with the authority. Blocs of opposition have represented a kind of victory against the regime, investing many of auxiliary factors, most of which the financial and administrative corruption in most of the government machinery. The opposition has successfully made advantage of using that weak point of the ruling party in the latest electoral battle as it managed to shake the structure of the ruling party.

Away from talking about realities and indications of orientations and practices of the authority and opposition, the important message we want to convey to the Yemeni political forces is that there is an equation has been changed and a strategy of most political activities got derailed in its orientations and goals to be replaced by Washington's interest. It has also changed from the course of building the homeland economically, politically and humanely to the battle of Washington of fighting terror and homelands. It is therefore the talk of the necessity of activating the project of national alignment for confronting the external challenges, a matter arousing political ridicule.

World Press

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

Egypt

Al Ahram

Differences escalated on Friday between the United States and Israel after US Secretary of State Colin Powell met architects of the Geneva Accord.

Al Gomhuria

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is to receive on Monday Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva who is due to arrive in Egypt on a two-day visit, the first one paid by a Brazilian President in many years.

Al Akhbar

Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia will start

talks on River Nile water, boosting cooperations and other issues of joint interest on Saturday.

The three countries have adopted an East Nile Working Program strategy to develop water resources through sustainable development projects to achieve security, prosperity and peace to the peoples of the region.

Egyptian Mail

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said it has participated with an "open mind" at the Egyptian-sponsored talks aimed at persuading Palestinian factions to halt attacks on Israelis and help revive stalled peace talks.

Britain

Daily telegraph

Oxford and Cambridge are still not doing enough to attract state school pupils, the higher education minister said Friday as he attacked the "obscene social class gap" in Britain's universities.

Financial Times

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's challenge to Labor rebels over his education reforms may have backfired, with half of the party's "top-up fee" dissidents surveyed by the Financial Times ready to see him toppled.

The Times

The Provisional Irish Republican Army is suspected of infiltrating 2 million pounds (over 3.4 million US dollars) a year to set up fund for police

victims of violence in Northern Ireland to obtain details of serving and former officers, security sources disclosed Friday night.

The Independent:

British Chancellor of Exchequer Gordon Brown is expected to order a shake-up in Britain's mortgage market to restrict the special deals offered to first-time buyers and those who want to re-mortgage their homes.

The Guardian

The British government is selling arms and security equipment to countries whose human rights record it has strongly criticized, according to lists of weapons cleared for export that have been seen by the Guardian newspaper.

Japan

Asahi

The cabinet will decide Tuesday on the plan to dispatch the Self-Defense Forces to Iraq.

Yomiuri

Japan and Kuwait are expected to conclude a status of forces agreement next week that stipulates the rights and duties of Air Self-Defense Force personnel that Japan will send to Kuwait.

Nihon Keizai

The ruling coalition — the Liberal Democratic Party and the New Komeito party — deferred decision on a pension financing plan.

India

The Times of India

A seat-by-seat analysis of voting percentages in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan reveals that the Congress paid dearly for failing to convert its rhetoric about the need for pre-poll alliances into reality.

The Hindustan Times

A US court has ruled that "one country's terrorist can often be another

Kenya

The People

Kenyan Minister for National Security Chris Murungaru said Friday that enough security measures have been put in place to avert any kind security threat, including terrorist acts.

Kenya Times

Kenyan Minister for Education George Saitoti said Friday the govern-

ment had promised that it will give a competitive pay package to the public university lecturers in the country.

East African Standard

The Kenyan government will make sure that the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission proceeds with its work until a new constitution is delivered to Kenyans.

Philippines

The Philippine Star

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo lifted Friday a nearly four-year moratorium on the death penalty following intense pressure from anti-crime groups and businesses over increasing kidnappings and violence.

Today

President Arroyo Friday ordered feuding police officials to shut up and stop grandstanding on the recent controversial revamp at the national police and observe strict discipline within the force.

VACANCY

The Local Establishment for Water and Sanitation in the governorate of Taiz announces a vacancy for a Project Manager for the water and sanitation project in Taiz City, which is part of the civil cities project funded by the World Bank.

The applicant must meet the following conditions:

- 1- Have a masters or bachelor degree
- 2- Be proficient in reading and writing English language
- 3- Able to communicate with foreign companies and donors in English language.
- 4- Able to use computers.
- 5- Has previous experience in supervising similar projects.

Whoever finds himself fit for this post and meets the mentioned requirements can apply to the establishment's administration with his resume and documents proving his qualifications and experience in a period no later than 15 days after the date of this vacancy announcement.

Establishment for Water and Sanitation – Taiz

Tel: 211889, 211891, 211893 Fax: 212323 -
Email: TWSLC@Y.NET.YE

Improve Your English



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213

I. What to Say Situations and Expression (57): Tribute to a teacher (VIII)

There is no limit to a learner's tribute to a teacher because a teacher's role in shaping a learner is too profound for words. However, here are a few more expressions of reverence from a learner to a teacher.

- You have made my life more meaningful with an infinite horizon to see by letting my creativity flow free and by believing in me. With sincerest gratitude.
- Teacher, you've given me the directions to be successful anytime, anywhere! You've instilled in me the values, that I'll carry a lifetime. You've given me standards to go by and goals to aim for. And I wish to thank you for helping me shape my life in such a wonderful way. Teacher, you're simply the best.
- For a great teacher! Beyond being a teacher, you've been a true guide, amending my weakness, highlighting my strengths.
- For a dear teacher who has helped me become an achiever. You've always been so patient and understanding, dear teacher, giving so much of yourself. So this comes with heartfelt gratitude and regards, especially for you.
- You fill my mind with knowledge true. You're always there to guide and advise. You're so very kind and I wish that Teacher's Day should be happy and nice. A tribute to you, dear Teacher, my window to this colourful world.
- The friendships and the fights, the pain and the ecstasy.... These are the wonder years! Dear Teacher, thanks for being a wonderful part of them.
- Sir, your faith in my abilities has instilled a new confidence in me.
- 'A teacher's influence never stops'
—The Education of Henry Adams
- You are a positive influence in my life. Your lessons and their morals are something I'll always remember. Thank you, dear Teacher.
- Thanks for making me realize the importance of simple things.
- For a teacher who taught me the true meaning of education.

- ### II. How to Say it Correctly
- Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences
- He hanged the picture on the wall.
 - Had you gone to hospital, I would also accompany you.
 - He ran so fastly that he could escape easily.
 - I don't have the right of vote in Yemen.
 - I feel quite in home in your company.

- ### Suggested answers to last week's questions
- The police would not allow any one to enter the hall.
 - He came by an interesting advertisement in the newspaper.
 - The manager brought forward many arguments in support of his scheme.
- Note: In a sentence we can't use double 'his' to refer to the same noun.
- When she parted from her parents, there were tears in her eyes.
 - I will stand by you through thick and thin.

- ### III. Increase Your Word Power
- (A) How to express it in one word
- That which cannot be excused.
 - That which cannot be taken by force of arms.
 - That which cannot be admitted or allowed.
 - That which cannot be reached.
 - That which cannot be perceived by senses.

- ### Suggested answers to last week's questions.
- A substance that kills germs: **germicide** (n)

- Remedy for all troubles: **panacea** (n)
- All of one mind: **unanimous** (adj)
- Contrary to law: **illegal** (adj)
- Not definitely or clearly expressed: **inexplicit** (adj)

- (B) Foreign phrases and expressions
Give the sources of origin and meanings of the following:
- Edition de luxe
 - elite
 - en famille
 - en masse
 - en prince

- ### Suggested answers to last week's questions
- detenu** (Fr.): A prisoner
 - Deux ex machina** (Lat.): A god out of the machine.
 - Dramatis personae** (Lat.): Characters in a drama or a play.
 - Donna e'mobile** (It.): Woman is changeable.
 - ecce!** (Lat.): Behold!

- (C) Words often confused
Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words
- pour, pore
 - quite, quiet
 - obvious, oblivious
 - profit, prophet
 - dose, doze

- ### Suggested answers to last week's questions
- meet** (n) (coming together of a number of people for a purpose): An international athletic meet is going to be held here in December.
meat (n) (flesh of animals used as food): You should avoid taking too much of frozen meat.
mete (vt) (give carefully as if in measured amounts): Justice has been meted out in the murder case.

- patrol** (n) (the act of going round a camp, town, the streets, etc.): The coast-guards are on their routine patrol.
petrol (n): Petrol is a highly inflammable substance.
- rain** (n) (water falling in separate drops from the clouds): The concept of rain harvesting is not only interesting, but a utilitarian one as well.
reign (n) (period of rule): Shakespeare lived and wrote during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.
- piece** (n) (part or bit of a solid substance): The glass fell and was broken into pieces.
peace (n) (state of freedom from war): We want to be at peace with our neighboring countries.
- pray** (vt): They prayed to God for world peace.
prey (n) (animal or bird killed and eaten by another): The tiger pounced upon its prey.
- marital** (adj) (of a husband, of marriage, matrimonial): I wish you marital bliss.
martial (adj) (associated with military or war): Martial law was enforced in the country to suppress the revolution.

(The inadvertent error defining 'marital' in lesson 210 is regretted.)

- loath** (adj) (unwilling to do something): He is loath to share with me the secret.
loathe (vt) (dislike greatly): I loathe hypocrisy.

(The incorrect spelling of 'loathe' in lesson 212 is regretted.)

- (D) Phrases and Idioms
Illustrate the meanings of the following phrases in sentences
- work on
 - work up
 - throw over
 - set apart
 - run up

- ### Suggested answers to last week's questions
- set about** (begin to do or deal with): He set about his new project with sincerity of purpose.
 - set in** (beginning of an unfavorable weather, or other natural condition): Winter has set in early this year.
 - take after** (resemble): The baby takes after her mother.

- take down** (note): Ahmed takes down detailed notes from the lectures.
- turn down** (reject): Her father turned down her request for permission to go out with friends.

- ### IV. Grammar and Composition
- (A) Grammar
Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence printed before it.

- Although he had terrible pains in his legs, Mofed climbed the mountain.
In spite of ———
- You're allowed to come to school without wearing the school uniform.
You don't ———
- I'm not going to the party because I haven't got a nice pair of suits.
If I ———
- It wasn't possible for them to get home because of the floods.
The floods ———
- She finds it strange to stay at home all day.
She is not used ———

- ### Suggested answers to last week's questions
- You'll never guess who I ran into the other day. It was Ahmed! I hadn't seen him for ages.
 - I must write down some of this information; there's too much for me to take in all at once.
 - Oh no! We've run out of bread again. Can you go and get some more?
 - The flight was late because we didn't take off until after midnight.
 - Just before they went into the field, the manager ran through what he wanted the players to do once again.

(B) Composition: Paragraph Writing
Expand the idea contained in the saying
45: BEAUTY IS NOT SKIN DEEP

Last week's topic:
44: BETTER TO REIGN IN HELL THAN TO SERVE IN HEAVEN

Freedom from any external control is a blessing. Servility is an oppressive curse. It is a great pleasure and privilege to be one's own master so as to live with dignity and honor than to pledge one's soul to another master for some petty gains. All the world's riches and comforts are no compensation for a life in chains. Freedom has no substitute. One may face hardships, yet one is at liberty to lead one's life according to one's choice far from the shackles of bondage. Freedom implies freedom of body as well as that of spirit. Man is born free and he should strive at all costs to preserve, protect and nourish it. Annals of history are filled with man's struggle to liberate himself from the shackles of tyranny, oppression, exploitation and domination and taste the elixir of freedom. There can be no denying the fact that man's greatest accomplishment, and his highest sense of fulfillment lies in being the architect of his own destiny which is denied to a life of servitude. It is crystal clear therefore that a poor but free life is preferable to a rich and opulent life but in deplorable bondage.

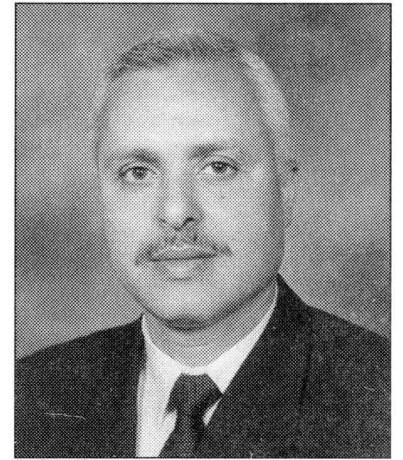
V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"... Those who Obey Allah and His Messenger Will be admitted to Gardens With rivers flowing beneath, To abide therein (forever) And that will be The supreme achievement."
S4:A13

VI. Words of Wisdom
"When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece."
— John Ruskin

Improve Your English: A welcome step in the right direction

DR. AHMED MUTAHHAR AKABAT,
DEAN,
FACULTY OF MASS COMMUNICATION
SANA'A UNIVERSITY



To improve the competence of English, especially of our countless university students is one of the top national priorities, especially in the present age of globalization. In view of this, the lessons serialized under the caption "Improve Your English" are of utmost importance not only for the university students, but of immense value for the general readers as well, who are interested to improve their command of English, the medium of global communication and the language of opportunities.

I take this opportunity to present my sincere compliments to Yemen Times for realizing this felt need of our students and the general readers. I would also like to thank Dr. Ramakanta Sahu for doing a

commendable job. While I wish its continuity, I would like to conclude by suggesting to you to try and elicit the needs of the readers of this page through a questionnaire to make the endeavor still more focussed and beneficial for the targeted readership.

A letter to the teachers of English: 34 Common examination question papers

DR. M.N.K. BOSE
(BOSE@y.net.ye)
Associate Professor of English,
Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

In one of my earlier letters I have said that my students in the Faculty of Education - teacher trainees - and I studied closely some of the common examination questions papers available to us in this country for finding out the merits and demerits of them. Some of what we found were interesting and some were disturbing. I am sharing with you our observations for your benefit; I am sure you will have an opportunity to set such common examination questions papers in the future, if you have not had one so far. These observations are in no way a fault-finding attempt, but to remind ourselves that we could do better if we paid a little more attention.

There were interesting test items in some of the examination papers, for example, 'Reorder the following sentences in order to describe how you will make a phone call.' and 'Write 7 instructions for crossing the road.' These are real-life, communicative test items, which the students will enjoy and benefit from. Similarly, 'Match the words with the pictures', no doubt, is an enjoyable item to the students, especially of the preparatory class. Such items will enrich the question papers, as they are motivating and challenging and communicative in nature.

What disturbed us most were the awful spelling errors in the question papers, which could have been avoided, if the papers had been proofread carefully. In some of the question papers, we found

that the instructions to the test items were either not clear or confusing. You will agree with me that in the examination, the only help students get is the instruction and it is important that the instructions should be simple, clear and understandable; they are equal to the teacher's instructions in the classroom, when the students do the exercises. I personally feel that in the lower classes, there is nothing wrong, if these instructions are given in Arabic. Don't raise your eyebrows; most often we translate them into Arabic in the examination halls, when the students have problems in understanding them, don't we? This happens in the college examinations too, then, why should we hesitate to give the instructions in Arabic in the lower classes? When the students are already tensed in the examination halls, the errors in the question papers and unclear instructions will put them off very easily, and these should be avoided, in the interest of the students.

The quality of printing in some of the question papers needed improvement. The pictures were not clear or not visible at all. In the preparatory classes, how do you expect the students to answer these questions? These errors might lead to unwanted talking and consultation among the students in the examination halls, which indirectly paves way for other malpractices such as copying in the examinations, which, I hear, is rampant in schools and not uncommon in colleges.

We have also noticed some other problems that are related to the designing of the questions and the principles involved in it. I will write about them in my next letter.

Yours fraternally,
Dr. M.N.K. Bose

Revamping Education in Yemen

BY MOHAMMED H. AL-FATAH
LECTURER, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,
MAHWEET

It is a fact that there are staggering problems facing education in Yemen. Many attempts have been made by the government to tackle these problems. The government has been sincerely trying to revitalize education. But it has been of little consequence in eradicating the evils afflicting education. I think finding a solution for the problems of education needs concerted efforts by researchers, education experts, and intellectuals.

The necessary administrative support can be provided by the Ministry of Education. Workshops, conferences, symposia could be organized to plug the shortcomings at different levels of the edifice of education.

The learning process is complex. It is very important to specify the problems before thinking about the solutions. At the outset, we need to assess the validity and reliability of the present curriculum. Our curriculum should not be built on imported ideologies. Competent educators

should be involved in the task of revamping prevailing educational system. If there is political will for reforming the education in Yemen, the following steps are necessary to be taken before it is too late:

- Competent educators should be identified and suitably rewarded.
- The incompetent ones should be requalified and reskilled.
- The careless and irresponsible teachers should be punished.
- Corruption should be weeded out at all levels.
- The objectives of education in Yemen need to be respecified.
- Separating politics from education is very important to maintain the sanctity and dignity of education.
- Curriculum should be restructured.
- Planning the curriculum according to the objectives and needs is a crucial step.
- Random or casual designs regarding educational administration must be avoided and planned steps should be carried out after proper investigation.
- Teachers and all the employees in the educational sector should be honored and their services should be appreciated. So serious thinking about reforming education, liberating it from mismanagement is essential to give education a facelift.

WONDERWORD by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

- CLUES
- | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Alga | Eggs | Masses | Scent | Supply |
| Amuse | Emulation | Motor | Seaweed | Support |
| Background | Exhibit | Natural | Shade | Swim |
| Beds | Family | Nutrients | Shape | Tank |
| Breed | Filter | Parks | Shells | Teeth |
| Bubbles | Fish | Pets | Shelter | Thermometer |
| Caged | Fresh | Plant | Show | Toys |
| Cells | Full | Plastic | Tubs | Usable |
| Conditioning | Geography | Ponds | Sinks | Vitamin |
| Container | Glass | Prey | Small | Warn |
| Coral | Grill | Private | Soaked | Water |
| Count | Heated | Pumps | Solution | Wiggle |
| Deep | Home | Purified | Space | Window |
| Depth | House | Reef | Stand | Zoos |
| Dimensions | Lamp | Robot | Stare | |
| Dispenser | Light | Rotation | Statuses | |
| Display | Liquid | Salty | Stock | |
| Drink | Live | Scenery | Stone | |

AT THE AQUARIUM Solution: 10 letters

R	S	T	P	O	N	D	S	M	A	L	L	Y	D	S	E	S	U	O	H
E	O	H	E	V	I	L	P	H	S	H	E	A	T	E	D	C	E	S	A
T	M	G	O	S	I	R	A	T	A	C	N	W	I	L	E	E	E	T	A
A	E	I	P	W	E	T	E	L	O	D	T	I	B	N	A	R	B	A	T
W	T	L	W	Y	H	P	A	R	G	O	E	G	I	O	F	S	B	N	S
P	A	R	K	S	L	N	A	M	Y	A	N	G	H	I	T	R	U	D	T
Y	L	R	E	A	C	L	O	S	I	I	O	L	X	T	F	O	B	U	N
C	U	I	N	S	S	E	D	I	N	N	I	E	E	A	C	U	B	Y	E
I	M	T	D	L	N	E	N	O	T	M	T	L	M	T	R	S	L	O	I
T	I	R	L	I	E	E	I	E	A	U	A	I	D	O	A	P	E	L	R
S	S	E	F	W	U	T	P	S	R	M	L	N	T	R	P	V	S	D	T
A	C	T	A	E	I	Q	S	S	P	Y	U	O	S	U	E	H	I	R	U
L	U	E	A	D	E	E	I	A	I	O	M	S	S	H	A	M	E	R	N
P	S	M	N	R	S	R	G	L	R	D	E	W	E	P	E	T	O	A	P
S	O	O	Z	T	E	C	A	G	E	D	I	G	E	N	L	L	T	H	D
H	C	M	E	T	L	E	K	K	S	N	R	R	S	I	P	U	L	E	E
S	T	R	L	C	B	C	N	C	D	D	E	I	F	I	R	U	P	S	K
I	R	E	N	I	A	T	N	O	C	E	O	L	N	A	N	T	M	N	A
F	H	H	E	B	S	P	W	T	T	N	E	L	L	K	H	K	A	P	O
S	S	T	A	T	U	E	S	S	S	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	S	M	S

مسابقة الهلايين الكبرى 2004

للمشاركة في الرعاية

71200540

رشيد السقاف

مدير الإعلانات

بالإضافة إلى أكثر من 350 فائز

بجوائز نقدية وعينية قيمة

1,000,000

الفائز الأول

500,000

الفائز الثاني

250,000

الفائز الثالث

150,000

الفائز الرابع

100,000

الفائز الخامس



كوبون أسئلة رقم (هـ)

للمشاركة اقرأ التفاصيل:

على الراغبين في المشاركة في مسابقة الملايين الكبرى 2004 تعبئة المعلومات الشخصية في الكوبون المرفق وقص الكوبون ومن ثم عليهم ترقيع عند الخميس القادم للإجابة عن الأسئلة التي وردت في هذا العدد ثم جمع الكوبونين معا وإرسالهما إلى مقر الصحيفة في صنعاء (شارع حده - خلف السفارة الفلسطينية) أو إلى مكاتب الصحيفة في عدن أو الحديدة. كما يمكن للمشاركين إرسالها إلى بريد الصحيفة في صنعاء على عنوان (ص.ب. 2078، صنعاء).

ستستمر المسابقة لمدة أشهر ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشاركوا أكثر من كوبون، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقا، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركين الاتصال بالصحيفة على 238661 (01) في أوقات الدوام. حظاً موفقاً للجميع....

المصداقية هي شعارنا، وثقتكم هي غايتنا، شاركوا وترقبوا أسماكم من بين الفائزين.....

الإسم: السن: الجنسية: رقم البطاقة لشخصية / الحواز:
التلفون: العنوان: المدينة / المحافظة:

1- (مصرف كل الناس) شعار أحد البنوك في الجمهورية اليمنية فهل هو:

بنك اليمن والخليج أو بنك اليمن الدولي؟

2- العلامة التجارية التي تحمل شعار رويال ROYAL هي علامة تجارية ل: معدات ثقيلة أو أجهزة منزلية كهربائية أو مواد تجميل؟

3- أين يقع المعرض الخاص بوكالة نيسان في صنعاء التابعة لشركة تهامة التجارية؟

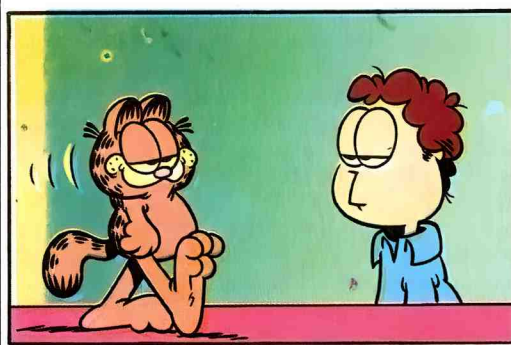
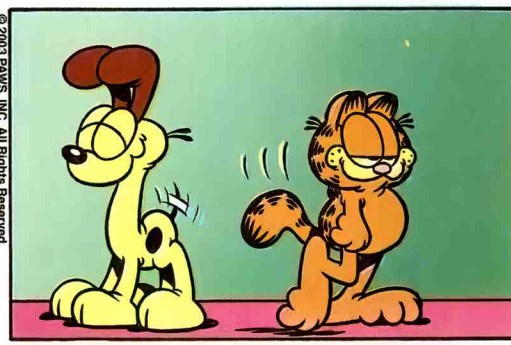
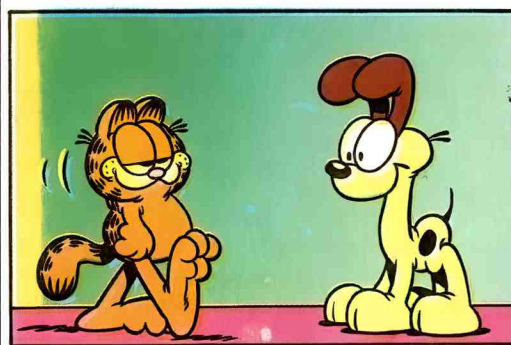
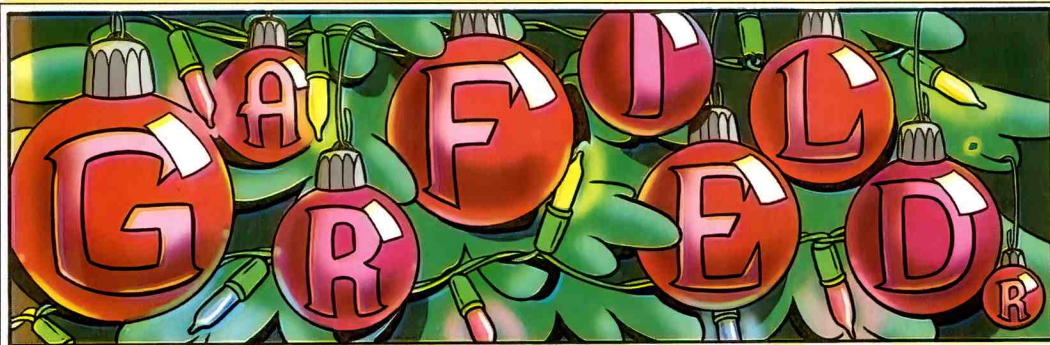
4- متى تأسست الشركة الأهلية لتصنيع الزيت والسمن (ش.م.ي) (إحدى مجموعة إخوان ثابت)؟

5- قامت اليمنية بتجديد مطار إحدى المحافظات. ما إسم هذه المحافظة؟

6- مؤسسة الكبوس تعتبر من الشركات الرائدة في اليمن وتتميز منتجاتها بجودة عالية وكان بداية تأسيسها عام: 1938 أو 1940 أو 1990؟

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a								Aden							
Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hi	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	Hi	34	33	33	33	33	34	34
Lo	6	7	7	6	6	6	7	Lo	26	27	27	27	26	25	25



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia



Aries
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Talking things through with the people who understand what you are pursuing will put your ideas in the proper context. Once you've done that, you will have smooth sailing and guaranteed success.



Taurus
(Apr 20 - May 20)
If you don't pull your act together quickly, you may miss out on an opportunity to move ahead. Don't let your stubbornness hold you back.



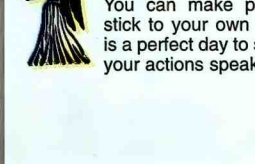
Gemini
(May 21 - Jun 20)
Don't be a hothead today. Confrontations will be a waste of time and energy. Your greatest accomplishments will come from working hard.



Cancer
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Take a second look at some of the deals you've been working on. There may be a clause that you overlooked. It's not too late to make changes.



Leo
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)
As long as you portray things as they truly are, you won't have anything to worry about. Partnerships can form if you can give an accurate view of your intentions.



Virgo
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)
You can make progress if you stick to your own concerns. This is a perfect day to say little and let your actions speak for you.



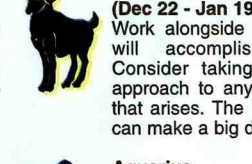
Libra
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)
Get to know more about the world you live in. This is a great day for socializing, being creative and finding interesting new challenges.



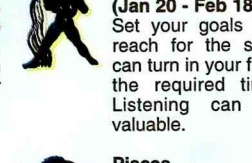
Scorpio
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Make arrangements to help others who can't do for themselves. The time is now to tie up loose ends before year-end. Don't make the mistake of thinking you will have time to spare as the month progresses.



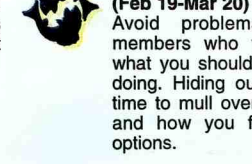
Sagittarius
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Someone won't agree with what you want to do. Partnerships will be strained if you aren't accommodating. Avoid emotional issues by planning an active day.



Capricorn
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Work alongside others and you will accomplish the most. Consider taking an alternative approach to any health problem that arises. The research you do can make a big difference.



Aquarius
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Set your goals high today and reach for the stars. Everything can turn in your favor if you put in the required time and effort. Listening can be extremely valuable.



Pisces
(Feb 19-Mar 20)
Avoid problems with family members who want to dictate what you should or shouldn't be doing. Hiding out will allow you time to mull over what you want and how you feel about your options.

Flora of Yemen

By Abdul Wali Al Khulaidi,
Plant Ecologist
Agriculture Research & Extension
Authority (AREA)

The flora of Yemen is a mixture of the tropical African, Sudanese plant geographical region and the Sahara-Arabian region.

The Sudanese element dominates the western mountains and parts of the high land plains which is characteristic by relatively high rain fall.

The Sahara-Arabian element dominates in the coastal plains, eastern mountain and the eastern and northern desert plains.

A high percentage of Yemen plants belong to tropical African plants of Sudanese regions.

Among the Sudanese element species the following may be mentioned:

Ficus spp., Acacia mellifera, Grewia villosa, Commiphora spp., Rosa abyssinica, Cadaba farinosa and others.

Among the Sahara-Arabian species, the following may be mentioned:

Panicum turgidum, Aerva javanica, Zygophyllum simplex, Fagonia indica, Salsola spp., Acacia tortilis, A. hamulosa, A. ehrenbergiana, Phoenix dactylifera, Hyphane thebaica, Capparis decidua, Salvadora persica, Balanites aegyptiaca and many others.

The characteristic genera of the Irano-Turanian which occur in the eastern and northern east of the country are: Calligonum spp. Cymbopogon jwarancusa and Tamarix spp. and of the Mediterranean regions are: Teucrium, Lavandula, Juniperus, Brassica and Diplotaxis

Yemen's flora is very rich

Total plant species is about 2810 species, belongs to 1006 genera and 173 families, (2559 naturalized, 121 cultivated and 111 introduced).

Yemen is rich in endemic plants, with estimated to be 415 plant species (236 in Socotra). Constituting some 15% of the flora which does not occur elsewhere.

The most important families regarding to the number of plant species are:

1. POACEAE (GRAMINEA) 322
2. ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITAE) 223
3. FABACEAE (PAPILIONACEAE) 203
4. EUPHORBIACEAE 106
5. ASCLEPIADACEAE 104

The most important families regard-



ing to the number of endemic are:

1. ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITAE) 46
2. EUPHORBIACEAE 31
3. ASCLEPIADACEAE 31
4. ACANTHACEAE 27
5. BORAGINACEAE 26
6. FABACEAE (PAPILIONACEAE) 21
7. LAMIACEAE (LABIATAE) 21
8. CARYOPHYLLACEAE 15
9. RUBIACEAE 13
10. ALOEACEAE 13
11. SCROPHULARIACEAE 12
12. POACEAE (GRAMINEA) 10
13. BURSERACEAE 10

Among the important genera:

- | | |
|--------------|----|
| Euphorbia | 58 |
| Heliotropium | 37 |
| Indigofera | 35 |
| Acacia | 32 |
| Cyperus | 31 |

Main floristic types and their environment

Coastal plain
A) Western plain (Tihama plain):



It is the coastal plain between the Red Sea and the Tihama foot hills. It is about 420 km. long and about 50 km wide to the north and about 20 km at the south covering a total area of about 14,700 km², with corresponds to approximately 2.6% of the area of Yemen. The altitude ranges between 0-300 m. above sea level. It is flat to undulating and intersected by several wadis (e.g. Wadi Mor, Wadi Riam, Wadi Zabid, Wadi Siham, Wadi Rusyan and Wadi Surdud) draining from the escarpment to the sea. Average temperature ranges between 20-40 degree, annual rainfall ranges between 5-100mm.

B) Southern and southern east plain:

It is the coastal plain between the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and the mountains. They are about 1580 km long and 10 to 15 km wide in the west and about 60 km in the east, covering about 44240 km² (approximately 7.9% of the area of Yemen). The altitude ranges between sea level and 200 m. It is flat to undulating and intersected by several wadis (e.g. W. Bana, W. Hasan, W. Ahwar, W. Hagr, W. Tuban and W. Mayfaa). Average temperature ranges between 19-30 degree, annual rainfall ranges between 50-75mm.

The vegetation of these regions is similar to Somalia-Masai regional centre and Red Sea Nubo-Sindian tropical desert and semi-desert that occur in the coastal plain of east Africa

The spaces between the scattered trees mainly Acacia tortilis and Acacia ehrenbergiana and larger shrubs like Salvadora persica are occupied by smaller shrubs and grasses like Panicum turgidum and Odyssea mucronata. Grass cover might sometimes appear, but only after a good rainfall. The

wadis, drainage lines and gullies tend to support the most vegetation due to generally higher soil moisture levels.

Common floristic vegetation types in the coastal plains are:

Avicennia marina type

It is a mangrove swamp occurs along the Red sea coastal fringe, mainly north of the wadi Siham outlet, isolated swamps are also seen north Yakhtol (southern Tihama) and around Bir Ali (west of al Mukalla). Occasionally other plants such as Aeluropus lagopoides, Suaeda spp. and others can occur with this type and can be also considered as a transition to the vegetation types found further inland.

1.2- Suaeda fruticosa shrub land

This habitat is found along the coast on flat, often bare mud known locally as Sabakha and covers from shore line to about 5 km. inland. Suaeda fruticosa and Aeluropus lagopoides are the most common species in this habitat. The following vegetation types have been found:

1.2.1- Halopyrum mucronatum- Suaeda fruticosa type is dwarf shrub land and grassland

1.2.2- Aeluropus lagopoides- Suaeda fruticosa type is grassland

1.2.3- Suaeda fruticosa-Odyssea mucronata type is dwarf shrub land

Associated species of these types are Acacia tortilis, Cadaba rotundifolia and Panicum turgidum.

1.3- Sandy plain covered by shrub land or bush land

This plain covers an area from 5-20 to 20-40 km. inland. Soil predominantly sandy and it is almost flat to slightly undulating. The plain consists of fine gravel, sand, silt and clay. Recent Aeolian deposits are frequent at the surface. Many sandy hummocks which covered by vegetation are found in many locations. The following vegetation types are found in this habitat:



1.3.1. Cadaba rotundifolia - Panicum turgidum type:

Is open shrub land to sparse dwarf shrub land. Associated species are Acacia tortilis, Maerua crassifolia, Dipterygium glaucum and Indigofera oblongifolia.

1.3.2. Odyssea mucronata - Panicum turgidum type:

Is shrub land. Associated species are Dipterygium glaucum, Cadaba rotundifolia and Dipterygium glaucum.

1.3.3. Salsola spinescens - Suaeda fruticosa type:

Is dwarf shrub land. Associated species are Salvadora persica.

1.3.4. Capparis decidua - Odyssea mucronata type:

Is sparse shrub land. Associated species is Suaeda fruticosa

1.3.5. Tephrosia purpurea- Panicum turgidum type

Is shrub land to grassland found on waste and cultivated fields and also on sandy plain. Associated species are Odyssea mucronata, Aerva javanica, Blepharis ciliaris, Cassia senna, Corchorus depressus and others.

1.4. Sand dunes area:

This unit is a degraded form of the previous unit. The vegetation cover is very low (less than 5%). The following vegetation types can be found:

1.4.1. Leptedenia pyrotechnica - Odyssea mucronata type:

Is a sparse grassland. Associated species is Dipterygium glaucum, occasionally Acacia tortilis, Cassia sinna and Cassia italica can be seen.

1.4.2. Dipterygium glaucum - Panicum turgidum type:

Is grassland. Associated species is Odyssea mucronata.

1.5. Gravelly plain areas:

It is slightly undulating and intersected by wide and shallow wadis or depressions and numerous drainage lines, where the vegetation is densely found. Most of these plains are concentrated southern Tihama (south wadi Zabid). The main vegetation types here are:

1.5.1. Blepharis edulis - Lasiurus scindicus type:

is open woodland. Associated species are Indigofera spp., Rhigozum somalense, Acacia tortilis, A. hamulosa, Commiphora myrrha, Fagonia indica, Anisotes trisulcus, Euphorbia conata and others.

1.5.2. Acacia ehrenbergiana - Lasiurus scindicus type:

is woodland to grassland. Associated species are Acacia tortilis, Indigofera oblongifolia, Euphorbia cuneata, Aloe vera, Fagonia indica, Tephrosia purpurea, Cissus quadrangularis and many others.

1.5.3. Euphorbia triaculeata - Sarcostemma sp. type:

is shrub land. Associated species are Lasiurus scindicus, Calligonum sp., Acacia hamulosa, Commiphora myrrha, Maerua crassifolia, Indigofera spinosa and others.

1.5.4. Cadaba rotundifolia - Panicum turgidum type:

is sparse dwarf shrub land to sparse grassland. Associated species are Lasiurus scindicus, Acacia tortilis, Indigofera oblongifolia, Acacia hamulosa, Euphorbia cuneata, and others.

1.5.5. Commiphora gileadensis - Acacia hamulosa type:

is open woodland. Associated species are Acacia mellifera, Acacia hamulosa, Acacia tortilis, Commiphora myrrha, Rhigozum somalense, Indigofera spinosa and many others.

1.5.6. Acacia hamulosa - Commiphora myrrh type:

is open woodland. Associated species are Calligonum crinitum, Cadaba glandulosa, Euphorbia triaculeata, Panicum turgidum, Cymbopogon schoenanthus and Pennisetum divisum.

1.6- Acacia ehrenbergiana woodland

This woodland is common in many parts of coastal plains such as wadis, depressions and alluvial plains. Associated species are Ziziphus spinachristi, Panicum turgidum, Acacia tortilis and others.

1.7- Ziziphus spina-christi - Dobera glabra cultivated lands

These lands are located on plains near the Tihama foothills. Scattered trees of Dobera glabra and Ziziphus spina-christi are found. On the fallow lands of this unit Dactyloctenium scindicum some time in dense cover is found, also in waste and fallow land the following type is found:

1.7.1- Tephrosia purpuria-Panicum turgidum type. Associated species here are Cenchrus ciliaris, Chloris barata, Brachiaria ramosa, Indigofera spinosa and Blepharis ciliaris.

2. Low altitude mountains:

a) Western mountains (Tihama foothills):

The Tihama foothills are located between the western lowlands and the escarpment below 1000 m, and range between 300 to 1000 m above the sea level. The landscape comprises of steep to moderately steep mountains and



Abdul Wali Al Khulaidi

hills, intersected by drainage lines and big gullies. Average temperature ranges between 15-40 degree, annual rainfall ranges between 200-400mm.

b) Southern and southern east mountains:

These mountains are facing the southern or southern east plains of Abyan and Lahj governorates and the middle parts of Hadramot governorate to the coastal areas of al-Mahara governorate. The altitude ranges between 400 to 1000 m above the sea level. The main wadi here is Wadi Hadramot. Average temperature ranges between 30-45 degree, annual rainfall ranges between 80-100mm.

The following vegetation types can be found:

2.1- Dactyloctenium scindicum-Anisotes trisulcus type

Is a sparse shrub land found on rocky slopes. Associated species are Ormocarpum yemenense, Grewia populifolia, Indigofera oblongifolia, I. spinosa, Euphorbia inarticulata, E. coneata, Adenium obesum, Aloe vera, Acacia tortilis, A. hamulosa, Commiphora myrrha and many others.

2.2- Dactyloctenium scindicum-Cassia italica type

Is sparse shrub land found on gravelly Wadi terraces and on the bed of narrow Wadis

2.3- Adenium obesum- Anisotes trisulcus type

is dwarf shrub land found on dry slopes. Associated species are Acacia tortilis, Commiphora myrrha and Dobera glabra.

2.4- Dobera glabra-Acacia mellifera type

is shrub land found on the foothills and rock outcrops of Tihama (e.g. eat suq Abs, J. Attur, near J. Buraa). Associated species are Anisotes

trisulcus, Cadaba glandulosa, Euphorbia inarticulata, Acacia asak and Adenium obesum.

2.5- Acacia tortilis-Euphorbia coneata type is open woodland found on the southern mountains and on some isolated mountains on the coastal plains (e.g. west al Rahida, south west al Barh and near Addimna). Associated species are Anisotes trisulcus, Sarcostemma sp., Acalypha fruticosa, Aloe sp, Indigofera spinosa, Kleinia odora, Cissus quadrangularis, Aristida sp., Dobera glabra, Jatropha spinosa, Aerva javanica and others.

2.6- Acacia abyssinica-Trichilia emetica type

is a woodland found on steep rocky slopes and Wadi of J. Burro and J. Milhan and other valleys. Association species are Comberetum molle, Berchemia dicolor, Celtis africana, Carissa edulis, Cissus quadrangularis, C. rotundifolia, Anisotes trisulcus and many others.

2.7- Combretum molle-Ficus spp. type

is evergreen forest on valleys (e.g. J. Buraa and J. Milhan). Association species are Ficus vasta, F. salicifolia, Tamarindus indica, Trichilia emetica, Mimops laurifolia and many others. On undisturbed valley slopes Acacia asak is become dominant associated species here are Grewia schweifuthii, Anisotes trisulcus, Carissa edulis, Barbeya oleoides and others

2.8- Acacia mellifera-Commiphora spp. type

Is sparse to open woodlands found on the Tihama foothills. Associated species are Commiphora myrrha, C. habyssinica, C. gileadensis, Indigofera spinosa

2.9- Anogeissus dhofarica woodland

Is a dense woodland found on the escarpment of an altitude of 700m. near Hawf (al Mahara gover.) Associated species are Croton confertus, Dodonaea angustifolia, Cadia purpurea, Jatropha dhofarica, Tamarindu indica, Commiphora spp., Acacia spp. and many others.

2.10- Commiphora spp.-Jatropha dhofarica type

Is a woodland occurs on the escarpment between 450-500m. of Hawf area. Associated species are Aloe sp., Tephrosia sp., Solanum sp. and many others.

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More fiction than fact discovered in Bush's Baghdad trip: Bush's mysterious turkey

BY YEMEN TIMES NEWS SERVICES

US President George W. Bush did go to Baghdad. That much seems to be true, but some of the well-publicized details of the last surprise Thanksgiving trip have since been called into question as the White House spin is deconstructed.

The problems start with the turkey. It is the focus of the quintessentially American holiday, and photographs printed around the US showed the president holding a prize roasted specimen on a platter.

However, the turkey was just for decoration, to make the occasion look more heart-warming, the Washington Post reported.

The soldiers were actually served pre-iced turkey from canteen-style hot plates. The president never took a knife to the bird he held for the cameras. It may not even have been edible.

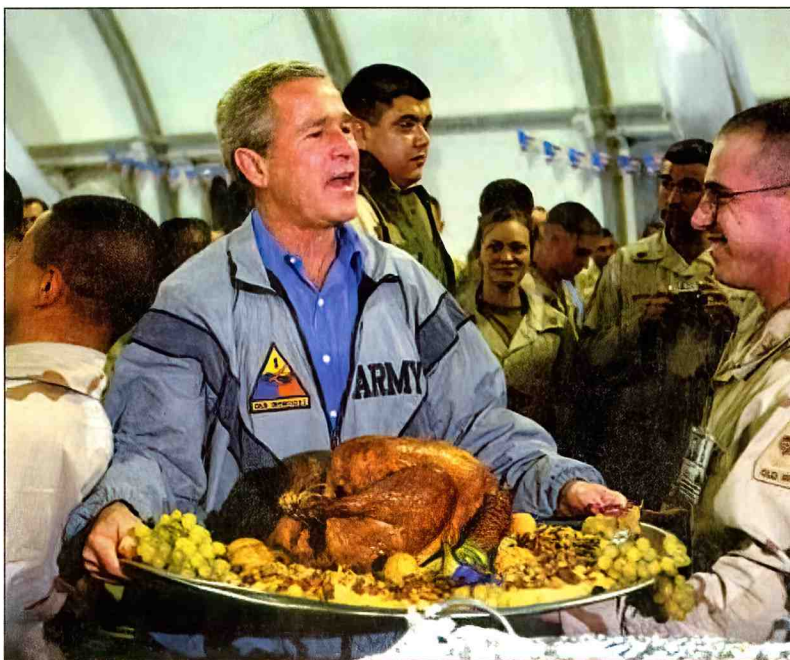
News of the Baghdad trip dominated the media for days but some other dubious details of the White House account have emerged. The White House also admitted that Bush's flight plan was falsified.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan read for reporters a British air traffic control statement that the flight plan filed for the trip said the plane was a Gulfstream 5, rather than Air Force One.

He described the step as a reasonable security precaution on a visit intended to boost morale for US troops, who are serving extended deployments in Iraq and threatened by insurgent attacks.

"The American people understand the importance of not compromising security, not only for the president of the United States, but for those on board the plane and those on the ground as well," McClellan said.

But David Wise, author of the 1973 book *The Politics of Lying*, said, "The question is, should the government engage in lying in order to essentially ... protect a photo op? The answer is, no it shouldn't," he said. "It's a serious business when government lies, and eventually it does hurt a government and a president's credibility."



U.S. President George W. Bush carries a platter of turkey and fixings as he visits U.S. troops for Thanksgiving at Baghdad International Airport, Nov. 27. It eventually turned out that the Turkey was just for show.-REUTERS

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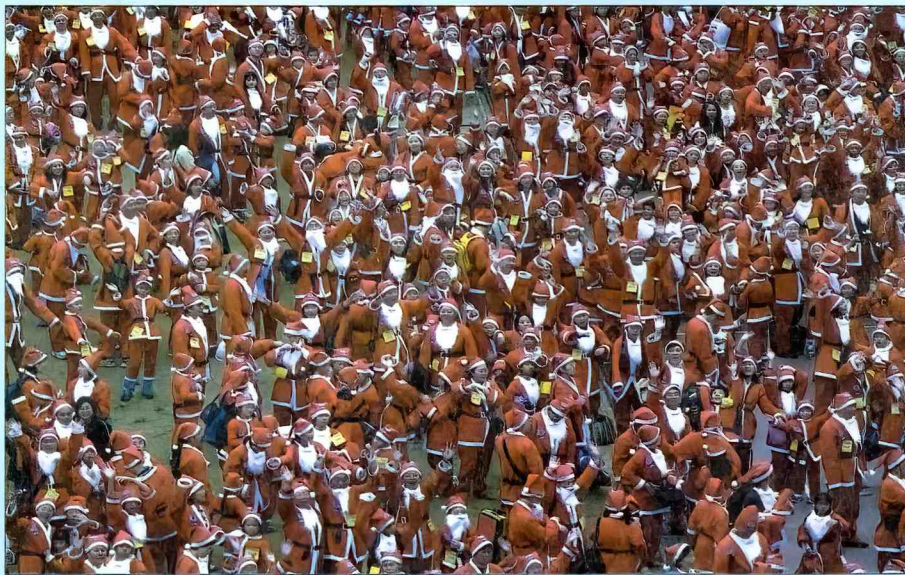
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More than 3,500 Santa Clauses gather in Taipei on Dec. 6, to break the record for the largest meeting of Santas in the world. An official from the Guinness Book of Records said the 3,618 Santas in Taipei broke the previous record set on Dec. 7, 2002, when 2,685 costumed Santas paraded down the streets of Bralanda, Sweden.

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