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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Security alert after foiled terrorist attack

**Yemen Times Staff and Reuters**  
Sanaa, Dec 14 - A security alert has been issued after the Yemeni security forces foiled a plan to attack the United Kingdom embassy in Sanaa on Friday. According to security forces, militants possibly linked to al Qaeda plotted to blow up the British embassy in Yemen. The militants were arrested while filming the building in the capital Sanaa. "I think it was very serious...." Britain's ambassador to Yemen, Frances Guy, told the BBC when asked about the plot. "We are very conscious that we are a high priority target here in Yemen and we try our best on a daily basis to review our

security and improve it as much as we can." The BBC said some 20 militants were involved in a plot to drive a truck bomb through the gates of the embassy some three months ago. After being caught filming the building, their video tape was sent to London for analysis, the BBC said. A Foreign Office spokesman in London declined to comment on details of the report, saying: "We never comment on the security of individual buildings for good reason, but the security of our staff is paramount. "There is not one size fits all approach to

security." This comes after a group calling itself "al-Qaeda Yemen Branch" had made explicit threats through a statement sent to al-Wahdawi newspaper's website claiming responsibility for the latest attack against Shabwa governor and waned of future attacks. The number one wanted al-Qaeda element in Yemen Mohammad Hamdi al-Ahdal, who is also known as Abu Asem al-Macchi, was arrested a few weeks ago after close monitoring by security forces. The arrest triggered security alert throughout the country for possible remaining elements who may retaliate.



Security forces have raised their alert level following the foiling of a plan to blow up the UK embassy in Sanaa. The militants who attempted to attack the embassy are suspected al-Qaeda militants. Archive photo by Hassan Al-Zaidi (YT)

## GPC sweeping majority in LC by-elections

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM

Results of vote counting of local councils by-elections held last Thursday yielded the GPC ruling party's scoring majority of the seats of governorates and districts all over the republic, preliminary statistics.

In 19 governorates the GPC won 17 seats, the Islah party one seat and the YSP one seat. According to reports presented by committees in various governorates and districts on membership of local councils at 73 election

centers, the candidates who won were 58 candidates from the GPC, 7 from the Islah, 3 from the YSP and 6 representing independent candidates.

Official sources of the Supreme Commission of Elections confirmed that the elections held at 384 polling centers in all governorates and districts, in which about 600 thousand voters had participated, had taken place normally and without any problems affecting the progress of both polling and vote counting.

The number of candidates that competed for winning the local councils vacant seats in the districts amounted to 384 candidates; 87 independent candidates, 70 representing the GPC, 14 representing the YSP, 10 representing the Islah and one candidate representing the September Organisation.

The number of candidates competed for filling vacant seats at the governorates level were 156, among whom 30 independent candidates, 19 for the GPC 4 for the YSP and 3 for the Islah.

## YJS bill to be withdrawn

BY YASSER AL-MAYYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sanaa, Dec 13 - The Yemeni Journalist Syndicate (YJS) has requested last Wednesday the Yemeni government to withdraw and cancel the syndicate's proposed bill, which was supposed to be discussed in the parliament this month.

Tens of journalists from all over the country protested the bill and in a unique experience rarely observed among Yemeni journalists, a strong and solid unified stance was expressed in total rejection of the bill, which was allegedly passed through the Shura council, the government, and to the parliament without the approval of the journalist community, including members of the YJS.

**YJS accepts responsibility**

In a meeting held last Wednesday, the syndicate accepted the appeal by journalists to withdraw and cancel the law proposal, and said it would immediately act responsibly to achieve this. "As the representative of journalists everywhere in the country, and behalf of all the media establishments, I hereby declare that the syndicate will ask the government and authori-

ties concerned to withdraw the proposed bill from the government and parliament." Mr. Mahhoob Ali, the Chairman of the syndicate said in the meeting.

**Extreme pressure**

This comes after tremendous pressure was exerted on the syndicate to cancel the proposal, which was said to violate all laws and regulations concerning the freedom of the press, and does not conform to Yemen's move to broaden the democratic experience and open the way for more freedom. The step also comes following a clear message of condemnation sent to the President of the Republic Ali Abdullah Saleh from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), in which it openly stated that this law hinders democratic progress and creates obstacles for journalists.

Continued on page 3

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## Alleged al-Qaeda top aide Saudis help interrogate Al-Adhal

BY MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sources from the Ministry of Interior say that a Saudi team of investigators is reviewing the results of investigations conducted by Yemen security authorities with Mohammad Hamdi Al-Ahdal who was detained about two weeks ago in Sana'a.

Al-Ahdal, alias Abu Asim Al-Makki, is considered, according to official sources, the top man of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, and was pursued by authorities for more than two years.

The British Broadcasting Station (BBC) which aired the news item, indicated that the investigations revealed important information including names of members and leading figures from Gulf countries. The Ministry of Interior sources explained that presenting the Saudi team with results of the investigations is in compliance with the security agreement signed between Sana'a and Riyadh, and serving the mutual benefits especially in the field of security and stability.

The two countries had exchanged fugitives, allegedly members of Al-Qaeda, under the same agreement. Meanwhile, Al-Balagh weekly newspaper reported that investigations with Mohammad Hamdi Al-Ahdal alias Abu Asim Al-Makki, revealed the involvement of a number of prominent Arab personalities in supporting Al-Qaeda operations against foreign interests in Yemen.

According to the same sources, Al-Ahdal was in contact with prominent personalities in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait who financed the activities of Al-Qaeda members in Yemen. Security authorities, however, refuse to divulge the names of those personalities for security reasons.

The newspaper described Al-Ahdal's confessions as extremely important as it will enable the security authorities to unfold plans of the extremist groups of Al-Qaeda, and enhance the fight against terrorism.

Security authorities considers that it dealt an effective blow to Al-Qaeda organization by detaining Al-Ahdal,

wanted number 2 of Al-Qaeda members in Yemen after Abu Ali Al-Harithi who was killed a while ago by the CIA in Marib desert with five of his companions.

The sources indicated that the killing of Al-Harithi caused panic in the operations of Al-Qaeda members, which hindered the restructuring of the Organization in Yemen especially in the light of the success of the security forces closing in on him until his detention on 25 November 2003, according to Al-Ahdal's confessions. Al-Ahdal, born in 1971 in Al-Madina Al-Munawwarah (the Illuminated City), Saudi Arabia, married and a father of four children residing in Yemen for a few years.

He lost one of his legs while fighting in Chechnya, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Afghanistan. Al-Ahdal is faced with severe charges of terrorist acts against foreign interests in Yemen including the attacks on the American destroyer in Aden, the USS Cole, and French oil liner, the Limburg.

## Son of prominent military leader kidnapped in Marib

BY HASAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES

An armed group kidnapped the son of the prominent military leader, Al-Thafeef, in his region of Hamdan in Mareb, last Friday.

The son was then taken to Al-Majhazah, in the directorate of Sirwah.

Sources say that the kidnapers, who belong to Al Ali Bin Falah tribe, are demanding that the commanders of the 25th Mechanical Brigade pay the salaries of six enlisted officers, who

belong to the same tribe and whose names were removed from the Brigade payroll.

The group alleges that the Brigade Commander, who belongs to Hamdan tribe, is the one who instructed the removal of those names.

The Yemeni armed forces usually retaliate against such kidnapers after releasing the hostage by demolishing the homes of the kidnapers, who usually demand a resolution to pending issues amongst themselves in the region, or between them and the government.

## Release of British prisoners from Aden jail expected

BY RIDWAN AL-SAQQAF  
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF  
YEMEN TIMES

Aden, Dec 13 - Official sources revealed that the four Brits currently in custody in the city of Aden are expected to be released soon after completing their imprisonment sentences, which varied from 4 to 7 years.



The British prisoners were accused of planning terrorist attacks against sensitive sites in the country including hotels, governmental buildings, etc. They were arrested in 1998 and put to trial in Aden despite pressure from UK authorities to have them released.

Among those expected to be released are Malek Naser Harara, Mohsin Ghailan, Sarmand Ahmed, and Shahid Bat.

Last year Mohamed Mustafa Kamel was also released after completing his jail sentence.

## More hassle for Yemenis traveling to US

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of Yemeni diplomats and prominent personalities have lately criticized the US for procedures taken against Yemeni travelling to the US, and called upon the Yemeni government to apply similar measures.

UAE newspaper Al-Bayan, reported last Wednesday that President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the Yemeni government face mounting pressures from political and influential parties to implement reciprocal arrangements, according to the newspaper sources.

The Yemeni political and social influences criticized the silence of the Yemeni government towards what has

been termed as 'abusive' treatment Yemenis face when they arrive in the US, and demanded that the government caution its citizens against such travel.

As they arrive at a U. S. Port of Entry, Yemeni are fingerprinted and need to wait for long hours, and some interrogated by the airport and customs authorities.

These political and social influences encouraged the government to relocate Yemeni students attending schools in the US to Canada, Europe, or other Arab or Islamic countries so as to maintain the integrity of the Yemenis, and protect them from being subject to the abusive treatment, which American authorities conveniently term as part of the 'War Against Terrorism.'

## GWCC starts human rights development program

Yemen Times Staff

The Girls World Communication Center (GWCC) begins its Skills Development Program for activist females in the field of human rights on the 13th of December 2003. The one-year program is supported by National Endowment Democracy and the UNIFEM organizations. The program involves a number of workshops on human rights to be presented by Prof. M. Abdulmalek Almutawakel, a lecturer at Sana'a University, Prof. Shawki Alkadhi a member of parliament and Mr. Elizaldean Alasbahi the Director of Human Rights Information and Training Center.

The program also includes courses in English language, computer skills, Internet in addition to communication and networking skills with international and regional organizations concerned with human rights in order to be able to exchange expertise. The aim of this program is to highlight issues related to human rights through training 40 female interested and active in the field of human rights to enhance their capacity in their place of work.

## Civil education guests coming from Amman & California

Women's Forum for Researches and Training (WFRT), through the Civil Education Unit, is receiving a civil education delegation Dec. 15 to 17, comprising of Muna Darweesh, President of Arab Civil Education Network, and Jay Taylor, representing the International Civil Education Network in California.

The program of the visit calls for meetings of the delegation with representative of the Ministries of Education and Human Rights, Education and Research Center, and active civil establishments in the field of human rights and democracy.

The forum will organize an introduction and discussion session between the delegation and civil establishments and reporters in Sana'a on Dec. 16 at Haddah Hotel Hall.

The visit comes for the purpose of studying the cooperation aspects between the Network on one hand,

## Readers' Voice

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

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

### THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

Will there be any implications on the US decision to deprive anti-war nations from reconstruction projects in Iraq?  
- No, a little complaint and cries that's all.  
- Yes, but will have relatively little effect on the decision.  
- Yes, it could reach to possible sanctions on the US by some countries.  
- Let's wait and see.

### LAST EDITION'S

#### QUESTION:

Do you believe that the "al-Qaeda Yemen branch" is indeed a threat Yemen's peace?

- Yes, it is of limited threat, but it is exaggerated 31%
- Yes, it is of eminent threat on all levels. 30%
- I think it is a mere hoax. There is no such thing 22%
- I cannot guess 17%

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## Villagers worry over cell phone ray effects

Yemen Times  
Taiz Bureau

In a letter to the Directorate officials, Villagers of Al-Sharjah in Al-Quraishah have appealed for the relocation of a cellular telephone tower erected by one of the cellular telephone companies on the rooftop of one of the buildings in their village, which has a population of about 2,000 inhabitants. In their letter, villagers stressed the importance of relocating the tower to a remote area to protect inhabitants from the GSM rays, which scientific studies show can cause cancer and impact human genetic systems.

GSM rays may also cause chronic migraines, hypertension, eye, chest and skin allergies, and psychological changes as a result of the electro-magnetic fields.

The central nervous system may also be affected and studies also indicated that these rays harm the retina, and lens.

The Ministry of Telecommunication had issued circulars attached to a ministerial decision to all governors defining the standards for erecting similar towers away from populated areas, and that a permit from the above ministry needs to be obtained. However, cellular telephone companies never complied with those standards.

## Justice minister wants to clean up courts

BY MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Minister of Justice, Adnan Omar Al-Jifri, has instructed courts and offices of prosecution to offer copies of case files to those involved, or their legal representatives when requested.

In his instructions, the minister said: "It has been noted lately the complaints have increased indicating that some judges and court officials deprive opponents, or their legal representatives from obtaining copies of their case files.

This creates an obstruction for them in pursuing the progress of their case(s), and negatively affects the image of justice.

Based upon the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and prevailing laws, any person, nominal or ordinary, has the right to litigate before courts, irrespective of level, and know his/her opponent(s) and nature of complaint."

The National Organization for the Defense of Rights and Liberties (NODRL) appreciated the minister's instructions to the courts which came as response to the complaints it submitted along with all lawyers, and

opponents about the level of corruption and abuse in the judicial system calling for its expeditious rectification.

The organization said in a letter to the Yemen Times attaching a copy of the Minister's instructions that it expresses its high regard to the minister for his quick and reciprocal reaction in instructing the courts to guarantee and maintain this legal and constitutional right for all.

It hopes that the instructions will be published in the media which will contribute to a wider legal knowledge for society, especially lawyers and judges.

## VACANCY

The office of the UN Refugee Agency in Yemen invites applications for the post of  
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4. Identify training needs for implementing partners staff, identify local resources to meet these training needs and organize training program for staff.
5. Assist the refugee community to identify its own needs and establish priorities to meet these needs through developing self-help group.
6. Prepare monthly reports on needs identified, activities conducted and services rendered as well as plans for the future.
7. Brief Protection in Field Office on psycho/Social needs of refugees and work closely in collaboration with the protection officers on issues pertaining to refugees particularly in regard to refugee women.
8. Develop income-generating activities and support other efforts at self-help among the community of refugees.
9. May be required to supervise and coordinate the work of lower level staff.
10. Perform other duties as required.

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Admin. & Finance Unit  
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P. O. Box: 6090  
Aden - Republic of Yemen



## Reception for Spanish delegation

By Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri  
Yemen Times Staff

The Council for Tourism Attraction, and Ministry of Culture and Tourism held a reception in Sana'a last Thursday in honor of a Spanish media and tourism delegation.

The delegation is comprised of 51 reporters representing some of the most widely distributed Spanish newspapers. Welcoming speeches were exchanged between the Minister of Culture and Tourism, and the Delegation President in which ancient Yemeni civilization was praised, and historical and cultural similarities were recognized between Arab and Spanish culture.

Meanwhile, the Spanish delegation holds yearly carnivals dealing with tourist attractions in the world, and Yemen, for its wealth of beautiful tourist attractions and contrasting weather patterns, was selected this year to hold this carnival.

In addition to the Minister of Culture and Tourism, the reception was also attended by the Minister of Youth and Sports, Minister of Education, and a number of travel and tourism agents.

## Human Rights session concluded

By Hasan Al-Zayedi  
Yemen Times

The third Arab Training Session for Human Rights, organized by the National Center for Information and Human Rights Rehabilitation, concluded in Sana'a last Thursday.

The Minister of State for Human Rights, Amat Al-Aleem Al-Sooswah, who attended the conclusion ceremony, delivered a speech in which she expressed gratitude to the center and its employees emphasizing the importance of educating the general public on human rights and spreading this knowledge to a regional level.

The session, which was attended by 42 trainees from various Arab countries, offered a number of lectures addressing the subject of human rights, its relevant regional and international agreements, protection mechanisms, preparation of reports by non-governmental organizations parallel to those of the Government, and mechanisms of financing those organizations.

Izzaddeen Saeed, the Center Director, declared that the third regional training session was one of the more important sessions serving human rights activists on a regional level as it enhanced the image and comprehension of democracy to civil society and establishments.

## In an international conference organized by HRITC Small arms trade discussed

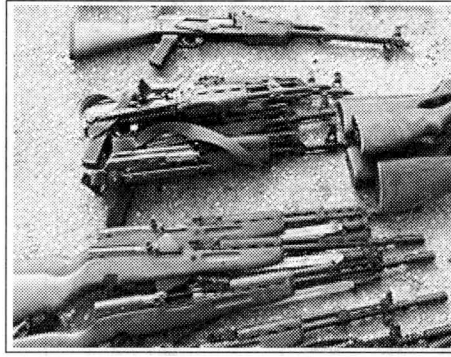
Meetings of a 2-day 5th international conference on the use of small arms and light weapons (SALW) organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Centre (HRITC) in cooperation with the Canadian Program for Development, the AFSC, the Regional Human Security Center in Jordan and the British Embassy in Sana'a, began at Sheraton Hotel in Sana'a Saturday 13 December 2003.

The event opening ceremony was attended by a host of political personalities and representatives of non-governmental organisations. The conference was also attended by representatives of international organisations from Britain, Switzerland and Canada, as well as representatives for Arab organisations in Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Lebanon, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

In his address to the conferees the minister of state, the chairman of the National Higher Committee for demining Qassem Al-A'jem said the conference was being held at a very critical time for curbing the phenomenon of illegitimate armament, emphasizing the necessity of cooperation among

non-governmental organisations and official establishments in this very serious issue which concerns the entire society. Mr al-A'jem also pointed out that Yemen had already started taking serious steps for restraining the spread of weapons and curbing their misuse. He made it clear that the steps taken in this regard were in reconsidering the present law and various security campaigns as well as the process of buying pieces of weapons from the citizens.

On his part Mr Eizadin al-Asbahi president of the HRITC, the regional coordinator of the International Network on limiting the misuse of small arms affirmed that the task of civil society organisations was in continuous significance regarding that issue and the entire world must work for restricting the misuse of weapons, adding that it was the responsibility of the manufacturing and the importing countries as well as the companies and individuals. He pointed out that statistics indicate there are 639 million pieces of small arms and 1138 arms



manufacturing companies with an annual production amounting to eight million pieces of arms.

Addresses by the Regional Representative of for the Arab Region, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Dr Amin Maki Madani, Dr Atef Odibat, director of RHSC, Mr Jason Erb, regional director of AFSC, the British ambassador to Yemen Mrs Frances Guy and Mrs Emily King, representative of the Canadian embassy, stressed on the importance of the conference and significance of the issue it is bearing, which aims at protecting human right and defending their dignity.

## Money laundering in Yemen workshop begins

RIDHWAN AL-SAQQA  
YEMEN TIMES ADEN BUREAU

Meetings of the 4-day workshop on fighting money laundering in Yemen, organized by the Central Bank of Yemen in cooperation with the National Bank and the Banking Studies Institute, were commenced in Aden Saturday and was attended by more than 300 participants representing banks, currency exchange companies, insurance companies, judiciary, prosecution, security bodies, taxes and customs authority, general authority for investment and the free zone authority. The workshop was held under patronage of the governor of Aden Dr Yahya Mohammed al-Shuaibi. The Central Bank of Yemen was represented by the mayor Ahmed Abdulrahman al-Samawi and the National Bank of Yemen by its chairman of board of directors, the general manager Abdulrahman al-Kuhali.

The workshop aims at informing the participants on the concept of money laundering and ways of tackling it as well as the its impact on economic, political, banking, monetary and legal fields. It also aims at informing the participants on the law No. 35 for the year 2003 regarding fighting of money laundering and its requirements. The partic-

ipants are also to be acquainted with the international, regional and local laws pertaining money laundering in addition to international criteria to measure the extent of countries' cooperation in this respect and role of the banking sector in fighting money laundering.

At the beginning of the opening session Mr Abdulrahman al-Kuhali delivered a speech on the importance of holding such symposiums and workshops for defining the real concept of money laundering and how to fight it through banks and financial establishments. He pointed out that the workshop was meant for disseminating awareness on topic especially after the issuance of the law 35 that incriminated the process of money laundering.

On the other hand the mayor of the Central Bank of Yemen Ahmed Abdulrahman al-Samawi said in his address to the meeting that its convening in Aden had a special implication as the governorate is the economic capital of Yemen in addition to its being organised by the Banking Studies Institute, in cooperation with CBY as part of a training program for the year 2003. He had also reviewed the successes achieved by the banking activity in Yemen and the commercial and government banks, putting stress on the

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### Cont'd from P1: YJS bill to be withdrawn

#### Bill anti-press freedom

It is worth noting that the proposed bill states that journalists must be members of the YJS to receive protection and to practice their jobs adequately. It also said that all media enterprises must pay 3% of their overall income from advertising to the syndicate, plus other articles that contradict with the freedom of the press.

#### Cancellation not guaranteed

However, journalists with legal

background said that the calls to the government to withdraw the law may not be enough at all to stop it from being voted upon and approved because it has already passed to the parliament, which is not controlled by the government. Hence, many suggest that more efforts to stop the law from being past should be exerted and influential members of parliament need to be informed about the importance of not passing the bill, to prevent further deterioration of the freedom of the press.

## Senior Management Opportunity for Yemeni Nationals

Haskan, a joint venture trading company of the Hayel Saeed Group and Yusuf Bin Ahmed Kanoo is seeking a General Manager for their operations in Sana'a Yemen. The General Manager will be responsible for leading, planning, controlling and expanding the Company's activities whilst ensuring that budgeted sales and profit targets are met.

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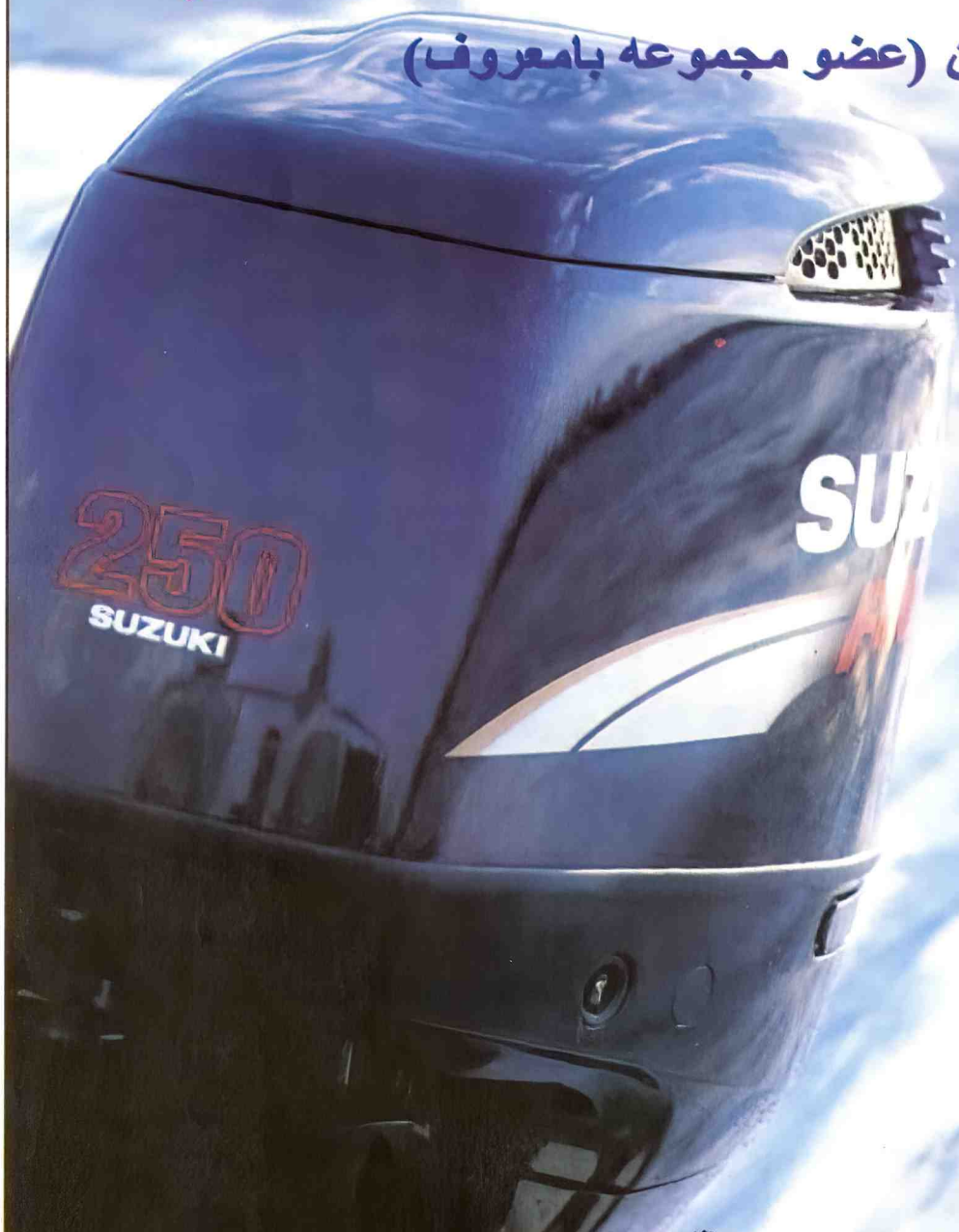
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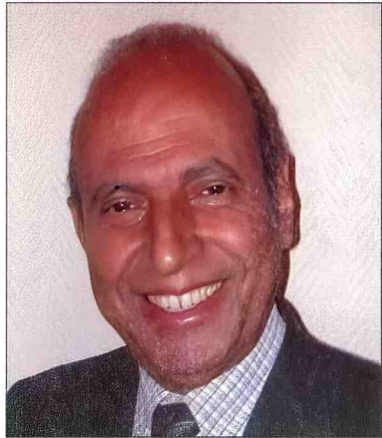
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Yemen Ambassador in Qatar notes that . . .

# Obstacles to Qatari investment in Yemen need to be eliminated

**Y**emen's embassies continue to play a critical role in enhancing Yemen's image and relations abroad. One of those embassies is the Embassy of Yemen in Qatar which has realized various diplomatic accomplishments. Yemen Times staff writer Yasser Al-Mayais recently had an opportunity to conduct the following interview with His Excellency, Yahya Hussain Al-Arashi, Ambassador of Yemen to Qatar.



Yahya Hussain Al-Arashi

**Q: Would you give an idea about the Yemeni-Qatari relations, and fields of bilateral cooperation between the two countries?**

**A:** As you know, Yemen holds Qatar close to its heart for the support it extended during the Yemeni unification process and other noble stands towards Yemen. Qatar has been hosting a large Yemeni community for a long time for which it offers many facilities adhering to the wise instructions of His Highness, Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani, and Qatari officials. Yemeni - Qatari relations are based on mutual respect, and lately extended to the investment potentials in Yemen, and mutual cooperation in the field of development.

Qatar contributed U. S. \$90 million during the Financiers' Conference, which convened in Paris, to finance the construction of roads, and completion of transportation networks. There are also several other bilateral cooperation areas of which, for example, is the Qatari construction of a conference hall in Sana'a as the Yemeni - Qatari relations are not solely based on assistance, but bilateral and candid equal interests between the two countries and their peoples.

benefit both Yemen and Qatar. Investment and natural gas are two of the other cooperation areas. Qatar, which is ranked third in the world in natural gas production, is also one of the advanced countries in its export, and distribution. Yemen has realized notable advancements in this field that put it close to the Qatari experience.

**Q: Is there a committee for the Yemeni and Qatari businessmen?**

**A:** A proposal was drafted to create such a committee which will coordinate the cooperation between the two countries in the fields of investment, commerce, export, and agriculture which includes fruits and vegetables. And, as you know, Yemen produces large quantities of fruits and vegetables for which Qatar is an ideal market. The prospective committee will also work finding potential investment projects in the two countries, and private capital will play a critical role not only in bilateral relations between Yemen and Qatar, but between Yemen and the Gulf Countries as well.

are some of the other challenges that need immediate attention. Free Trade Zone issues in Aden need to be resolved as it is considered one of the investment potential areas, and I call upon the appropriate authorities to invite the Qatari businessmen to visit it so they can see firsthand what it can offer.

**Q: What facilities does the Embassy offer Yemenis in Qatar, what sectors do they work in?**

**A:** The Embassy offers a wide range of facilities to the Yemeni community most whose members work in health, law, aviation, oil, mosques, and other companies in Qatar as they are nowadays equipped with education and knowledge. Close coordination is in place the Embassy and the community leadership to attend to any issues or challenges that may face any of its members. The Embassy also provides facilities for and encourages the community members to invest in Yemen, especially in the Free Trade Zone as they are considered a vital economic force which can play an important role in Yemen economic growth.

**Q: What were the impressions views of investors who visited Yemen relative to the amended investment law?**

**A:** The investment law is one of the best laws written encouraging investors. Of more importance, however, are the mechanisms of its execution. Other investment laws are also providing for investors, both Yemenis and Qataris, who recently visited Yemen, and identified several potential projects, but complained of dead routines and ineffective ways of dealing with prevailing laws in many of the facilities they visited. I, hereby, convey these remarks through Yemen Times to those concerned for the benefit of our country in hopes to find solutions.

**Q: Are there official statistics for the Yemeni immigrants in Qatar?**

**A:** The purpose of statistics is nowadays very different from what it once was, either for military draft, taxes, or other fees. It is for the benefit of our future generations, and an initiative in this is scheduled to start in January, 2004 in cooperation with Yemeni community leadership. Forms have been designed for this purpose, and information will later be entered into a computer.

**Q: Do you have any other remarks?**

**A:** I would like to thank Yemen Times and compliment its success and involvement in our various issues as it reflects the wisdom of its founder, the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, in establishing an independent media approach serving all. This English newspaper was able to present to the world around us a successful example of introducing Yemen without any fabrications by breaking various perimeters, and still following the approach of its founder and leader, Dr. Al-Saqqaf.

We are in desperate need for this and similar media efforts, whether in Arabic or English, to help build Yemen, and present it in its true image without any fabrication. I wish Yemen Times and its staff continued success.



This was clear during the recent visit of the Yemeni Prime Minister to Qatar when partnership and mutual cooperation were discussed, among which is a new partnership in the construction field was initiated in light of what Yemen enjoys in terms of related material. For example, Yemen's mountains have a wide variety of stones, both in shape and color, which Qatar can use in its construction projects. Yemeni marble, and other construction materials including gypsum and cement, which are located close to Yemeni coasts, especially in Hadhramout, will also enhance this partnership.

Indeed, a technical mission has already initiated evaluating the economic value of this project. Creating a company for construction materials, and container seaport in Hadhramout are two of the projects which will

Yemen has a wide variety of investment potentials, however, let me be frank with you here, I think it is vital to resolve problems and difficulties which most investors who come to Yemen complain of. Dead administrative routines, involvement of dwelling influential personalities in some government agencies as well as in the private sector who, combined, intimidate investors and claim guardianship, or negotiate becoming partners in the investment projects without paying any money claiming to provide protection facilities.

These irresponsible forces constitute obstacles for investors and need to be eliminated as they put Yemen in embarrassing situations. Otherwise, investments will find more stable, clear, and secure markets elsewhere. Resolving difficulties relating to the Ministries of the Interior, and Justice

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# Iran to sign up to snap nuclear inspections in days

TEHRAN (Reuters, Dec 13) - Iran will sign a binding international protocol in the next few days that authorizes snap inspections of its nuclear sites by the U.N. nuclear watchdog, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said on Saturday.

Asked when Iran would put pen to paper, Kharrazi told reporters: "In the next few days."

The government gave the formal go-ahead earlier this week for the country to sign the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

This followed the decision in October to suspend the Islamic Republic's disputed uranium enrichment program to dispel U.S.-led concern that it might be trying to produce nuclear weapons.

Kharrazi spoke to reporters after meeting Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha, who said his country might be prepared to work with Iran on civilian nuclear technology.

Iran, OPEC's second biggest oil producer, insists its nuclear program is peaceful and is needed to meet booming domestic electricity demand and free up its finite hydrocarbon resources for export.

Kharrazi said the protocol, the subject of heated debate in Iran earlier this year, had received the ratification

needed for the country's representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to sign it in Vienna.

"It had to be approved by the Supreme National Security Council, then the government and now it is under way," he said.

Government spokesman Abdollah Ramazanzadeh said on Wednesday that once Iran had signed the document, the government would send it to parliament as a bill.

If lawmakers, most of them allies of reformist President Mohammad Khatami, approved the bill, it would still need to be approved by the Guardian Council, a 12-member body dominated by conservative clerics who decide whether proposed legislation is in line with the constitution and Islamic Sharia law.

## Hardline opposition

Several of the body's members spoke out earlier this year against signing the protocol, and many hard-liners view snap nuclear inspections as tantamount to allowing spies into the country. But hard-liners have been virtually silent on the issue in recent weeks.

Khatami said on Thursday that Iran would be violating the Islamic faith if it developed nuclear weapons.

"I have argued that as Muslims, our

religious faith should not allow us to seek nuclear weapons," he told the World Council of Churches, an ecumenical body, in Geneva. "The Islam I know does not have a use for them."

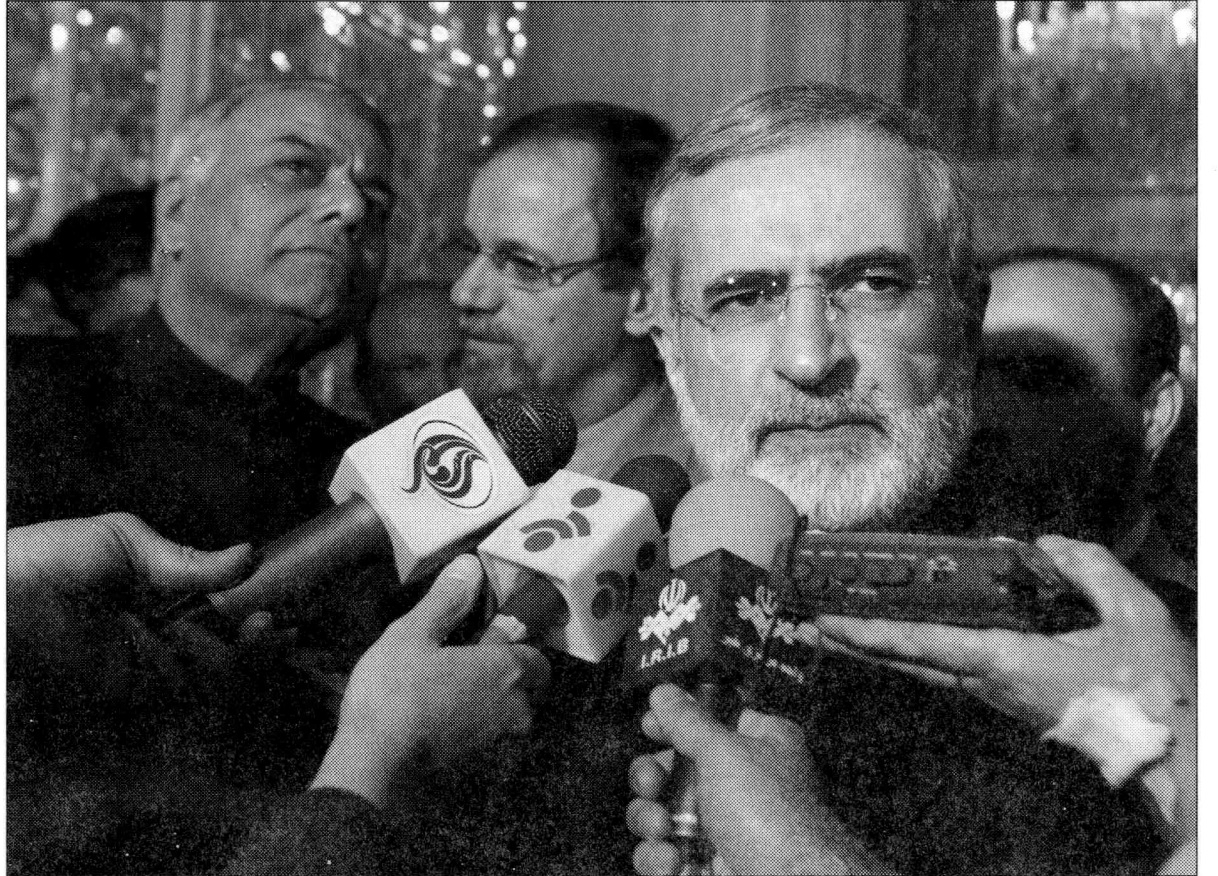
Iran's decision to sign the NPT's snap inspection protocol followed strong pressure from international bodies, the United States and a troika formed by Britain, France and Germany.

Iran acknowledged to the IAEA, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, in October, that it had hidden a secret centrifuge uranium enrichment program from U.N. inspectors for nearly two decades. Washington said this was proof that Tehran was secretly trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The IAEA said the laboratory-scale Iranian experiments were on too small a scale to be easily detected, and that it was "highly unlikely" that a move to industrial-scale work to develop weapons would have gone undetected.

Indian Foreign Minister Sinha, whose country has nuclear weapons, said on Saturday there was common ground for India to work with the Islamic Republic on peaceful nuclear energy.

"As far as civilian uses are concerned, there most certainly could be collaboration between Iran and India," he told reporters.



Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi speaks with journalists after meeting with his Indian counterpart Yashwant Sinha (L) in Tehran December 13, 2003. Kharrazi said Iran will sign the so-called Additional Protocol that allows snap inspections of nuclear sites in the next few days. REUTERS

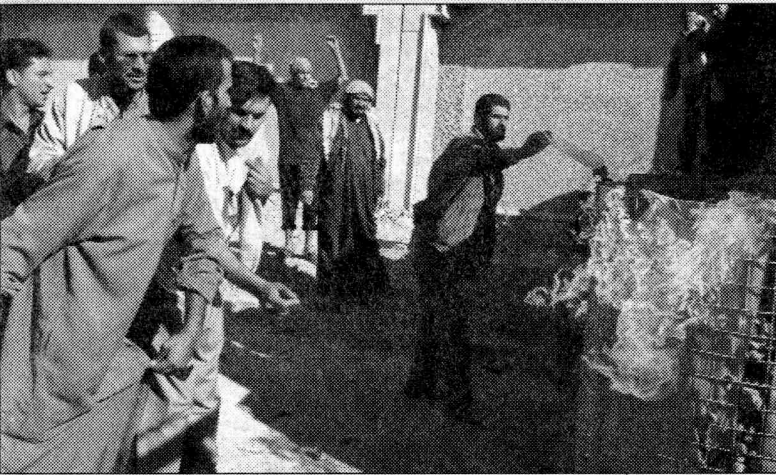
## US general to review pay after Iraq army walkout

BAGHDAD, Dec 13 (Reuters) - The top U.S. general in Iraq said on Saturday he would rethink the Iraqi army pay structure after a wave of recruits quit the new force over low salaries.

His remarks came after a bomb killed a U.S. soldier west of Baghdad, the latest in a series of deadly attacks that have increased domestic pressure on the U.S. administration over Iraq

to come, adding: "I believe our targets for building the new Iraqi army are still valid." Washington's Iraq troubles extended to Europe, where the defence minister of Germany -- which opposed the U.S.-led war to oust Saddam Hussein -- said U.S. troops were ill-prepared for their mission of preparing Iraq for democracy.

## CONTRACTS ROW CONTINUES



Retired officers of the Iraqi army set fire to barricades at the entrance of the British army headquarters during a protest demanding their pensions in the southern city of Basra, some 600 km of Baghdad, December 13, 2003. R

and led it to accelerate plans to hand power over to Iraqis.

Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez acknowledged soldiers who quit over salaries of \$150 monthly for senior officers may have a legitimate grievance. "We're in the process of reviewing the pay scales to determine what needs to be done there to ensure that they have a decent standard of living," he told reporters in Baghdad.

Plans for a 40,000-strong new Iraqi army to help replace U.S. forces on Iraq's streets hit a snag this week when officials of the U.S.-led civil administration said almost half of the 700-man first unit had quit over pay.

Those troops, along with larger police and security forces, are central to U.S. plans to turn responsibility for security and formal sovereignty over to Iraqis by mid-2004, ahead of U.S. presidential elections where the U.S. occupation of Iraq looms.

Sanchez said he hoped to have a solution on the pay issue in the weeks

## UES

The heat over Iraq also reached the U.S. administration at home, as President George W. Bush acknowledged that a company once linked to his deputy Dick Cheney may have overcharged for deliveries of fuel to Baghdad.

Bush administration critics say Halliburton, of which Cheney was once chief executive, unduly benefited from government connections. The fuel deliveries were made under a contract awarded to Halliburton in March without competition.

Underlining security troubles that have plagued Iraq since April, Iraqi police and U.S. soldiers cordoned off an area near a Baghdad hotel where Western contractors stay, fearing a bomb had been planted there. In the southern port city of Basra, hundreds of former Iraqi army officers demanding back pay blocked streets around the headquarters of the civil administration, burning tyres and throwing stones.

## U.S. envoy meets Palestinian PM, urges peace steps

Abu Dis, West Bank (Reuters, Dec 13) - A U.S. envoy urged Israel and the Palestinians on Saturday to take real steps to put into motion a U.S.-backed peace "road map" whose revival awaits a still-unscheduled meeting of their prime ministers.

But bullets again spoke louder than words in the West Bank, where Israeli troops at a spot roadblock shot dead a 20-year-old Palestinian woman traveling in a taxi.

"We very much hope that concrete steps can be taken by all sides on all of the issues necessary to see progress restored," U.S. official David Satterfield, asked about the road map, told reporters after meeting Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie.

Satterfield, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs, met Qurie two days after declaring that Palestinian government reform key to the peace plan had all but ground to a halt.

In an assessment prepared for the "Quartet" of Middle East peacemakers - the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia -- Satterfield also accused Israel of failing to ease tough travel restrictions on Palestinians.

The road map, the most ambitious

move Washington has made toward ending three years of violence and reviving peacemaking, calls for reciprocal steps leading to the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.

Speaking to reporters, Qurie said no date had been set for talks with his Israeli counterpart, Ariel Sharon, on moving along the road map. Israel Radio said a summit was unlikely in the coming week and officials planned more preparatory meetings.

In an interview with the mass circulation daily Yedioth Ahronoth on Friday, Qurie warned Israel that an internationally condemned barrier it is building inside the West Bank would kill the peace plan.

Sharon has hinted he will evacuate some Jewish settlements and set borders for a Palestinian state along the barrier, whose planned route frequently dips into the West Bank to incorporate settlement blocs, should peace talks fail.

Israel says the swathe of razor-wire fencing, walls and trenches, is meant to keep suicide bombers out of its cities.

Near the West Bank city of Nablus, Israeli soldiers fired at a taxi which a military source said burst through a spot roadblock and ignored warning



A Palestinian boy runs behind an Israeli army tank during an army operation in the West Bank town of Jenin on December 12, 2003. Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie warned Israel on Friday that a barrier wall it is building inside the West Bank would kill off a U.S.-backed 'road map' peace plan. Photo by Saeed Dahlah/Reuters

shots to stop.

Palestinian medics said Kamleh al-Shooli, 20, one of eight passengers in the vehicle, was killed by two bullets to

the chest. Two passengers who spoke to Reuters after the incident said the soldiers had not signaled for the taxi to stop.

## Saudi Arabia pays reward for militant tip-off

RIYADH, Dec 13 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia, which is offering cash rewards for information which thwarts militant attacks, has paid \$270,000 for a tip-off which led to the killing of one of the country's top suspects, an official said on Saturday.

The Interior Ministry official said the money was paid on Tuesday, a day after the death of Ibrahim al-Rayes in a shootout at a Riyadh petrol station, but gave no details about the informant.

Rayes was on a list of the 26 most wanted militant suspects published last week after the November 9 suicide bombing of a residential compound in Riyadh which killed 18 people.

Tuesday's payment was the first awarded since the Saudi government promised rewards a week ago of up to \$1.9 million for information which leads to arrests of militants or which foil any future attacks by suspected al Qaeda members.

The official said Rayes, whose picture was published alongside the 25 other suspects in all Saudi media, was spotted by someone who recognised his face and told authorities.

"The information was real, accurate and specific and guided the security forces to the wanted person," he said. "We gave him one million riyals (\$270,000) the next day".

"We are asking all people, Saudis and non-Saudis, to help if they recog-

nise one of the militants," he added. The official also repeated a government appeal to the wanted militants to surrender and promised they would be treated "in a good way according to Islamic law".

Saudi Arabia has promised to strike with an "iron fist" against all those behind the recent violence who refuse to surrender, but pledged that militants who handed themselves over could expect better treatment in court.



# Karzai confident of deal on Afghan constitution

KABUL (Reuters, Dec 13) - President Hamid Karzai expressed confidence on Saturday that agreement could be reached on a constitution to take Afghanistan to its first free elections, but predicted tough debate at a meeting to approve it.

Karzai, facing criticism for seeking sweeping powers from the 500-delegate Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly, due to start in Kabul on Sunday, admitted there were differing views about the constitution and the type of government it would bring about.

"Certainly there will be debate; the debate will be tough," he told reporters at his heavily guarded presidential palace. "But I think they will finally unite on a common view."

Karzai, installed in 2001 after the overthrow of the Taliban and still widely seen as the only leader capable of keeping the war-battered country together, has said he will only stand in elections next year if delegates vote for a strong presidency.

But many want presidential powers balanced by a stronger parliament,

saying that as envisaged they verge on dictatorial.

The Loya Jirga was originally due to start last Wednesday and was first postponed until Saturday amid protracted wrangling over presidential powers, then until Sunday.

Analysts say regional strongmen have been trying to wring concessions from Karzai on greater autonomy, individual positions, or a stronger role for Islamic law in return for their backing.

An example of the behind-the-scenes horse-trading came with Karzai's last-minute appointment as a delegate of notorious northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who seeks greater autonomy for his ethnic Uzbek faction.

## Democracy fears

On Saturday, the International Crisis Group think-tank said the current draft, backed by the United States and others, was unlikely to ensure democracy or human rights and risked failure like nine others before it.

"If adopted, this constitution would allow religious and central government powerholders to leverage their positions to accumulate more authority at the cost of democratic forces," it said.

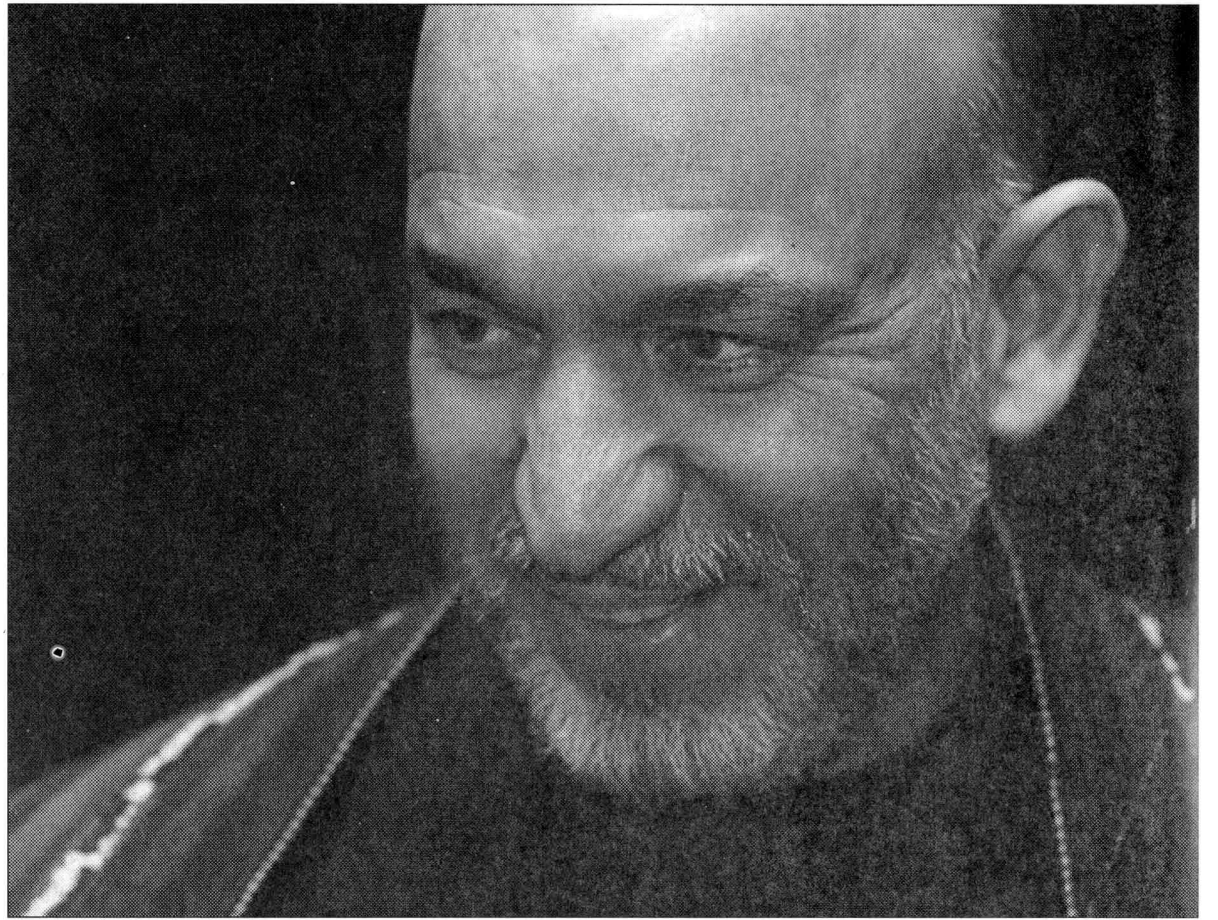
However, some delegates spoke for a strong presidency as they milled around outside the venue, a huge tent donated by a German NGO that evoked traditional Afghan tribal meetings.

"We need a strong president," said Mohammad Alam, an agronomist from Farrah province. "A country like ours emerging from civil war is not ready for a parliamentary system."

On Friday, Human Rights Watch said vote-buying and intimidation had marred the runup to the Loya Jirga, boding ill for presidential elections supposed to be held in June.

It said this had ensured the assembly was stacked with proxies of regional warlords seen as the biggest obstacles, along with Taliban insurgents, to the provincial security needed for vital aid and reconstruction work.

U.N. Special Representative



Afghan President Hamid Karzai appealed to delegates to this weekend's Loya Jirga to reach a quick agreement on a new constitution with a strong presidency to guide the country to its first elections next year. A September 2002 file photo of Karzai in New York. REUTERS/Ray Stubblebine

Lakhdar Brahimi said this week polls should be delayed if security could not be improved, but Karzai reiterated that a June timetable could be kept.

Soldiers, police and foreign peacekeepers have thrown up a tight security blanket ahead of the meeting, after resurgent Taliban guerrillas threatened to disrupt the gathering and said any-

one attending deserved to be killed.

Tanks and armored personnel carriers have been stationed at key intersections and on ridges overlooking the site.

Ahead of the meeting, U.S.-led forces launched what they call their biggest drive yet against Taliban and allied militants and said this had

helped prevent attacks.

U.S. military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Hilferty said Operation Avalanche involved thousands of troops carrying out patrols and setting up checkpoints in seven provinces most troubled by militants, "an area roughly the size of California."

# Taiwan's Chen appeals for support for referendum

TAIPEI (Reuters, Dec 13) - President Chen Shui-bian urged the international community on Saturday to back a plan to hold Taiwan's first referendum, saying the move aimed to defend the status quo in the face of China's military threat.

Addressing a Democratic Progressive Party congress, Chen remained adamant that the island would hold the referendum alongside presidential elections next March, despite a blunt warning by U.S. President George W. Bush this week.

"The international community has supported Taiwan in the past to have self-defence capability. Now it should give even more support for Taiwan people to hold a peaceful, rational, and non-provocative preventive referendum," Chen said in an emotive speech to drum up support ahead of the race.

"It's China's military force that may change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, not Taiwan's democracy," he told thousands of flag-waving party delegates.

Bush said in a meeting this week with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao that the United States opposed any unilater-

al decision by either China or Taiwan to change the status quo.

China sees self-governing Taiwan as a breakaway province that must be reunited eventually, by force if necessary, since the two split at the end of a civil war in 1949.

Beijing stridently opposes the referendum plan as a move by the island towards a permanent split from the mainland.

"No one should force us to take the threat of force for granted. Nor should any democratic country regard Taiwan's efforts to pursue democracy as provocative," Chen said, adding that Beijing's arms buildup also threatens stability in Asia.

Chen, who says the referendum is not about independence nor about changing the political status quo, said the popular vote would give Taiwan's 23 million people an opportunity to demand that Beijing renounce the use of force against Taiwan and dismantle nearly 500 missiles pointed at the island.

Facing a tough election battle, Chen has made an aggressive claim that China and Taiwan are separate coun-



About 30 pro-Taiwan independence activists protest outside the American Institute in Taipei on Dec 12. President C. Shui-bian urged the international community to back a plan to hold Taiwan's first referendum. REUTERS

tries the cornerstone of his campaign in a bid to consolidate support from pro-independence activists.

Many threatened to boycott the vote amid high unemployment after a string of policy flip-flops and two economic recessions.

## SRINAGAR, India, Dec 13

(Reuters) - Police battling Islamic separatists in disputed Kashmir have found bullets coated with lethal chemicals at a rebel hideout, they said on Saturday.

The seizure comes four months after the Indian army said it had information that Islamic militants in Kashmir knew how to build crude chemical weapons but had no proof.

About a dozen separatist groups operate in Kashmir, which is at the core of decades of animosity between India and Pakistan.

"We recovered a pen-pistol and 25 cartridges. When one of our men tried to remove the cartridge inside, it emitted fumes and he felt dizzy and became unconscious," K. Rajendra, inspector general of police in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, told Reuters.

"We have sent the pistol and bullets for forensic examination. Initial tests reveal the bullets are laced with a neurotoxic substance," he said, describing

the weapon as lethal at short range.

Rajendra said the discovery was made this week in a house in the village of Nagri in the border district of Kupwara, northwest of Srinagar, summer capital of the state.

Police were investigating to determine which rebel group had hidden the arms and the homeowner was being held for questioning, he added.

In the past, guerrillas fighting against New Delhi's rule in the state have been accused of stockpiling sophisticated weapons, including a surface-to-air missile and a warhead that troops recovered last December from a hideout in the same district.

But the seizure was the first time a weapon of this kind has been since the revolt against Indian rule began 14 years ago.

Pakistan denies Indian accusations it sponsors the 14-year-old revolt in the Muslim-majority state, which has claimed at least 40,000 lives so far. Separatists put the toll at more than 80,000.

# Zimbabwe's Commonwealth withdrawal Now formal

HARARE, Dec 13 (Reuters) - Zimbabwe has formally informed the Commonwealth it is withdrawing from the 54-nation group over its extended suspension, the official Herald newspaper said on Saturday.

President Robert Mugabe withdrew from the Commonwealth last Sunday after the group of mainly former British colonies meeting in Nigeria renewed Zimbabwe's suspension, demanding it reconcile with its opposition and respect human rights.

The Commonwealth first excluded Zimbabwe last year accusing Mugabe, 79 and in power since independence in 1980, of a rigged re-election in 2002 and persecuting his opponents. Mugabe insists he won the polls fairly.

On Saturday the Herald said Foreign Affairs Minister Stan Mudenge had written to Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon saying the club was

"threatening the country's independence and sovereignty" and had flouted rules and procedures in dealing with Zimbabwe's suspension.

"The principles of equality, fair play and respect for the national sovereignty of member states for which the club stands have sadly been compromised," the paper quoted Mudenge as writing.

"In the light of the...threats to its cherished and hard won independence and sovereignty, the Republic of Zimbabwe has chosen to terminate its membership of the Commonwealth effective from 7th December, 2003 rather than continue to subject itself to such racist humiliation, arbitrariness and arrogance." Zimbabwe is struggling with a deepening economic crisis that many blame on government mismanagement over the last 23 years, but Mugabe says the turmoil is a result of sabotage by local and foreign opponents of his land reforms.

# S. Africa's ANC says won't exploit 10-year party

JOHANNESBURG, December 11 (Reuters) - South Africa's president has yet to announce next year's election date, but a close aide said on Thursday his ANC party would not exploit celebrations marking 10 years since it vanquished white rule.

Mbeki is widely expected to call the general election around the "Ten Years of Freedom" anniversary on April 27 to benefit from the likely national euphoria.

"Setting the election date is the prerogative of the president and he hasn't told us yet," Essop Pahad, a minister in the presidency, told a news briefing. The polls must be held next year.

Opposition parties suspect the ANC of planning to shanghai the anniversary of the momentous day in 1994

that the party, with national icon Nelson Mandela at its head, swept to office and ended apartheid. They were South Africa's first all-race elections.

Another ANC victory next year is seen as a foregone conclusion. The only question marks, political analysts agree, are over the size of its majority and the turnout.

Speaking at the launch of next year's 80-million rand anniversary programme, Pahad said Mbeki and the ANC had no intention of exploiting the celebrations, which will be capped by a major public event outside the presidency in Pretoria.

"What we don't want is that there is a party political bunfight over the tenth anniversary. This must be a national celebration," Pahad said.

# India finds bullets with chemicals in Kashmir



# EU summit fails

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - A European Union summit meant to approve a first constitution for an enlarged bloc has broken down as leaders failed to bridge major differences over member states' voting rights.

The impasse plunged the wealthy 15-nation bloc into crisis, five months before it is due to admit 10 new members in the biggest expansion in its history.

"At this time, the conference takes note of the fact that there is no accord," an official of the Italian EU presidency told reporters on Saturday after less than two days of bare-knuckle wrangling which pitted France and Germany against Spain and Poland.

The leaders were trying over lunch to draft a statement on the way forward, with Italy keen to salvage what had been achieved so far in talks on a charter designed to ensure the bloc can still function after enlargement next May.

EU diplomats said Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi would announce that the negotiations were "postponed", while Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson said talks on the constitution were unlikely to resume until 2005.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the incoming Irish presidency of the EU would spend several months holding consultations before recommending a way forward.

Officials insisted that more than 90 percent of a new constitutional treaty had already been agreed and negotiations would not have to resume from square one. The existing Nice treaty will continue to apply with its complex weighted voting system, but many governments fear growing gridlock once the bloc expands into eastern Europe

with a total population of 450 million.

Diplomatic sources said the EU's six founders members -- France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg -- were preparing a joint call for closer integration by like-minded states.

Even before Saturday's stunning impasse, there were increasing fears of paralysis in an enlarged bloc leading to a two-speed Europe with France, Germany and their allies increasingly going it alone. Some sceptics say it might even be the beginning of the end for the Union.

## SURPRISE

The battle over voting power triggered a breakdown sooner than many diplomats had forecast and before the Italian presidency had even tabled a compromise proposal on that issue.

The row stemmed from the Nice treaty agreed in 2000, which gave Poland and Spain nearly the same voting rights as Germany, whose population is twice as large as theirs.

The reform would have replaced it with a system under which decisions pass if backed by a majority of more than half of EU states, representing over 60 percent of its population.

France and Germany had both said they would rather have no agreement and risk a crisis than accept a bad deal. French President Jacques Chirac had said on Friday that Europe's history was one of progress through crises.

The breakdown comes a year after deep splits emerged among European states over the Iraq war and less than a month after finance ministers bent EU budget rules by suspending disciplinary action against France and Germany over their excessive deficits.



A sign reading 'EU constitution' starts to fall apart in heavy rain in Brussels, Dec 13, reflecting the disappointing end to the European Union summit meant to approve a first constitution for an enlarged bloc, but which broke down on Saturday when leaders failed to bridge major differences over member states' voting rights. REUTERS/Yves Herman

## Azerbaijan mourns ex-leader and "grandfather" Aliyev

BAKU, Dec 13 (Reuters) - Azerbaijan on Saturday mourned former President Haydar Aliyev, who dominated politics in the volatile oil-rich country for three decades, with a show of grief for the man many called simply "Grandfather". State television opened up their channels for Azeris to pay tribute to Aliyev who died in the United States on Friday aged 80, just two months after his son succeeded him in a handover of power. Aliyev senior had carefully engineered.



An Azeri boy places carnations to the portrait of former President Haydar Aliyev outside the presidential palace in Baku, Dec 13. REUTERS

"I have a feeling that I have lost my own father. It is a huge loss for each of us. All of us are like orphans now," said Fuad Ganiyev, 75.

Ilham Aliyev took over as president after elections in October denounced by the opposition as rigged but which reassured oil investors seeking continuity in the predominantly Muslim former Soviet republic.

Azeri authorities, declaring seven days of mourning, said Aliyev's body would be flown back on Saturday for a hero's funeral in the capital Baku on Monday after lying in state.

Aliyev, who had a history of poor health and collapsed during a speech in April, died in a U.S. clinic in Cleveland, Ohio where he went in August for treatment for congestive heart failure and kidney problems.

## GUARD CHANGE IN CAUCASUS

The death of Aliyev, who embraced the Western market economy and Islamic religion and broke with his earlier Communist ways, may have no immediate political impact in the former Soviet republic as his son has pledged to uphold his policies.

But many analysts, before Ilham took over, expressed doubts as to whether he had the same mettle as his charis-

matic father.

The death of Aliyev, dubbed "Baba" (Grandfather) by many Azeris, marks the departure of another veteran figure from the volatile Transcaucasus region between the Caspian and Black Seas. Georgia's Eduard Shevardnadze, an old comrade of Aliyev's on the Soviet politburo of Leonid Brezhnev and a long-standing friend, was ousted from power in a people's revolution on November 23.

The October poll that installed Ilham Aliyev as president was marred by clashes between opposition supporters and police.

At the time, the U.S. State Department said it was "deeply disappointed" by the way it was carried out, calling for an inquiry into allegations of intimidation and ballot-stuffing.

But the United States and Russia, major powers with interests in the region, later accepted the poll as legitimate.

Earlier this month, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said ties between Washington and Azerbaijan would continue to grow.

Ilham hurriedly returned to the Azeri capital from a U.N.

conference in Geneva on hearing the news of his father's death.

## Measures to protect human dignity agreed at Geneva Red Cross & Red Crescent Conference

Geneva - The 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent closed on Dec. 7, 2003 with commitments by States party to the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to taking a wide range of measures between now and the next Conference in 2007 to protect human dignity.

Over 1,500 representatives of governments and members of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement agreed on an Agenda for Humanitarian Action, which focuses on enhancing protection of people affected by armed conflict and reducing the impact of disasters and disease on vulnerable groups.

"This was the first International Conference of the 21st century, and it came at a time when the world is facing major challenges to peace and security and widespread threats to health. Never before have we had such outstanding attendance, in terms of both the number of participants and the level of representation from States and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies", said Conference President Jaime Fernandez.

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Jakob Kellenberger, said the Conference was "marked by its clear affirmation of the validity and pertinence of international humanitarian law in contemporary armed conflicts". Juan Manuel Suarez

del Toro, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, thanked the Conference participants "for making major commitments to minimizing the impact of disasters and disease through risk reduction measures and improved support to vulnerable communities". Kellenberger particularly welcomed the two objectives of the Humanitarian Agenda which focused on issues relating to the devastating effects of armed conflicts, "the one aiming at ensuring respect for and restoring the dignity of persons missing as a result of armed conflict and their families, and the other at strengthening protection from the indiscriminate use and effects of weapons through controls on weapons development, proliferation and use". States undertook to improve systems for ascertaining the fate of missing persons and to take effective measures to search for and identify human remains. It was also agreed that all States would pursue the ultimate goal of global elimination of anti-personnel mines. Furthermore, the Conference decided on a call to protect humanity from poisoning and the deliberate spread of disease. "We all agreed that urgent action is required to prevent the misuse of biotechnology for hostile purposes and the erosion of the prohibitions on poisoning and the deliberate spread of disease contained in international humanitarian law," said the ICRC President.

## Britain's Queen leaves hospital after surgery

LONDON, Dec 13 (Reuters) - Britain's 77-year-old Queen Elizabeth left hospital on Saturday less than 24 hours after undergoing minor surgery on her knee and face.

A spokeswoman said the Queen would return to her London residence Buckingham Palace to recuperate and would then travel to her Sandringham country estate in eastern England as planned for Christmas.

The Queen underwent a 75-minute operation at London's King Edward VII hospital on Friday to remove torn cartilage from her left knee and to remove skin lesions from her face.

The palace described the operation as "entirely successful" and dismissed media reports that the skin lesions were suspected of being cancerous. The Queen looked healthy and smiled for photographers as she left the hospi-



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II leaves London's King Edward VII hospital after undergoing surgery on Friday to remove skin lesions on her face and torn cartilage from her left knee, Dec 13. (R)

tal with the use of a walking stick. The knee operation had been announced in advance and was similar to surgery on her right knee earlier this year -- both caused by a stumble the Queen suffered last December. But the removal of the skin lesions from the Queen's face had come as a surprise.

## Car blast kills man near Italian synagogue

MODENA, Italy, Dec 11 (Reuters) - A car exploded in northern Italy early on Thursday, killing the 33-year-old Kuwaiti driver in what police said appeared to be more of a suicide bid rather than an attack on a nearby synagogue. "We think we're dealing with a suicide...It was more of an act of desperation than a subversive one," a policeman in Modena, northern Italy, told Reuters. "The man had shown uneasiness and problems relating to people in the past." Jordanian-born Al Catib Muhammad Shafir Ammay, who had Kuwaiti citizenship, set himself on fire about 5 a.m. (0400 GMT). Police approached, and the car, which ran on flammable liquid propane gas (LPG), exploded, police said. No one else was hurt. The blast blew out win-

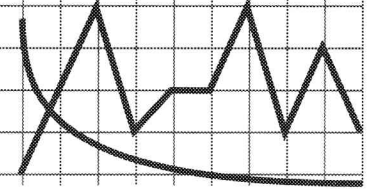
dows and garage doors of nearby buildings. Police said the car was parked on a small, side street about 50 to 80 metres (yards) from the synagogue's main entrance.

Italy stepped up security after a suicide bomber killed 19 Italians in southern Iraq last month. Italy has sent troops to Iraq to help U.S.-led stabilization efforts there following the war to oust Saddam Hussein.

Security alerts were also raised around Europe following four suicide bomb attacks in Turkey in November, two of which hit synagogues. Sixty-one people were killed in those attacks, claimed by shadowy groups linked to the al Qaeda network.



# YT Business



*Will it open more during the Dec. 21-22 summit?*

# Yemen still knocking on the door of the GCC

BY MAHYUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is looking forward to the coming GCC summit Dec. 21 - 22 with great expectations to joining the council's economic committees for the purpose of improving its conditions and getting aid to boost the country.

The big question remains, will the GCC Kuwait summit produce any resolutions in favour of Yemen, or will the GCC countries continue following the policy of gradual measures for accepting Yemen as a full member?

Yemen embraces a desire that the GCC summit adopts the report prepared by a committee of the GCC secretariat on conformation of economic legislation in Yemen with legislation in the GCC countries.

The Muscat summit in 2001 provided the opportunity for Yemen to join as an associate member in some committees of the GCC. But Sana'a desires to gain full membership in the economic and trade committees as a measure leading to full membership of the GCC.

Resolutions of Muscat summit had opened the gates to full membership, which was a Yemeni goal since the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council at the beginning of the 1980s.

Yemen occupies the flank of the Arab Peninsula and it has many connections and ties with the countries of the GCC, countries with the same history, ideology and language. But certain circumstances have obstructed it against getting membership.

Yemen was not then part of the oil producing countries and was not in possession of wealth compared to what the Gulf States possess. Added to this is its republican political system, its backward economy, and its security situation was not stable because of its multiple internal problems. Also its foreign relations that were quite different from those of the GCC countries.

Observers confirm that what were the most important factors precluding Yemen's accession to the GCC were due to internal considerations, especially during the period of its division into two northern and southern parts, pursuing two different political regimes and variant international orientations. Thus it was difficult then to join one part before deciding its problem with the other part.

The decade of the nineties of the last century has witnessed a change in the political map of Yemen particularly after its unification in 1990 the event of which came after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Yemen's relations had



also changed with the neighbouring countries in the wake of concluding the border agreements with the Sultanate of Oman and Saudi Arabia and discovery of oil fields in the country; an indication of richness similar to what is prevalent in the Gulf States.

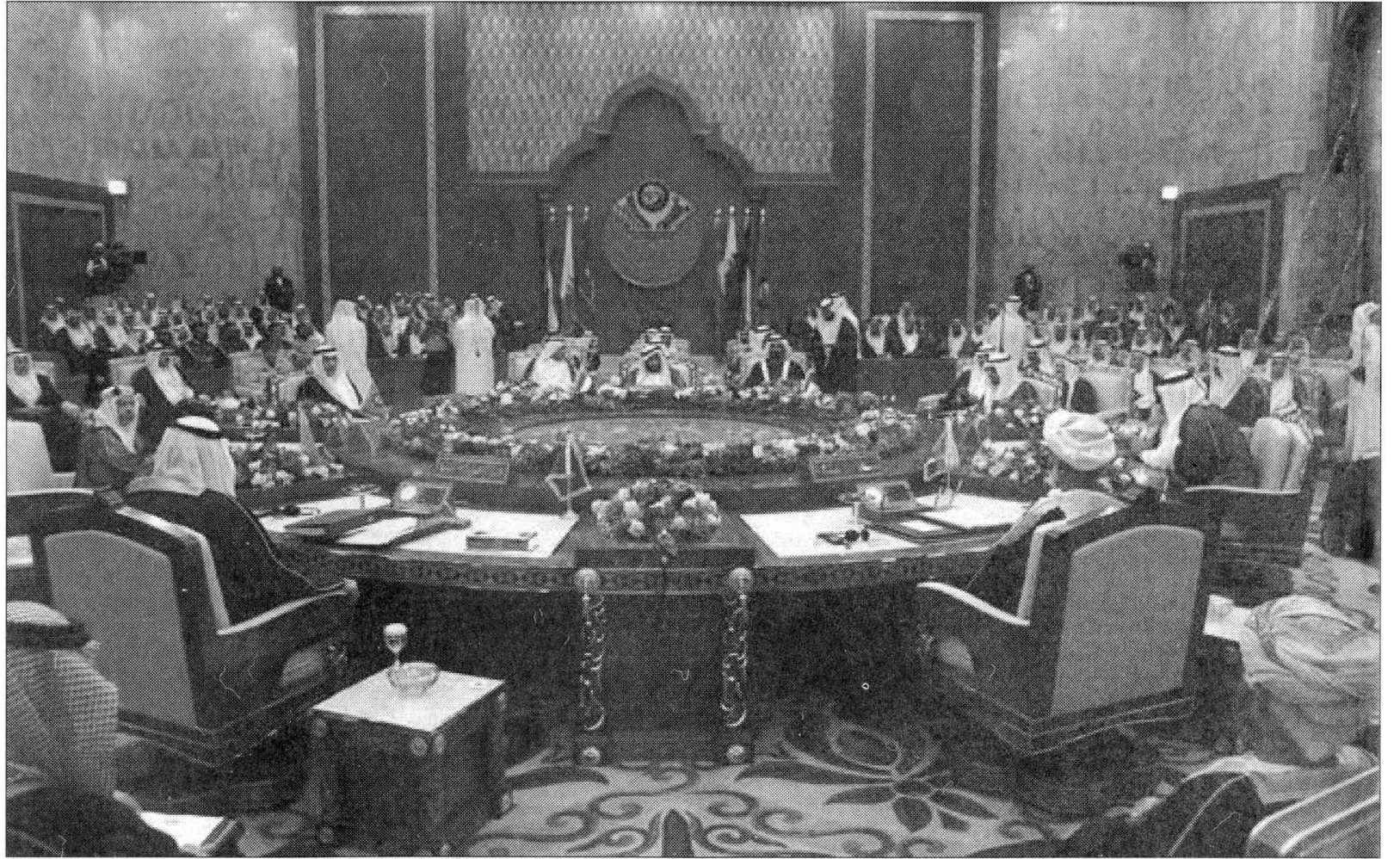
These were not decisive for realization of the Yemen's accession to the GCC; however, the resolution of Muscat summit came to give Yemen hope for joining some committees of the GCC as a prelude.

Those interested and following up this issue emphasize that Yemen's joining of the GCC represents the best investment for the GCC countries. Nevertheless, the two parties have to work for solving the problems facing the Yemeni side, particularly that there is a big difference between the Yemeni infrastructure and that of the Gulf States.

For instance the income per capita in Yemen is estimated at \$150 a year, and is very much lower than the income per capita in the Gulf countries which is estimated at \$8,000 - 25,000, according to statistics of the World Bank.

International and regional changes after the events of 9/11 2001 and imbalance of the security factor have occupied the forefront position in the international relations and forced speeding up joining Yemen to membership of the bureaus of Arab health, education, labour and social affairs and the football federation, a step Yemen has considered as advanced and leading it to full membership of the Gulf organizations.

Observers also affirm that the new security factor had its own impact in the souls of the GCC leaders and a response to a common need, at least within the limits of present situations. Some do however dare say that the gradual accession of Yemen is no more than a temporary containment to avoid what could entail the security requirements. It seems that dealing with the Gulf States is no longer based on a tactical foundation especially after other factors have taken place inside the system of international and regional relations.



Yemeni economic sources emphasize that the negative impact created by circumstances of the first and second Gulf wars and their consequences on the current circumstances in general after the war on Iraq, the region is in need of communication between the Gulf countries and Yemen as partner in action of the committees in the GCC countries. The sources add that Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman have common borders with Yemen, as the Yemeni republic is situated on both the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, covering an area of 33060 km, besides its control on Bab El Mandab Straits and overlooking the Red Sea.

A committee set up by the general secretariat of the GCC has held a comparison between the Yemeni economic legislation and laws and the systems and laws of the Gulf states and found out that there must be a measure for drawing up scientific and realistic programs for achieving the positive result of accepting the accession of Yemen in the Gulf grouping.

Political studies indicate that responsibilities are on shoulders of Yemen and the GCC states for realizing goals of this regional orientation. The matter is related to evaluating the Yemeni-Gulf relations objectively and in their normal volume without exaggeration or underestimation. Studies also stress that changing the Yemeni-Gulf relationship to an institutional shape, whether in the sector of education or

the health or labour and other areas, must be started through pinpointing the areas of convergence and the challenges impeding this course. And in the framework of bilateral cooperation meetings of the Yemeni-Saudi coordination council during the past three years have come out with tangible results that included ways and means of cooperation in economic and trade fields and also in investment partnership and reciprocal understanding.

The two Yemeni and Saudi sides have managed to settle the indebtedness payable for the Saudi and which were agreed according to an agreement concluded between the Yemeni finance ministry and the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) on 21 February 2001. The SFD has appropriated \$300 million for funding development projects agreed upon in Yemen and the two countries sought to encourage the inter-trade with an agreement on developing exports and joint investments and supporting the private sector for bolstering bilateral cooperation.

Sana'a and Riyadh have also completed the final revision of an agreement on avoiding dual taxation and an agreement on customs cooperation and also an agreement on encouragement and protection of joint investments.

The two parties at the Coordination Council have also agreed in 2002 to finance some developmental projects that are given priority in the Yemeni's second five-year plan 2001-2005,

especially in electric power. The two parties have also signed an agreement on land transport of passengers and goods and an agreement on sea transport. At the meetings of the Coordination Council in 2002 they have agreed to implement detailed programs in the field of education and an agreement on exchange of information concerning oil discoveries.

In translation of these distinguished relations a delegation representing Saudi businessmen had visited Yemen several times and that had resulted in the Group of the Saudi-German Hospitals adopting the building of a hospital in Sana'a worth \$ 200million with a capacity of 30 beds and able to be expanded to 900 beds.

There are 39 joint projects in Saudi Arabia undertaken by Yemeni and Saudi businessmen with a capital of 831 million Saudi rials to which the Yemenis contribute with 28%. The border treaty between Yemen and Saudi Arabia signed in Jeddah in June 2000 has contributed to enhance opportunities of economic cooperation inside a market consisting of 40 million people and the value of Saudi exports has risen to around SR 888 million and the value of Yemeni exports to Saudi Arabia to about SR 280 million.

Yemeni-Omani relations have also witnessed steady growth by concluding many agreements of cooperation in economic and trade fields and estab-

lishment of a free zone on the two countries borders. Statistics point out that Yemen exports to the Omani market are worth of \$2,484.829 and imports from the Sultanate goods worth 35,020,786 Omani rials. Exchange of visits between Yemeni and Omani businessmen continue for increasing the exchange of trade and establishment of investment partnership especially in the free zone in Aden.

Yemen and the United Arab Emirates have signed many agreements included cooperation in air transport, abolishing dual taxation and establishment of active partnership between the private sectors of the two countries.

Yemen has sought for consolidation of its economic and trade relations with Qatar and Kingdom of Bahrain, especially in investment and trading partnership.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia tops the list of the Arab countries receiving Yemeni exports, followed in sequence by Kuwait, UAE and Egypt. On the other hand Yemen imports from four Arab countries, namely, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman.

Yemen imports 80% of cars via border crossings with Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman. Also the trading with used cars imported from Dubai forms the bigger share of foreign cars in the Yemeni market.

## 2003's third quarter earnings

# Yemen gets \$1.3 billion from oil exports

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government's share of 47.17 million barrels of oil exports during the first three quarters of this year brought Yemen \$1.3 billion.

Official statements have made it clear that the total oil exports during the same period of last year amounted to 48.13 million barrels worth \$1.2 billion with a drop in production by 2% and an increase in value by 12.55%.

Statements issued the Central Bank of Yemen mentioned that the total amount of the unified budget of commercial banks at the end of the third quarter of the year has risen by YR 16.5 billion and that equals \$88.47 million, so that the amount reaches at YR 538.5 billion.

At the end of September 2002 the

total amount of the unified budget of commercial banks had been YR 439.9 billion.

Value of foreign trade assets of banks at the end of the third quarter of the year 2003 amounted to YR 154.7 billion, approximately \$841.3 million, compared to around YR 145 billion, or \$788.7 million at the end of last August, i.e. an increase amounting to YR 9.6 billion by a percentage of 6.6%.

At the end of September 2002 those assets amounted to YR 149.6 billion.

Report of the Central Bank also pointed out that the total of reserves has, at the end of the third quarter of the year 2003, risen by an amount of YR 1.6 billion by 1.9% to YR3.8 billion in the last month.

Deposit certificates valued at YR33.2 billion at the end of last August dropped to YR3.3 billion at the end of last September.



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**Words of Wisdom**



There are newspapers that are owned and operated by the army, government, independent companies, political parties, special interest groups, etc. In other words, the written media offers a variety of views and positions. But the state enjoys full monopoly over radio and television stations.

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

**OUR OPINION**

*New press law?*

**Action still needed by journalists**

Last week, a historical and somewhat promising achievement was signaled when the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS), under tremendous pressure from journalists throughout the country, took a courageous step.

The YJS decided to withdraw the proposed law that would have limited the freedom of Yemen's free press and would have had a negative impact on private media institutions.

One of the articles of the law stipulates that journalists would be forced to join the syndicate in order to legally practice journalism in Yemen. Another article requires newspapers and other media outlets to contribute 3 percent of their advertising revenue to support the syndicate's activities.

The pressure came both from within and out of the country as most newspapers condemned the draft law, as did international organizations such as the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), which said that the bill would "only hinder the media's ability to practice their profession freely."

In the meeting that took place last Wednesday, the syndicate's chairman, Mahboob Ali said that the syndicate cannot be against the will of journalists, whom should be the main beneficiary from any laws that the syndicate proposes.

As a result, he said he will request the Prime Minister to withdraw the bill altogether as it would have harmed the free press and caused tremendous embarrassment to Yemen's reputation as a country seeking more democracy and liberties.

Some said the law would enable the government to gain more access over the media. Others said that the government proposed serious and critical modifications to the law, resulting in major shift from the side of the journalists to the side of the government, and made the YJS a body that would have control over the duties and conditions of journalists.

But nevertheless, I believe that Mr. Ali realized that he gets his powers and authority not from the government, which welcomed the law in its updated version, but from the journalists themselves. They are the ones who could let him continue to chair the syndicate or remove him once they want too.

The decision of Mahboob Ali emphasized the legitimacy he enjoys in leading the syndicate despite the fact that his period has long been overdue.

But even as those steps have been taken to withdraw the law, there is a slim possibility that it would continue to go on to the parliament for voting, as it is not any more in the hands of the government, but rather in the hands of the parliament, which is in many ways higher in hierarchy than the government. Who will save the journalists community from the law, if it is passed?

This is why journalist have a duty to still ensure this draft law does not get approval. This could be in the form of establishing direct contacts with parliament members and reflecting the need to not vote for the law in the media. It is all a matter of team work.

Our team work as journalists participated in pressurizing the syndicate to let go of its law. We need now to double the efforts to not allow this bill to be passed from the parliament.

It is a tough task, but achieving it will serve our country's democratic future.

**The Editor**

**Rebuttal**

**Leave Ethiopia alone**

BY TESFAYE NEGASSA  
COUNSELLOR AT ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY,  
SANA'A,  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I am prompted to write this comment after having read Sadat Mohamed Yusef's commentary "Warlords and government struggle: Somalia a playground of foreign patrons" in the Dec. 4 issue.

In this commentary, Yusef accuses Ethiopia of "heavily in favour of the warlords because there is balance between them and obsessed with countering the existence of the interim government."

I read the article with interest. He has tried to articulate his view in the issue he believes right and wrong. But there are facts I depreciate as lacking rationality and spirit of critical approach in the comment. I want to bring to his attention those points which are not visible to him due to his position.

Nation building is a political exercise undertaken to create, foster and sustain such an entity out of multiple nations, people or communities with otherwise

different languages culture, customs and history living in a political State. Nation building is all about bringing different political groups for a common interest and creating a new national identity for all people within a territory. At this moment Somalia is a failed attempt at creating such a nation.

The Somali problem is part of the general problem of sectarianism that has plunged Africa into regressive tribal civil war. Therefore, it is in the long-term interest of Africans to look for a peaceful solution in Somalia's affairs. Ethiopia the immediate neighbour of Somalia has all along been active and genuine participant in the peace effort in Somalia which it always believe is only possible by the Somalia people alone.

Ethiopia has more than anything else demonstrated to have no interest other than peace in the region was a prerequisite for its much needed economic and democratic progress. Ethiopia has never held the illusion that war and instability in neighboring country was a source of wealth and progress.

This notion and doctrine had always been the notion and doctrine of parasite

who think wealth was the only given not something to be created and created by human productive ability. And there is no way of discomfiting that such malignant view and urge have ever belonged to the country whether dealing with itself or the outside would include Somalia.

What is one to make of such a non-sense groundless accusation in general and the recent allegation in particular? For us such an accusation has not only any grain of truth but also "certain functions seems not to be happy with the outcome of peace process taking place in Kenya, therefore, in order to scuttle it they need an excuse and that the ready-made scapegoat is Ethiopia." Therefore, no doubt, this is by now all too clear to International Community. But why then the need for blackmailing Ethiopia and taking it all the time as a scapegoat? And will that pay?

In general for Somalia to have a future, the gun has to retire from politics. Mumbo-jumbo of blaming the innocent has to stop. Political differences should not be shunned but rather welcomed.

**IAEC holds part of answer**

**What's in Iran's future?**

BARKATULLAH MARWAT  
KUWAIT  
bumarwat@hotmail.com

Sometimes I think how sincere and friendly Muslims are unlike the Western countries.

Because this is no more a hidden fact that when Iran was accused of developing Uranium enrichment, the foreign ministers of France, Germany and UK reportedly flew to Tehran in order to advise the Iranian authorities to sign up the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) and that all of its nuclear related hideouts be opened for the inspection of IAEC (International Atomic Energy Committee), apart from being urged to brief the Committee members of what it has rendered so far. They pledged that they would help Iran with the context of provision of all atomic equipment within the sphere of international laws.

Therefore, Iran relying on them poured out its heart to them, provided all information they needed to know about its suspicious and mysterious nuclear arsenals by opening almost all its atomic power plants etc, assuring them that they could inspect the installations anytime if need be. Even later, Iran is said to have announced to roll back its programme by handing over the controversial stuff to the IAEC.

Well, the honourable members of IAEC headed by its chairman, ElBarade visited Iran where they were taken around to all atomic power plants and showed them whatever they wanted to view and inspect with their naked eyes.

But ironically, IAEC underlined in its report that since Iran had been working on nuclear power plants for the past 18 years and accumulated some quantity of nuclear stuff, therefore, it has lied about its programme, keeping everything hidden and suggested a legal proceeding against the country.

France, Germany and United Kingdom were extremely annoyed by the findings of the report, and suggested that a resolution be passed in the Security Council against Iran's sheer violation and its white lies. You see all the assurances, pledges and promises, which they had made with Iran before the inspection, evaporated in no time. What Iran was assured was that "what happened so happened and now let's go to open a new chapter of friendship." In fact, Iran despite its internal differences over the inspection had agreed to accept all the terms and conditions, but the West has gone back on its word! And that's the nature of the West, but shamefully, we are still relying on her!

Now a resolution is offing in UN to this effect, while US says that if Iran has been lying for the last 18 years, then what's its guarantee that it won't lie again in future? To be brief, through such tactics Iran is being trapped and see what happens next. But Iran has warned them of dire consequences in case of any aggression.

What I concluded from what happened to Iran in dramatic way is that Iran has surely disclosed everything to IAEC and it is possible that it has also confided to them that Russia, China and Pakistan are the helpers who aided her

in this regard, that's why IAEC has finally pressed fingers on the aides. Moreover, IAEC is accused of playing a role of spy/detective for the West and surely they might have given a green signal to US to act as Iran is at the moment not so dangerous as they had taken it earlier.

However, as regards Russia and China, needless to say, both are the permanent members of Security Council and of course US cannot do anything else against them, but what is embarrassing is that Pakistan may now be dealt with all means. Because it has already developed what is forbidden for the Third World countries to possess.

Now the President Pervez Musharraf, I believe, cannot get out of the latest situation, Pakistan will be accused of assisting North Korea, Iran and now some Arab States too.

Finally, let me ask Uncle Sam why he has been keeping meaningful silence over India and Israel? I mentioned in my previous letters that Uncle Sam is a coward who cannot stand to open threat, like North Korea openly threatened a forceful retaliation if US goes against the former.

Just imagine the spirit of patriotism is found in non-Muslim (North Koreans) who are ready to do anything for their survival, while Pakistan? What if we have a powerful and united army in the world? What if we have bigger piles of missiles and nuclear weapons? Is it not shameless to keep moving back like a nervous man who despite having a loaded AK-47 in his hand but unable to press the trigger of his gun.

**Letters to the Editor**

**I stand corrected!**  
Well, these new facts certainly change my thinking.

If the Iraqi people will destroy water plants because they hate the US and are willing to go without water... we will probably lose but they will probably die.

If the Iraqi people will destroy sewage plants because they hate the US and are willing to endure disease.... we will probably lose but they will probably die.

If the Iraqi people will destroy transmission towers and pipelines because they hate the US and are will go without cars and air conditioning... we will probably lose but they will be rather uncomfortable.

If the Iraqi people will destroy hospitals and kill doctors because they hate the US and are willing to allow children and aged to die... we will probably lose but they will be sad.

If the Iraqi people kill police and politicians because they hate the US and are willing to live without law and civility... we will probably lose but a curious thing will happen.

I don't think any of the remaining people will be able to call themselves Muslims after the death of so many innocents.

And at the end of five years, we will pull out, perhaps with an independent nation of 22 million hard working Iraqis, governed by Iraqis, or perhaps a desolate nation of twelve million.

No schools, no power, no economy, no trust, ruled by brigands.

The part I do not understand is the interest non-Iraqis have in seeing this future visited on the Iraqis. Hard and committed they are to see the Iraqis suffer. They seem to know the rage Allah will feel if an Iraqi child smiles, or an Iraqi man goes to work in the morning.

My misunderstanding was rather great. I stand corrected.

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

**About Marwat and Welch letters**

Having gone through the recently published articles of both writers, namely, Barkatullah Marwat and

**Letters to the Editor**

David Welch, I think the questions David asked from Mr. Marwat should have asked himself (David) what they are doing in the current situations. What havoc their democratic countries have been playing with the Third World countries in the name of democracy? Enclosing my comments in nutshell, I would say that Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein were major threats to the vested interests of Mr. Bush and his junta rather than to others.

Lastly, this is established fact that at the moment no Muslim leader is strong enough to combat Bush's bushes except Osama bin Laden. Let's not forget that Mr. Bush is a major threat to the interests of Muslims.

**Dr Maha Emad  
maha\_kwt@yahoo.com**

**To the good people of Yemen**

My name is Edgar Connell, and I represent children in a Geography classroom in the state of Georgia, USA. My class would like to learn more about the people, culture, and lifestyles of this planet that we all share. We ask people

of all nationalities and beliefs to please send us letters, postcards, pictures of your area of the world. We will send you information about ourselves.

**Mr. Connell and Students  
connell@iftschools.com  
Georgia, USA**

**Only in Yemen: fasting computers!**

Crowd of teachers gathered at the "National Bank" Hodeidah Branch on Tuesday 17th of Ramadan and for the second time on 28th of Ramadan waiting to receive their salaries but unfortunately the computer kept fasting and rejected to disburse the teachers salaries. What made the teachers more irritable that the screwy computer is not fasting when the other customers are concerned?

When teachers began to complain against such contradictory treatment, they were warned to stop uttering a word, as they are not customers. If they are not customers so they have to clarify under which clause or system the teachers are classified.

**Abdullah Abdulghani Al-Shamiri  
welcomefm@yahoo.com**

**COMMON SENSE**



*By Hassan Al-Haifi*

**Jordan is not Yemen, but they are really not far apart**

Over the last couple of days this observer is beginning to realize that the Yemeni people are highly more politicized than most of their Arab brethren elsewhere in the Arabian Peninsula and perhaps throughout the Arab World. In retrospect, one begins to wonder if Iraq is not closer to Yemen than the geography of the country would actually entail. In Yemen, one would not have to dig out any public opinion about the situation in Iraq. That is almost the talk of the town on a daily basis. In Amman, unless one seeks out views from people, no one is ready to come out with any of their feelings about any situation, let alone the situation in Iraq. Even with the majority of the Jordanian population being Palestinian, one is surprised that there is very little talk about what is going on in the West Bank or Gaza. However, there is no question about where the sympathies of most of the people lie on most of the issues facing the Arab Nation: The Americans really have no business being in Iraq, notwithstanding all the reasoning and justifications put up by the White House and the rest of the Bush Administration and the Neo-con establishment behind them. Even government officials here in Amman are fully in line with the overall public mood that the Americans and the Israelis are on the same track. Many are also ready to undermine the American position and would be willing to suggest that US Policy is now really Israeli policy. However, that does not seem to be only the Arab view. In fact, even past US Presidents are ready to point out that the position of the present American Administration in the White House is far too biased towards "Sharon and undermines the just rights of the Palestinians", as former President Jimmy Carter stated outright on the Larry King Live Show of Friday the 12th of December.

Of course, the Jordanian Press is keen on making events in Iraq and Palestine front-page news, but the general public mood is far from entrenched in any political dialogue, as is the case in Yemen. In Yemen, all the orientations along the overall political, economic and social spectrum are unanimous in their anti-occupation of Iraq and in their attitude towards the agenda of belligerency followed by Ariel Sharon and his thugs in the West Bank and Gaza. In Jordan, there is no doubt a common disapproval of the latest developments in the region. But again, one must dig out this feeling. This is understandable for only one reason. The people of Jordan are more inclined to concentrate on meeting the needs of livelihood and raising their families, with a view towards having the next generation outdo the one that precedes it, in terms of all the human development indicators and in terms of the standards of living. The latter seems to be the right pragmatic approach, but one tends to feel there is indeed a need for greater political dialogue. Maybe the tightrope that Jordan has had to walk on for half a century has brought the Jordanian people to a high pragmatic level of thinking that talk is cheap, and without continuous sustainable development there is no way for any talk to become effective. There is nothing wrong with that kind of thinking at all, and as long as there is continued progress, one might think this to be healthy thinking.

But in Yemen, emotions have a strong position in people's lives. All across the social and economic spectrum, people are ready to divulge of their feelings and find no reason to withhold strong phrases to underscore their feelings about the American "invasion" of Iraq and the "ugly" intransigent policies of Ariel Sharon, who is regarded by most Yemenis as a non-kosher butcher, no more - no less. Unmistakably, one enjoys hearing Yemenis speak their minds about all the political forces at play, in Yemen and elsewhere. However, Jordan has shown also that there is significance to putting a greater focus on productivity and raising the level of intellect and cultural attainment of the people of any country, as well as the standard of living. Accordingly, the public opinions expressed will not only have greater weight, but will also manage to get across to a much wider audience throughout the world.

So, what is more important politics or development? It is clear by now to this observer anyway that both, political thinking and awareness (and of course participation) and enhanced cultural attainments are key to making any political activities reasonably agreeable to all concerned.

One might think that Yemenis and Jordanians might be able to exchange much of their experiences to the overall benefit of both states. This observer believes that the cordial relationship of the leaders of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Yemen can go along way in taking advantage of such an exchange, and letting the voice of the Arab Nation reach a greater span of the listening ears throughout the world.



# The axis of incoherence

By Jim Lobe  
For the InterPress Service

As the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush searches increasingly desperately for a viable "exit strategy" from an Iraqi quagmire, its policy there is appearing ever more incoherent.

The latest example — and an especially spectacular one — took place Wednesday when, at the same moment that Bush himself was personally asking key European and other leaders to forgive tens of billions of dollars in Iraq's crushing debt, the Pentagon announced on its website that companies from the same countries will not be permitted to bid on 18.6 billion dollars in reconstruction contracts there.

Needless to say, the Pentagon's directive and its timing were unlikely to put the leaders of Russia, France and Germany — the most important of the excluded countries — in the mood to forgive a lot of Iraq's debt. Even the deputy prime minister of Canada, another blacklisted country, suggested that Ottawa may have to reconsider its plans to add to the 190 million dollars it has already contributed to reconstruction.

The New York Times reported that White House officials were "fuming" over the Pentagon's announcement. Foremost among them, no doubt, was former Secretary of State James Baker who was spending his first day on the job as Bush's special envoy for, of all things, reducing Iraq's debt. Indeed,

Bush was asking German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, French President Jacques Chirac, Russian President Vladimir Putin, among others, to welcome Baker when he comes calling.

But Wednesday's embarrassing and potentially costly snafu is symptomatic of a larger problem faced by an administration that seems increasingly at sea over what to do about Iraq and whose constituent parts are trying desperately to protect their own interests.

This has become especially clear over the past month in Iraq itself where the US military has adopted much more aggressive counterinsurgency tactics in order to reduce insurgent attacks against its own forces, even at the expense of the larger struggle waged by the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) to win the "hearts and minds" of Iraqis, including the residents of the so-called "Sunni Triangle."

On the one hand, the CPA's job is to convince Iraqis that US troops are there to help them to rebuild and make a transition to democratic Iraq.

On the other hand, the military, which lost a record number of troops to hostile fire last month, is now embarked on a military campaign in the region that increasingly apes Israeli tactics. Razor-wire fences, checkpoints, nighttime raids and roundups, bombing, and the demolition of houses and other buildings have never persuaded Palestinians that Israeli soldiers are in the West Bank to help them.

The CPA and the military now have "opposing goals," noted Rear Adm. David Oliver, who just returned from a high-level CPA job. While Gen.

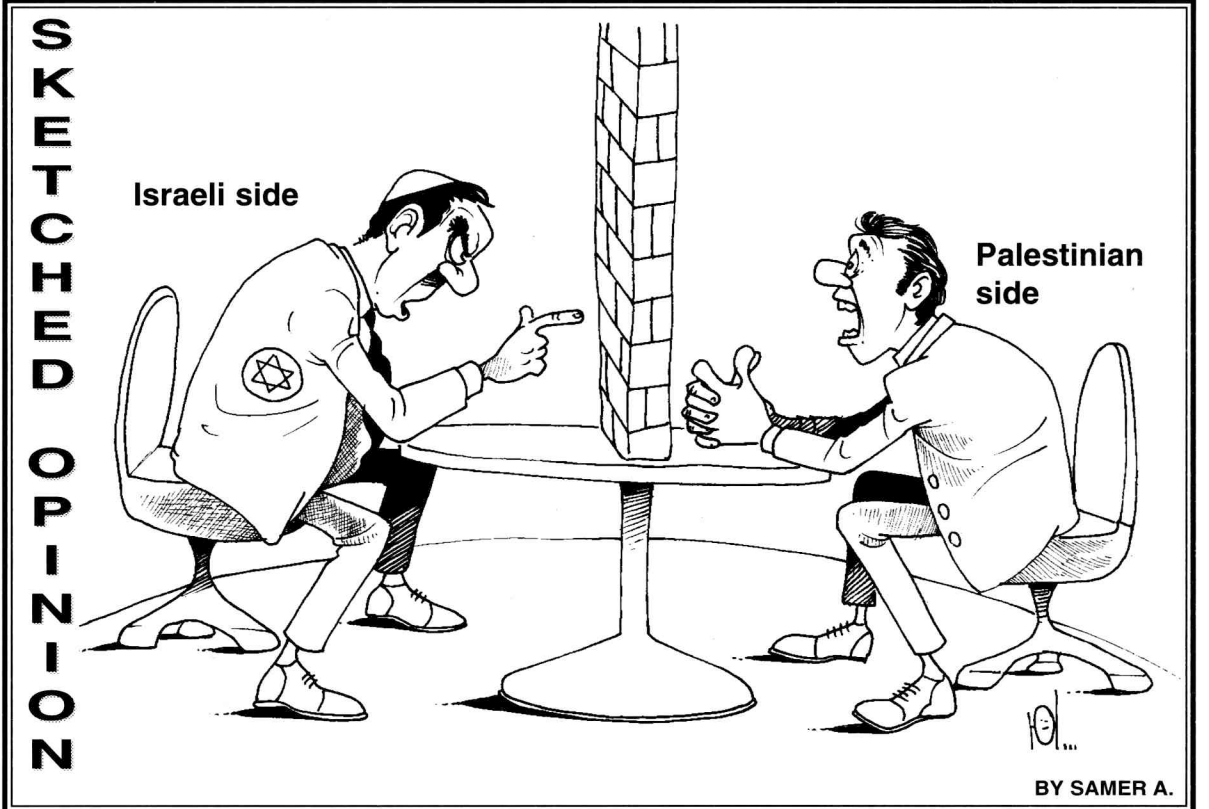
Ricardo Sanchez's forces are focused on "tactical and immediate" goals of hunting down suspected guerrillas and maintaining order, CPA chief L. Paul Bremer is trying to win the confidence of the Iraqi people. "The military's goal has nothing to do with the (Coalition's) success," Oliver said.

This incoherence — or rather the exasperating difficulty of reconciling military tactics to strategic goals — was best expressed this week by Lt. Col. Nathan Sussaman, the commander of a battalion that has surrounded the town of Abu Hishma with a razor wire fence. "With a heavy dose of fear and violence, and a lot of money for projects," he told the New York Times, "I think we can convince these people that we are here to help them."

Incoherence of a third kind is reflected in the continuing bureaucratic infighting over power within Iraq that pits the neo-conservative hawks around Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney against the "realists" and regional specialists in the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

While the neo-cons continue to try to bolster their favorites on the Iraqi Governing Council, primarily Ahmed Chalabi of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), the "realists" are more inclined to work with others on the Council, notably Ayad Alawi, leader of the Iraqi National Accord (INA), long a CIA favorite.

During the 1990s, the two groups, both of which boasted high-ranking secret contacts within the Iraqi army



and intelligence services, competed for influence in Washington, but, with the empowerment of the neo-conservatives after 9/11 and Bush's decision to give the Pentagon the lead in the war on terrorism, the INC became clearly dominant.

The two groups fundamentally distrust and detest each other. The INC has always contended that the INA was heavily infiltrated by Iraq's intelligence services and that, in any case, many of its operatives were Ba'athists whose democratic credentials were questionable at best. The INA, on the other hand, that the INC was essentially a vehicle for Chalabi's personal ambitions as opposed to a movement that could mobilize significant sectors of the population.

Their major differences at the moment are over the CPA's "Iraqification" plans. Chalabi, who helped persuade the Pentagon neo-cons to summarily disband the army after the war, has long called for a thorough

de-Ba'athification of Iraq, particularly in the military and police.

INA, on the other hand, has long argued that purges should be kept to a minimum in order to ensure the cooperation and loyalty of competent officials and military officers in postwar Iraq.

In the run-up to the next June's scheduled transfer of sovereignty from the CPA to a provisional government, both parties are now pursuing their separate but largely contradictory agendas.

While the Pentagon leadership continues to support Chalabi's efforts to launch a wide-ranging de-Ba'athification by, for example, blacklisting companies close to Saddam Hussein for new contracts or sponsoring laws that would enable tribunals to prosecute even mid-ranking Ba'athist officials, Alawi's INA is working with the CIA and US military authorities in Baghdad to recruit former Ba'athist intelligence officials into a new service

that is being deployed against the insurgents. INA has also lobbied hard for accelerating "Iraqification" of the army and security forces.

All of these incoherencies reflect the lack of an underlying strategy behind which the key factional interests back in Washington are united, a unity that has long eluded the Bush administration. And while Bush has clearly been tilting away from the hawks in favor of the realists over the past two months, incoherence is likely to persist so long as both forces retain the ability to undermine each other.

That Baker was the latest victim of this incoherence on his first day of work is particularly juicy. Of all Bush's advisers, Baker — a dyed-in-the-wool realist who, as Ronald Reagan's chief of staff and secretary of state during the first Gulf War, showed little patience for bureaucratic or ideological intrigue, least of all by neo-conservatives — may be very well-placed to correct the problem.

## Graying Europe needs

BY KATRIN BENNHOLD  
FOR BLOOMBERG

Anne Lauvergeon, head of the Paris-based nuclear energy company Areva, may have a bit more on her plate than many chief executives. She is out to beat General Electric in the race for building the first nuclear reactor in more than a decade. She must integrate the power-network unit she is acquiring from Alstom. And then there's Armand, her 3-month-old son.

"I try to be as efficient as possible to have time for my family as well," said Lauvergeon, a 44-year-old physicist, who said she deals almost exclusively with men in her professional life. "I'm used to being the only woman."

Having to balance managing a company worth E8.3 billion, or \$10.2 billion, with motherhood is something few European chief executives have to worry about. Women, who account for 51 percent of the European Union's population, still make up less than 6 percent of top executives in the 10 countries for which data were available. They account for 43 percent of the entire work force, compared with 47 percent in the United States.

Falling birthrates and rising life expectancy will squeeze the working-age population in coming decades, weighing on economic growth and threatening to bankrupt Europe's tax-financed pension systems. That's a situation Europe cannot afford any longer, say economists like Laura D'Andrea Tyson, dean of the London Business School.

"In order to sustain the burden of an aging population, Europe has to search for new pools of labor," said Tyson, who headed the U.S. Council of Economic Advisers for the first two years of President Bill Clinton's administration. "Women are one obvious target."

European women have, on average, only 1.5 children today, when 2.1 would be needed to stop the population from falling. At the same time, life expectancy across the European Union is expected to rise by about five years over the next five decades to 83, meaning the share of over-65-year-olds will double to almost 50 percent.

This means that at current employment rates, the EU's work force would shrink by 14 million over the next 30

years, trimming gross domestic product in the region by 7 percent, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates. If women were working in the same proportion as men, the economy could expand as much as 6 percent in the period, the OECD said.

At a summit meeting in Lisbon three years ago, EU leaders pledged to raise the employment rate for women to 60 percent from 54 percent within 10 years as part of an effort to become the world's most competitive economy by 2010. Today, the rate is 55 percent, well below the 73 percent level for men.

In the United States, where 87 percent of companies have at least one woman on their board, the employment rate for women stands at 70 percent. Thirty percent of women who are U.S. executives said career opportunities had greatly improved over the past five years, according to a survey last year by the New York-based Catalyst research institute of American and European women who are executives. In Europe, only 11 percent concurred.

Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson, the world's largest textbook publisher and owner of the Financial Times, has headed the company almost seven years, spending \$8 billion on acquisitions to build its global business. A tall Texan and a mother of three, she has her own recipe for a woman's success without conflict between her private and business lives.

"Get a great husband who believes all aspects of family life are as much his responsibility as yours," advises Scardino, who is the only woman serving as a chief executive among the companies listed on Britain's FTSE 100 index. "Family comes first."

Encouraging more women to follow in the footsteps of Lauvergeon and Scardino could help the European economy to catch up with the United States, Tyson said. EU economic growth, which has trailed America's for the past decade, is expected to reach just 0.8 this year, compared with 3.1 percent in the United States.

"The U.S. is one decade ahead of Europe, if not two," Tyson said. "The commitment to more diversity in the labor market explains at least part of the growth gap between the two continents."

At a time when unemployment in

the EU still stands at 8.8 percent, almost three percentage points above the U.S. rate, it is hard for governments to sell policies aimed at getting more people into the work force. Yet there is no escaping labor shortages over the next decade if nothing is done to raise employment rates now, economists say.

On Europe's southern fringe, working women remain in the minority. In Italy, Greece and Spain employment rates for women remain at 42 percent, 43 percent and 44 percent, respectively.

In Italy, city-run nursery schools are free, yet few mothers get beyond the waiting list. With an average of 1.3 children per women, birth rates in Italy, Spain and Greece are the lowest in the EU.

Generous maternity benefits in many European countries may aggravate the situation by keeping women out of the labor market for too long.

German employers are obliged to keep a woman's position open for as long as three years after giving birth. Yet 41 percent of new mothers who take those three years off don't go back to work at the end of that period, according to the OECD.

The extended parental leave has also backfired in another way, said Hiltrud Mütterich, chief financial officer of German polyurethane maker Masterflex.

"Without that law the willingness to hire women would increase," she said. "For small and medium-sized companies it is almost impossible to hold a position free for three years."

Willem Adema, who is in charge of family policy at the OECD, said, "Rather than paying extensive parental leaves, governments may wish to invest in child-care facilities instead."

"Experience seems to show that helping parents to square their work and care commitments increases female employment and at the very least abates the fall in birthrates," Adema said.

At Areva, where a shortage of engineers could become an important issue in the next decade, Lauvergeon, the chief executive, set up a company nursery school three years ago, though Armand and his 3-year-old sister Agathe do not attend.

"It's been so successful that neighboring companies are now asking whether they can use it as well," Lauvergeon said.

## Secret memo pushed a PR blitz

# A Rush job to save face

BY CORKY SIEMASZKO  
FOR THE DAILY NEWS

Rush Limbaugh's spin team came up with a secret plan to save their boss after the conservative commentator admitted he was addicted to painkillers, the Daily News learned yesterday.

The plan involved taking up former Sen. Bob Dole's offer "to help" the embattled radio jock — and suggesting he write a supportive letter to Newsweek magazine.

The Oct. 13 memo to Premiere Radio Networks' president Craig Kitchen, obtained by The News, also recommended doing a survey of Rush's listeners to gauge their reaction to Limbaugh's embarrassing admission.

"If results are positive, we can use PR with stations, advertisers and media," the memo states. "If not, we don't have to publicize."

It also urges "Kraig to send memo to Congress" with updates on "coverage, advertiser and affiliate feedback."

Confronted with her memo, Limbaugh spokeswoman Keven Bellows said the Congress she was

referring to was the senior management team at the Premiere Radio Networks.

As for Dole, Bellows said he offered to help after Newsweek did an unflattering story about Limbaugh's addiction and the criminal investigation of his alleged suppliers.

Dole did not return a call for comment.

Limbaugh has not been charged with a crime and repeatedly has denied being the target of Florida investigators probing a black-market painkiller ring. He went into rehab for five weeks in October after admitting on the radio that he was hooked on drugs.

Fearing that Limbaugh, who once called for jailing junkies, might be branded a hypocrite and lose the loyalty of his right-wing listeners, his team sprang into action.

"Post a Call to Action on Rush's [Web] site telling his audience that the best way they can support him is to stay tuned to his local station," Bellows wrote. "Let the station know they are listening to the program."

In addition to providing addresses "for Rush's fans to send letters," Bellows recommended getting the message out that Limbaugh's advertisers

would stay loyal to the show. "Assuming an outpouring of protest," the memo states. "We will alert the [Wall Street Journal]."

Limbaugh was his usual liberal-bashing self when he returned to the airwaves last month — with his audience apparently intact.

A short time later, investigators in Florida's Palm Beach County — where Limbaugh lives in splendor — seized his medical records and suggested he went "doctor shopping." It was the first sign Limbaugh could face criminal charges for buying black-market drugs.

Next week, a judge will decide whether the medical records should be made public.

Bellows said the records show that Limbaugh's addiction stemmed from his numerous medical problems, and they want them made public.

Also yesterday, the National Enquirer reported that "the police web is tightening around Rush Limbaugh" and that he could be arrested in days.

Limbaugh's lawyer, Roy Black, yesterday called the tabloid story "a pure fabrication" and a "thinly veiled attempt to destroy Mr. Limbaugh's reputation and career."

## Bidding for Isolation

EDITORIAL  
FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Just when it looked as if there was a chance to expand international involvement in Iraq, President Bush has reversed field again and left the European allies angry, the secretary of state looking out of step, and the rest of us wondering exactly what his policy really is.

Late last week, it seemed as if Mr. Bush had decided to seek the global support he needs to free the United States of the demands that come with its unilateral occupation of Iraq. Secretary of State Colin Powell was in Brussels, expansively inviting NATO and the United Nations to join the security and reconstruction efforts. And President Jacques Chirac was sending the message that he was prepared, finally, to get involved.

Then came the news that Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz had issued a decree, approved by Mr. Bush, barring any country that did not support the invasion — including France, Germany, Russia and Canada — from competing for next year's \$18.6 billion in prime reconstruction contracts. The document, printed before Mr. Powell was back in Foggy Bottom, said America's "essential security interests" required the move. But it is hard to follow that reasoning when it means cutting out countries that might be able to bid competitively, contribute money, forgive debts and relieve American forces. The approved list of 63 nations includes Britain, Italy and Japan, but quickly tapers off to countries unlikely to help and to struggling nations like Albania and Eritrea.

United States officials say the rules apply only to American-financed con-

tracts. But the other sources, like the World Bank, are small. And the American portion covers such things as rebuilding the electric, transportation, communications and oil industries, and what the Wolfowitz memo delicately calls "the indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contract to equip the new Iraqi army."

Now the European Union is considering whether the ban violates world trading rules. The Russians say they will refuse to write off their \$8 billion in Iraqi debt. And the new Canadian government, which was supposed to have been friendly to Mr. Bush, says it will reconsider its own donations.

No amount of preferential bidding and sweet deals for American companies — including the extra dollar or so a gallon that Halliburton charges for shipping fuel into Iraq — will repay American taxpayers for the cost of going it largely alone.



Creative ideas needed**Tourism depends on trust**

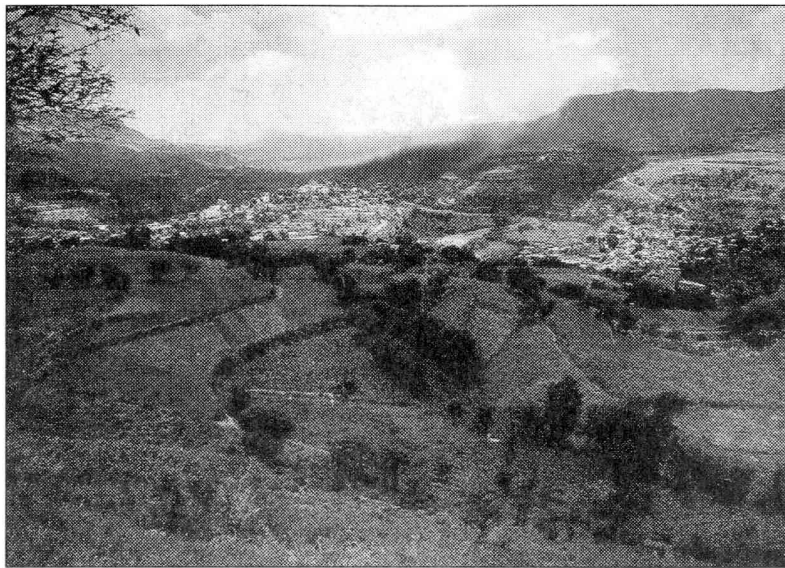
BY ABDULLAH  
AL-ZALAB  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**T**he talk about tourism in the Yemeni context calls for a lot of pain and sorrow. Why? Because our country is so rich with its geographical variety and with its potential, in front of us generation after generation. Our country has excellent human resources, great minds and skilled hands. Yet all this is being cruelly forgotten or made-forgotten in spite of its significance in the country's economy just as we are doing with oil investment as per say.

The security status had been used as a lame excuse, being blamed for all the inefficiencies by the tourism authorities. But this excuse is no longer accepted today for three main reasons. One is because of the continuous efforts made by the state to ensure safety around the republic. Secondly tourism is not exclusive to foreigners, but also the nationals can be tourists. Third is that security forms one part of many other factors which tourism is related to such as politics, economy whether regional or local, in addition to the fact that crime, whatever form it comes in is a behaviour invariably existing in all societies and cultures.

We heard of a council specialized in marketing and promoting tourism yet the effectiveness of this council has not been witnessed as yet. Except for a few international exhibitions which are conducted without a feasibility study to realise the worth of participating in them.

And it is quite clear that the council is not doing its duty, which is to participate in development of tourism and to activate the tourism sector in the country. There is a short-sighted view to tourism promotion among the concerned, for they have conceived it as merely to participate in all exhibitions wherever it was and whatever this costs regardless of the real benefits



Yemen enjoys spectacularly beautiful natural tourist attractions. Yet we need to find creative ideas and establish an infrastructure that could meet accepted standards and rise to the level of expectations of foreign tourists.

from such events. A lot of hard currency could have been saved if selective choice was made giving space for free tourism around the world, and with the aid of the private sector.

Promoting tourism in this country must be launched from the inside and from the boarders which are the first sight a visitor encounters and not through brochures and pictures displayed in international exhibitions. It is an inclusive concept and lots of work connected to Yemenis activities anywhere and whatever they may be because Yemenis are the first and the most basic promoters, in addition to their relation with the state's institutions. This starts with the media and the diplomats and security and ends with the local councils, service establishment such as eateries, electrical companies and hospitals and others which carry an indirect promotional operation.

It is not shameful that we lack experience in this field, what is shameful is to stay quiet and pretend that we are great in this while achieving nothing in reality. We have to learn a lot from other's experiences in the west and east

and take what suits us.

Let's look at one Arabian city for example that is Dubai, and learn how they have transformed their city to a tourism and marketing center worldwide and an international transit that can not be replaced. The tourism promotion of this city did not go to the world; instead it made the world come to it through a system of serious and continuous activities around the year such as fairs, competitions, international conferences and others.

It is of no doubt that for tourism blooming in Yemen we need all efforts to come together. But we really need to build a bridge of communication and trust across to the rest of the world. And this is the actual purpose of tourism promoting and its main project which will not be realized through dreams and media statements but with scientific work and strategic planning based on reality.

Eventually, the main point is that what we lack for promoting tourism in our country is some loyalty, and a lot of efficient utilisations of the recourses bestowed on us by the great and generous God.

**Drama from real life**Family experiences tragedy over property dispute (part 2 of 2)**What can we do when our land is plundered?**

BY AMIN MOHAMMED QAID AL-DA'ARI  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**U**nfortunately, the land terrorist looters did not respect the holy month of Ramadan, and let others fast in safety. But they intentionally have chosen the Holy Month because it is known for all of us that people sleep day and get up night, so that they can build whatever they want freely with no troubles, you can say real thieves.

During the four-hour-long battle, my brother-in-law was killed and my father developed illness.

The material loss amounting to YR 3 million was spent during the war and its aftermath.

It's known for all Yemenis that too much money is spent to cover the expenses of such problems, especially in death cases, because too many people should attend the funeral ceremony along with some sheiks and key figures.

The same thing happened to us after my brother-in-law's death. Too much money was spent in his funeral ceremony: food for guests and attendants, and burial, in addition to missing a great man who went fighting for dignity and honor, my brother in law.

When the war ended, some military vehicles rushed to the crime scene capturing the terrorist gang, but it was very late. It was several days before the violence began when we reported the problems to a police headquarter, Al-Gedairi. We were surprised when they were released. They were put in jail in the afternoon and discharged in the evening.

It seemed as if the security apparatus had been unable to seize such terrorists.

The military vehicles took the gang members to the investigation office in Sana'a to be interrogated about the motives beyond their aggression over the others' land and the bad consequences they resulted to due to their aggression.

They were released before the interrogations got completed, because they resorted to tribal arbitration.

**Poor treatment**

Whenever my relatives-in-law see anyone of my family and me they start scolding and nagging, saying, "it is because of you, if he had not gone fighting with you, he wouldn't have been killed"

They have said that for millions of times in my house under its ceiling with no respect to the people who kept their door opened for them along their sorrows and son's death period, despite that they have already received over ten rifle pieces as arbitration from the terrorist gang headed by Abdullah Salem Al-Kuhaily.

It is worth mentioning that the blood custodians, Fahd's relatives, authorized Sheik Zaid Adu Ali to take over for them in discussing the death case of their son with the killers, the terrorist gang, so they have no right to come to us to nag or scold because they have other people to do so.

At that time, my mother was suffering from diabetes who couldn't stand hearing their nagging which was the main cause for her death afterward.

When my mother died, and before

her burying, it coincided with Fahd's burying day, one of the grandfathers named Mohsen Ali Al-Da'ari, the biggest troublemaker who has a grudge against us, as we mentioned in advance, refused my mother to be buried in the same day, saying aloud, "We never accept an old woman to be buried in the day our young son is going to be buried. They can't be buried simultaneously". Just see how discriminating they were at a time we were very sad for missing our great mother, Fatima.

About a week after Fahd's death on 7/12/2001, we were at the peak of tension because our relatives-in-law have been considering us the only criminals responsible for their son's death, and because of this tension, we were holding our guns day and night as a precaution.

One day we went home armed from our land and we heard gunfire in our house, I thought at that time it was my relatives-in-law killed someone of my family members for revenge, but it turned out that my big brother's daughter got shot with a bullet which went through all her intestines, liver, and gallbladder, by mistake when my little brother was playing with a gun.

Khalid's daughter, Aisha, was rushed to Azal Hospital where she was taken to the unit care right away. We have paid almost YR 1.5 million for her treatment there.

About a week after my mother's death, these stupid relatives came to our shop and stood in front of it threatening, "Pay us for guarding the land, otherwise you will regret it". They have been staying there unlawfully in the disputed land since their son's death, interrupting us and the other owners from exploiting the land as we wish as owners.

One of my father-in-law's relatives named Khalid Mohsen Ali Al-Da'ari, said, "They have to pay peacefully or forcibly"

When I heard Mohammed Ali Al-Da'ari saying, "it is your father who requested us to safeguard the land and he gave us rifles for the same purpose, how come you refuse to pay us for safeguarding." I said "if my father did so, wait till he comes back home from Saudi Arabia and charge him"

Think what he did then, he took my gun behind me at my shop trying to kill me, but I suddenly picked it up from his hands. Moreover, they didn't give up making troubles that day till we gave around YR 50,000 in the presence of Mohammed Hamon Al-Da'ari, one of the three juries, who should have deterred such people and their arrogant practices against us instead of helping them to get whatever they want. I mean he should have been strict in such cases.

In fact, the rifles he talked about are ours, five rifles, and we gave them these rifles after we were requested to do so by the juries in the death problem as a way of complacency for the family of the victim to be kept with them till the burying ceremony, who in turn should return them back to us according to the tribal norms. However, our rifles haven't been returned back since then.

By the way, this despicable man, Mohammed Ali AL-Da'ari, forgot when my father lent him around YR 100,000 for his eldest son's marriage over five years ago. They have forgot-

ten my father's favors for them.

**More family problems**

In July 2002, my father-in-law himself, Abduh Ahmed Ali Al-Da'ari, came to my house to take his daughter, my wife, back home with him, but she refused because she realized if she had obeyed her father, she wouldn't have come back to her husband once again.

My wife was pregnant in her seventh month at that time.

He kept going back and forth to take her and when he got bored, he eventually came with his machine gun insisting to take her daughter, at that time I had already gone along with my wife and little son, six months of age, on a trip to avoid confronting her father.

Finally, I decided to take my wife to her father's house in the village, a three-hour-long trip, for my father-in-law's wish as a guest to stay there for several days and come back to her husband's house in Sana'a after the visit, and I did.

Seven days later, when I went back to take her, her grandfather, who welcomed us when I, my wife, and my 7-month-old child reached the village, insulted me and prevented her from coming with me, claiming that we conspired to kill his grandchild.

I got very complicated at that time due to the maltreatment they practiced with my wife, little son, and me. They didn't stop at that point but they went further when my little son got very sick to the point of death for more than four days. They prevented anyone from offering help for the six-month-old child from taking him to any medical center around, till I took him myself after I went to the village by chance to visit my wife and little son.

It was a black day when I saw my wife shedding tears for her very sick son, while the others were just watching.

I had tried many times to get my wife and little son out of the village by negotiations with her grandfather till he accepted to take one hundred thousands as a ransom.

I paid the agreed amount and then they allowed me to take them back with me. They have still been bothering us from time to another because of their existence near our land since their son's death.

You can't imagine to what extent their irritation to us has reached but it is the fact, they stopped a contractor we brought to complete our two buildings at the village as a way of provocation, and I have inner feeling that such people will never let us rest till they get deterred by the law or any other powerful means.

I just wanted to address this complicated problem to the broader community, human rights advocates and all free people everywhere, to do something to help end these disputes, save shedding blood and returning our rights back.

**Final questions**

Finally, I want to ask some logical questions as follows:

Whose responsibility is it? Do we live within a state of law and order, or in a jungle? Do we have the right of citizenship as Yemenis or not? Do we have the right to feel safe or live in suspense around the clock? Do we have the right of land possession like others or not.

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Ceremony of thanks for small business projects

# Germans keep giving to Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ BUREAU

The Chambers of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the German GTZ, in Yemen recently held a ceremony at Al-Saeed Establishment Hall for Science and Culture in Taiz.

It commemorated the completion of the Yemeni-German project for supporting small businesses in Taiz and Aden, which lasted for three years.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Khalid Rajeh Shaikh, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Judge Ahmad Abdullah Al-Hajri, Governor of the Governorate of Taiz, and Geizela Traucan, the Commercial Attache' at German Embassy in Sana'a.

In his remarks, the Minister of Commerce and Industry expressed his happiness in attending the completion ceremony of the first phase of supporting small businesses in Taiz and Aden, and the inauguration of the second phase, which will be larger and more comprehensive.

He emphasized that his ministry is looking forward to more contributions from businessmen in expanding the activities of the project pointing to the fact that supporting small businesses leads to larger industrial installations. He indicated that industrial installations are not measure by

their sizes, but by their level of production, effectiveness, and share in national production levels.

The minister emphasized the importance of small industrial installations, and other handicrafts in reducing unemployment by offering work opportunities for the labor force. He complimented the role of the private sector in reducing unemployment, and said that even a big group such as Hail Saeed Group cannot alone tackle unemployment in such a large city as Taiz.

Therefore, it is necessary that support be extended to small businesses so they may play a role in reducing unemployment, the minister said.

Shawqi Ahmad Hail, Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Chairman of Finance, Planning and Development Committee of the Higher Council of the Governorate of Taiz, delivered a speech in which he reviewed the activities of the Yemeni - German project in supporting small businesses, and said that it represented a wonderful example of the unique Yemeni - German relations, and mutual efforts between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Taiz and Aden, and the German GTZ.

In of the areas of supporting small businesses is the eradication of poverty, limiting its effects, and reducing unemployment, Hail pointed that the project was full of accom-

plishments as it offered 27 training sessions in the fields of planning, management, finance, sales, marketing, establishing and managing projects, and handling accounting ledgers.

More than 850 trainees attended these sessions. Also, eight workshops were organized covering the needs for small businesses in terms of training, and knowledge of labor and social security laws. These workshops were attended by 243 trainees.

In addition, the first conference of small industries was organized, and activities' supervisors were sent abroad for training. Dr. Helmut Gross, Chairman of the GTZ and Dr. Von Franz, chairman of the German work team, delivered their remarks in which they expressed gratitude to the Yemeni government, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Governorates of Taiz and Aden for their cooperation in making the project a success.

This project is considered an example of the cooperation between the two countries and their peoples in the field of small businesses assuring that the next project



will include other partners in addition to GTZ, and that the German government has allocated U. S. \$7.6 million for this project through cooperation with the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Planning and Development.

They expressed hopes that the next project will start at the beginning of next year.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Governor of Taiz, and Ahmad Hail Saeed, Chairman of the

Chamber of Commerce joined by Geizela Traucan, the Commercial Attache' at the German Embassy in Sana'a, and distributed appreciation certificates to a number of trainees, and honoured the German officials.



Helmut Gross (r) given award during ceremony



Von Franz (l) presented award

Various training programs

## High Institute for Health Sciences to celebrate



BY ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The High Institute for Health Sciences in Sana'a is organizing a celebration commemorating its 33rd anniversary.

This institute plays an important role in training and qualifying health professionals in various medical specialties.

It is, therefore, hoped that the Minister of Health will pay special attention to such institutes and their developments in supplementary medicine.

The celebration will also highlight the graduation of several classes in the following specialties:

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Health
- Bachelor's Degree in Nursing
- Medical Equipment Technician
- Medical Statistics Technician
- Laboratories Technician
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Teaching Methods for Institute Instructors

- Supervision and Training Methods for Health Institutes Instructors

The Physical Therapy Section, which accepts graduates of secondary schools' sciences section, was created with the assistance of the Italian government through Movimondo Organization, which also supported the training and teaching in it.

This discipline is in high demand by medical services in all hospitals in the country, as it deals with the rehabilitation of the handicapped.

The goal is to create a physical therapy section in every hospital in the country.

It is also hoped that the Italian government continue its support so that not only one class of physical therapist may graduate, but more classes in the future to satisfy all hospitals in all governorates in the country with their needs of physical therapist.

The selection criterion indicates that two are selected from each governorate so they may go back and work there after the completion of their training.

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# Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

**Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 9 Dec. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Deficit of the budget resulted from manipulation in prices of oil and dollar
- Journalists demand withdrawal of syndicate draft law from parliament
- Indian police encircle Yemeni Consulate in Bombay
- Washington officially asks investigating with al-Ahdal

Columnist Hamdi al-Bukari says in an article there are two questions characterizing the journalists draft law: one is that it has not come to meet the journalists needs but rather began as if a solution for the legitimacy of the syndicate's council whose term has terminated since last March, the second is that the texts of the draft law stress in most of them on the legal power, consolidation of the state of developing the profession and adoption of transparency in the work of the union. Because of those two reasons the journalists refused the draft law and demanded its being withdrawn from parliament.

Logically a decision in which people do not take part in crystallizing and discussing it could not be received with enthusiasm. The draft law should have been put to discussion before being approved by the government and submitted to the parliament.

**Al-Wahda weekly, 10 Dec. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Chairman of journalists syndicate: Syndicate's conference to be held at its date
- Security source: Al-Qaeda behind assassination of Shabwa governor
- Foreign archaeological expeditions work normally

Columnist Qadriya al-Jifri writes on the first judicial conference saying convening the conference comes as a confirmation of the principle of judicial reform on the basis of independence and modernization of judiciary in a manner keeping pace with the new stage and modern variable of development and investment. The conference could be considered a judiciary demonstration as it is the first one since the declaration of the Yemeni unity. The conference would submit all various problems in this regard to the conferees to discuss and find solutions to them. We pin hope on the conference to come out with resolutions and decisions

that would help remove injustice and to lead judiciary to be effective in protection of the rights of the citizens and pushing the influential elements from the way of judiciary to be able to listen to calls of the oppressed and rights to return to their owners.

**Al-Balagh weekly, 9 Dec. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Attacks by al-Qaeda targeting the Saudi ruling family foiled
- Interpol delivers a list containing names of 18 wanted persons
- American consul in Yemen: Al-Qaeda members change their costumes and names, the new visa system would detect the wanted

Columnist Hamdi Doubala questions in an article if democracy has become a big stick the great powers waver with against whoever does not agree with their policies and intentions. Those powers have made the concept of democracy a pretext enabling them to interfere in affairs of the weak and impose their will on them without any objection. The weapon of modern democracy is a guarantee for facilitating the complicated matters and overcoming difficulties so when was it that norms and traditions of democracy a means for oppressing peoples and plundering their riches? The writer also questions when was democracy with all its large concepts and contents as word and a term all have to understand and practice overnight under the threat of a big stick?

**Al-Sahwa weekly, 11 Dec. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- 2004 budget, a new dose and a year of disappointment for civil servants
- International efforts continue for fighting terror, international experts discuss in Sana'a spread of weapons
- Employing the dead and illiterate in Nahm, people of Jawf stage demonstrations in protest
- Aden governor: Selection the best investment companies for running the free zone

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in his article this week that he Palestinian cause is going through new turning-point after the Geneva Declaration. The agreement, though not an official, it represents an unprecedented step in abandonment of certain constants as the refugees right to

## Main headlines

- In success of Yemeni diplomacy, German authorities release personal luggage of al-Mouayad and his companion
- American delegations visited Yemen to know about investigations with al-Ahdal
- In denial of news on directing the shipment to Libya
- Yemen confirms scud missiles intercepted last year still in its possession
- NPs demand government for daring solutions without subjecting citizens to more doses
- Yemenis resentful of America's harassment, demanding for reciprocity
- Journalists refuse government fraud, demanding cancellation of Syndicate draft law
- Conflicting reports on al-Qaeda involvement in assassination of military intelligence director in Ibb
- British government invited him to explain dialogue experiment with extremists,
- Al-Hattar: We have expected Arab countries to benefit from our experiment
- Journalists unity foils passing on the law on suppressing freedoms
- 18 YSP candidates in local councils' by-elections
- State budget draft increases allotment for security and defense at expense of basic services
- MPs: Draft law of civil service aims damaging the governorates of Aden
- Journalists syndicate law, refused by all, Prime Minister Office decides to withdraw
- Sahwa weekly sues health representative in Hajja
- Yemeni diplomatic activity to assert presence and contain crises
- Local governance a national issue
- Unidentified epidemic sweeps Yemeni-Saudi borders
- Land mine kills four women and a child in Taiz
- Palestinian resistance factions fail in truce dialogue
- American presidential candidate attacks Bush: American soldiers task in Iraq dirty and dangerous
- President gives directives for ridding foreign ministry from elements appointed without efficiency criteria
- Al-Ahdal discloses involvement of Arab personalities in funding terrorist acts in Yemen
- Riyadh announces names of 26 wanted, including one Yemeni
- WB supports plan for poverty alleviation
- Qadhi al-Hattar: 4th dialogue round begins next week, Yemen's experiment to be presented in London
- YSP secretary-general resigns several choices before the party
- Medical source denies presence of strange epidemic on borders areas
- Government gets ready to introduce a new price dose
- Al-Qaeda organization threatens by targeting important Yemeni political personalities
- "Al-Tawheed Brigade" declares responsibility for assassination of Ibb intelligence director
- Hostile forces try to tense Yemen's relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait
- 28 December date for holding Journalists conference
- Time ceiling for implementation of results of the first judicial conference

return to their homeland and the Al-Quds as capital of the state of Palestine. It is an agreement Arafat had refused to sign with former Israeli Prime Minister Barak under auspices of former American president Clinton. It is said the accord would tighten the grip on Sharon and his government and embarrass America before the world, but the question is when did America and Israel observe or care about logic and justice or feel ashamed of their acts before the world?

More than three years of intifada have doubled losses of the state of Israel materially and politically in addition to its losses in men. On the other side the Palestinian have now become more united and patient and capable of resistance. The Palestinian intifada has also unmasked policies of many Arab regimes that have been used to utilize the Palestinian issue for biding and trading, oppressed their peoples and tampered with their riches under pretext of preparation for confronting Israel. The suffering of the Israelis in Palestine is no less than the suffering of the Palestinians and the calls for peace issued from inside Israel confirm that their patience is diminishing and thus the Palestinians have to continue in their unity and confrontation with the occupation. Between defeat and victory is a patience of an hour.

**Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 11 Dec. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- YSP head of political office receives Japan's ambassador to Yemen
- Journalists undermine a draft law for domesticating them
- Ibb's endowments director seizes its lands

Columnist Jamal Aamer says in his article the American policy has managed to play on the string of a long dwelling fear in the souls of both Yemeni and Saudi leaders through officially accusing them of harbouring terror and exporting it and consequently enrolling the two regimes among those that are on the list of change. Thus the two leaderships have fallen in the trap set for them the American intelligence. The beginning was when American apparatuses announced that weapons sold to Yemen were used by Bin Laden's followers in the latest explosions of Riyadh and that caused the kingdom to close its borders against Yemeni goods and offer information on wanted person who fled to Yemen

and have not been repatriated. The regime in Yemen on its part leaked results of investigations with al-Ahdal the second man in al-Qaeda of Yemen and hinted to the existence of connections with Arab personalities and leaderships in funding and protecting terrorists without naming them. Undoubtedly, driving such a wedge between leaderships of the two countries has benefited the American bodies of monitoring and follows up because they would obtain information that would not have been able to see the light under the agreement of exchange of the wanted and information between the two countries.

**26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 11 Dec. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Chaired a meeting of the supreme security committee, the president lauds efforts of security apparatuses in fighting terror,
- Yemeni experiment in fighting terrorism achieved positive results
- Intensified preparations for holding the conference on democracy and human rights next month
- Two Yemeni and Saudi tribes agree on ending a more than 6-year old dispute
- Kuwaiti foreign minister refutes allegations on Yemeni advice to Saddam to invade Kuwait
- Reducing number of cultural and military attaches offices abroad
- Al-Eryani discusses in London bilateral relations and cooperation
- Saudi team in Sana'a for getting acquainted with results of investigations with Abu A'sem,
- Distinguished security cooperation with Saudi Arabia
- Denying Al-Qaeda involvement , Interior minister: Some known elements attacked Shabwa governor

Columnist Ahmed Nasser Al-Sharif says in his article there is much talk nowadays on intention of the American administration to transfer power to an elected Iraqi government next June and to impose presence of the occupying forces in Iraq by a request of the government to be which no one yet knows what kind of government it is going to be. However, it is widely known that this move of forming an Iraqi government is nothing more than a temporary partial anaesthetization the Iraqi people's resistance has forced the occupiers to use.

# World Press

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

## Egypt

### Al-Ahram

Oil ministers of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) have arrived in Cairo to take part in the 17th OAPEC ministerial meeting due on Saturday.

The meeting will review the OAPEC activities over the past year, set a plan of action for next year, and decide the budget, OAPEC Secretary General Abdel Aziz Bin Abdullah Al-Turki said.

### Al-Akhbar

The Egyptians living in the United States noticeably increased by 64,000, or 82 percent in the last decade, the US Federal Bureau of Statistics said in a report released by the US Embassy

## Britain

### The Times

An official investigation into the British telecommunications industry will pave the way for cheaper telephone, mobile and internet calls.

### Financial Times

British travelers face a big increase in air passenger tax, to be announced by the government next week in an attempt to make aviation foot the bill for its environmental costs.

### The Guardian

Militants linked to al Qaida plotted to blow up the British embassy in Yemen, but was thwarted by an intelligence

in Cairo on Friday.

### Al-Gomhuria:

Iranian President Mohamed Khatami asserted on Friday that the meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak on the sidelines of the World Summit on Information Society in Geneva was most positive and productive.

### Egyptian Mail:

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed el-Baradei told an Israeli newspaper on Friday that Israel and its neighbors should start a dialogue to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East.

operation as they scouted the premise, it emerged Friday night.

### The Independent

British Prime Minister Tony Blair was hit by another Labor backbench rebellion Friday night when 31 of his lawmakers demanded a referendum on the proposed new constitution for the European Union.

### The Daily Telegraph

The way the railways were privatized by the British opposition Conservative Party was a mistake, David Willetts, the party's policy chief, admitted Saturday.

## India

### The Times of India

The Supreme Court on Friday said existing house-owners in the city can construct additional accommodation, as prescribed by the revised floor area ratio without increasing the number of dwellings.

### The Hindustan Times

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Friday drew up a roadmap for a harmoniously integrated South Asia. He said open borders and even a single cur-

## Japan

### Asahi

The Japanese government panel mulls use of fertilized human eggs for research.

### Nihon Keizai

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro

## Philippines

### Manila Bulletin

Japan and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations Friday signed the Tokyo Declaration that seeks to create an East Asian community and a free trade zone by 2012.

### The Philippine Star

Presidential deputy spokesman Ricardo Saludo said Friday that the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front must present a written commitment renouncing terrorism as a condition to start the formal peace talks with the government starting January next year.

rency for the region were not unrealistic and utopian if "we can put aside mistrust and dispel unwarranted suspicions."

### The Hindu

Making out a strong case for rejecting conflict and embracing cooperation, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said on Friday that South Asia needed the wisdom to emulate the experience of regional organizations in other parts of the world developed to economic integration.

Koizumi eyes compromising in FTAs (Free Trade Agreements) with Southeast Asian nations.

### Mainichi

Japan is to send advance troop unit to Iraq, possibly on Dec. 25.

## Pakistan

### Dawn

President Pervez Musharraf Friday said that Pakistan faced the biggest threat to its security from sectarian and religious extremism and terrorism within the country and vowed to eliminate such tendencies.

### The Nation

Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali Friday asked India to refrain from fencing the Line of Control in

Kashmir by taking undue advantage of ceasefire and said the Kashmir issue would not be sidelined as it was the core issue between Pakistan and India.

### The News

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said Friday that the increased people-to-people contact between Indian and Pakistan mirrors intense desire for amity and goodwill.

## Nigeria

### Weekend Vanguard

The Supreme Court of Nigeria on Friday upturned the 4.9 billion naira (about 37.69 million US dollars) damages awarded against Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited and Mobil Incorporated of the United States by a Federal High Court in Calabar, south Nigeria, for failure to abide by the tenets of the constitution.

Third Mainland Bridge Thursday which claimed 20 lives, the Lagos state government has announced a speed limit of 60 km per hour for commercial buses and 80 km per hour for cars.

### Saturday Punch

By ordering the arrest of his minister over alleged corrupt enrichment two days to the Commonwealth summit, President Olusegun Obasanjo has put himself in the spotlight, General Ishola Williams has said.

## Kenya

### People Daily

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki gave his personal commitment Friday that the review process for a new constitution would be completed by June next year.

### East African Standard

Some of the Kenyan leaders on Friday praised President Kibaki's speech, saying it brought fresh hope that the constitution

review process would be completed.

### Kenya Times

Leader of Kenya's official opposition Uhuru Kenyatta on Friday called on the government to move from re-emphasizing what they want to do and instead direct and concentrate on implementation of the same to achieve tangible development.



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I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (58): Giving a send-off (Bon voyage)

We often bid farewell to someone embarking on a journey or going abroad. It's an occasion of leave taking when we wish the traveller a pleasant trip and all success.

- Bon voyage. Have a super trip. May the loveliest things be yours to see and the sweetest sounds be yours to hear. "May the kindest ways be yours to keep and the happiest world be yours to share".
May your journey be a discovery of exotic places, new friends, and thrilling times of perfect pleasure.
Enjoy your trip. May there be many happy times to gladden all your days. Know this trip is something you've long looked forward to...

II How to say it correctly

- Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences
1. The speaker would have cut a sorry figure if he did not come prepared
2. I would take him to task if he had not apologized for his folly

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- 1. He hung the picture on the wall
2. Had you gone to hospital, I would certainly have accompanied you
3. He ran so fast that he could escape easily
4. I don't have the right to vote in Yemen
5. I feel quite at home in your company

III Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express in one word:

- 1. That which cannot be destroyed
2. That which cannot be altered or recalled
3. That which cannot be dispensed with
4. That which cannot be burnt
5. That which cannot be divided

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- 1. That which cannot be excused: inexcusable (adj); unpardonable (adj)
2. That which cannot be taken by force of arms: impregnable (adj)
3. That which cannot be admitted or allowed: inadmissible (adj)
4. That which cannot be reached: inaccessible (adj)
5. That which cannot be perceived by senses: imperceptible (adj)

(B) Foreign phrases and expressions

Give the sources of origin and meanings of the following:

- 1. en rapport 2. en route 3. entente
4. entrepreneur 5. en ville

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- 1. edition de luxe (Fr.): A splendid and expensive edition of a book
2. elite (Fr.): The best or most important people in a social group
3. en famille (Fr.): Amongst the family, as at home, without ceremony
4. en masse (Fr.): In a body, all together
5. en prince (Fr.): In a princely style

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out difference in meaning of the following pairs of words:

- 1. story, storey 2. vain, vane, vein
3. scene, seen 4. dear, deer
5. cattle, kettle

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- 1. pour (Vi) (cause a liquid to flow): She poured tea into my cup.
pore (n) (tiny opening through which fluids may pass): The earthen vessel has many pores.
2. quite (adv.) (completely): I am quite satisfied with your progress.
quiet (adj.) (with little or no movement): The peace and quiet atmosphere of early morning is quite enjoyable.
3. obvious (adj.) (easily seen or understood): It is obvious that he doesn't want to help you
oblivious (adj.) (unaware of): Don't be oblivious of your environment.
4. profit (n.) (advantage or good obtained from something): He gained good profit from his studies abroad.
prophet (n.) Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is believed to be the last prophet from Allah.
5. dose (n.) (amount of medicine to be taken at one time): I have taken the prescribed dose of the medicine
doze (Vi) (behave asleep): Don't doze in the class

(D) Phrases and Idioms

Illustrate the meanings of the following phrases in sentences:

- 1. done for 2. a wild goose chase
3. a red letter day 4. kith and kin
5. a hard nut to crack

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- 1. work on (influence): We tried to tempt him with many rewards, but nothing seems to work on him

- 2. work up (excite, agitate): I get worked up if any student does cross-talk in my class
3. throw over (abandon or desert): When he became a minister, he threw up his old friends and acquaintances.
4. set apart (reserved): I have set apart a room in my house for guests.
5. run up (increase): I notice that my monthly expenditure is steadily running up.

IV Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Complete the following table where appropriate

Table with 3 columns: Noun, verb, adj. Rows include injury, harm, damage, ruin, hurt, spoil.

Now use the most suitable word from the table, in the correct form, to complete the sentences below

- 1. The ..... motorist was taken to hospital
2. The man was suffering from severe .....
3. The soldiers captured the terrorists without ..... the hostages
4. Cigarette smoking can ..... your health
5. It's only an injection! The needle won't ..... you!
6. You've ..... the surprise by telling him!

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- 1. In spite of terrible pains in his legs, Mofed climbed the mountain.
2. You don't need to come to school wearing the school uniform.
3. If I had a nice pair of suits, I would have gone to the party.
4. The floods prevented them from getting home.
5. She is not used to staying at home all day.

(B) Composition: Paragraph Writing

Expand the idea contained in the maxim

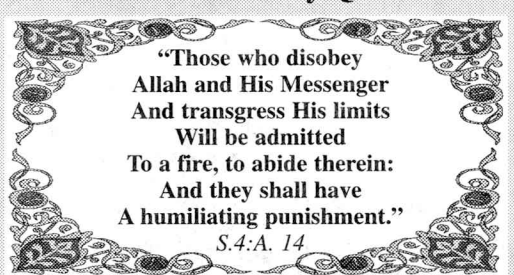
46. BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WIT

Last week's topic

45. BEAUTY IS NOT SKIN DEEP

Beauty constitutes the qualities, both physical and mental, that give pleasure to senses and elevate the mind or spirit. Just as we can't judge the value of a book merely by its cover, similarly it is not possible to arrive at a just and precise assessment of one's real self from one's external appearance alone.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of wisdom

'There are only two ways of telling the complete truth - anonymously and posthumously.'

—Thomas Sowell

A letter to the teachers of English: 35

A Recap



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

Dear Fellow teachers,

In this letter, I would like to recollect what all I have said in my letters so far. A real teacher, aren't I? This is for your benefit as well as mine, so that we know what we are talking about, whether I am talking sense or not, whether you have found any use for my letters at all.

I started saying that you can use Arabic in your English classes, but with a caution not to overuse it or underuse it; I listed out the occasions when you can use it. Then I shared with you my experience of how the 'thaboor' sessions can be used for developing English skills in your learners.

How to learn from your learners and how to treat your learner errors tactfully were the themes of my letters that followed. Then there were suggestions for collecting good pictures and storing them in an album for the future use and also for making use of what is available in the classroom for teaching English.

The learner difference, which is an essential factor in classroom teaching, was paid attention to in a later letter; the differences among teachers were also paid attention to. How to provide meaningful repetition and qualitative

exposure was discussed in one of my letters. The importance to be given to reading, especially in an EFL situation like Yemen, was highlighted in a couple of letters along with the ways of teaching silent reading and oral reading. The point to be remembered is that reading habit is infectious and so you should develop the habit of reading in order to influence your learners.

One of the recent letters underlined the need for taking the learners' language level into consideration when we select the teaching materials for them; this was, in fact, a request to my fellow teachers who are 'teaching' (we are not called teachers, but assistant/associate professors) in the universities, who sometimes misuse the valuable autonomy given to them by the universities.

There were a series of letters centering round language testing, in which several useful things were discussed and a few suggestions were made as to how to make the learners less anxious about tests and so on. I also presented a few observations of the common examination question papers used in this country with a view to making suggestions for the improvement in the future.

I sincerely believe, as a few readers have pointed out in their letters, that these letters provide some useful tips to you, my fellow teachers, to help you in your classroom teaching. I have never assumed that these are the solutions to the various academic problems you face in your English classes. I am only trying to open a venue, through my letters, for you to think about your classroom problems and make an attempt to find your own solutions. You are welcome to share your experiences through the columns of Yemen Times with me and other fellow professionals in the country.

Yours fraternally, Dr.M.N.K.Bose (BOSE@y.net.ye)

Accreditation and Recognition: Essential Issues in Distance Education



BY DR. BASHAR GHAZI ASKAR basharaskar90@hotmail.com

Accreditation and recognition of diplomas/certificates of Bachelors, Masters and Doctorates are very significant issues for students' future in getting jobs or any work opportunities with corporations, establishments and universities. A certificate that is not duly accredited and recognized by an accreditation body may not be accredited by another body or university.

Accreditation of a university means the validation and approval of its programs and procedures of study and the quality of research work. It means that a certain university is accredited by an agency authorized to make an academic evaluation of the university's degrees.

Accreditation is practiced commonly in the United States of America but not outside of it. In America there are regional associations for accreditation as well as private bodies which accredit specific subject areas such as business administration, literature, arts, political science and international law.

These bodies of accreditation regulate the activities of colleges and universities. The United States government does not control all colleges or universities or even accreditation bodies and associations. The World Accreditation of Universities and

Colleges (W.A.U.C.) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) are some of the private bodies working in this field of accreditation in the States. The W.A.U.C. has lately received recognition from the Association International Des Educateurs Pour La Paix Mondiale which is a consulting organization for UNESCO and UNICEF. It has also received recognition from the academic organizations in South Africa and from the European Union. The goal of these private bodies in the States is to get recognition from Higher Education ministry and international agencies around the world.

We are in a world embracing an increasing use of electronic and Internet programs, researches and studies. The future trends show an energetic follow up to the new information technology galloping toward fulfillment of goals of distance learning. No one knows whether this is going to be the road preferred by future generations of students, leaving the traditional universities except those in medicine or engineering streams. What is important for distance learning students, however, is that they have to adhere to the rules and regulations of research methods under the guidance and counseling of supervising professors.

It is to be noted that the program of distance learning is developing rapidly in the world as an effective mode of educating hundreds of thousands of students who cannot, for some reason, avail themselves of the traditional, mainstream education.

WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

ANTIVIRUS PROTECTION

Solution: 11 letters

Word search grid with letters N, C, E, N, C, R, Y, P, T, E, D, G, N, E, E, R, C, S, N, W, F, O, L, D, E, R, I, A, P, E, R, S, N, T, E, D, I, H, A, A, I, N, I, T, A, T, S, G, O, P, E, N, A, I, R, T, R, R, C, L, X, T, N, T, W, K, I, E, P, R, P, L, T, O, F, R, E, I, S, E, E, E, R, P, C, U, S, V, A, O, H, M, S, A, O, V, T, V, D, N, I, Y, O, I, C, I, E, B, S, R, D, T, E, L, P, O, E, T, E, L, T, P, N, F, S, R, E, I, E, T, A, U, R, E, P, M, P, N, L, E, O, L, F, P, O, R, C, A, M, W, I, S, V, R, U, E, D, S, T, C, P, O, E, R, R, E, T, S, H, T, L, E, I, T, S, R, P, S, D, O, A, C, T, O, K, N, I, L, B, C, Y, R, C, T, O, L, Y, A, B, N, T, A, R, G, U, T, I, L, E, U, T, S, E, W, E, S, E, S, L, N, H, T, R, W, O, R, S, M, H, D, S, I, S, H, T, R, P, A, C, H, E, V, I, R, A, L, S, E, M, N, O, E, S, W, E, P, A, C, H, C, C, E, O, R, M, L, T, P, I, T, R, A, F, M, S, C, L, I, C, K, T, R, N, O, H, A, Y, F, E, M, P, I, X, A, E, Y, O, E, T, C, I, I, E, P, R, T, A, S, Z, T, L, U, V, R, U, S, L, R, A, A, O, F, D, T, T, S, U, M, I, E, S, E, R, K, N, L, D, P, P, T, N, Y, O, I, T, N, M, E, S, S, A, G, E, R, D, A, T, E, P, T, I, N, C, O, M, I, N, G, E, R, U, D, E, C, O, R, P, T, E, A, D, O, W, N, L, O, A, D, S, S, P, R, O, T, E, C, T, I, O, N

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.

CLUES

- Alert Encrypted Macro Rate Suspect
Analysis Enter Mark Remove Switch
Apply Error Message Repair System
Attack Fast Must Report Task
Block File Needs Save Threat
CD-ROM Find Office Scan Tool
Click Fixed Open Screen Type
Code Folder Option Server Users
Connection Help Page Service Utile
Content Hide Parasite Size Vent
Copy Hoax Password Space Verify
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Daily Install Procedure Start Warn
Date Isolate Process Steps Website
Default Level Product Stop Worm
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ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Oceanarium



# City facing Manchester derby doom

By Pete Oliver

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Famed as eternal optimists, even the staunchest Manchester City fan must be fearing the worst in today's derby clash with United.

City have not won at Old Trafford since 1974 and they can seldom have approached a trip to their local rivals in worse shape as they look to end nearly 30 years of pain.

City have gone seven games without a win, sliding down the premier league into mid-table and going out of both the UEFA and League Cups.

During that run they have managed just two goals to leave manager Kevin Keegan publicly admitting that City might be entitled to consider his future.

Talk of Keegan leaving the City of Manchester Stadium was swiftly quashed with chairman John Wardle giving the former England manager his full backing.

But with City 50 million pounds in debt and desperately out of form, they would hardly have chosen the home of the champions as the ideal venue to give themselves a quick pick-me-up.

Experienced goalkeeper David Seaman looks likely to be passed fit to play after suffering from bruised ribs.

Even though his best years are behind him, the know-how of the 40-year-old former England international may bring some much-needed calmness to City.

But it is at the other end that Keegan's side have major problems with the goals drying up.

Moody French striker Nicolas Anelka has scored only once in his last nine games following an impressive start to the season.

### England's finest

Robbie Fowler's three goals all season have confirmed the impression that he is struggling to recapture the

form that made him one of England's finest strikers when he was at Liverpool.

With few goals coming from other areas of the team the optimism that surrounded City at the start of the campaign following the signings of Steve McManaman from Real Madrid, Trevor Sinclair from West Ham and Claudio Reyna from Sunderland has drained away.

One hope for City is that the passion and unique circumstances of a derby will level the playing field.

"Form, home advantage and league position all go completely out of the window in derby matches," said City midfielder Joey Barton.

"United don't worry me one bit, but that doesn't mean to say I don't respect their ability. They are winners and you can't argue with the silverware," Barton told his club's website.

But logic points to a comfortable home win for United, who will go top

of the table, at least for a few hours, if they collect the three points in the 1230 GMT kickoff.

Worryingly for City, United manager Alex Ferguson also has almost all of his top players fit.

Playmaker Paul Scholes is back to full fitness, Roy Keane and Tim Howard will be fresh from sitting on the bench in the Champions League in midweek.

Ruud van Nistelrooy is in-form and hungry to make amends for last season when City took the honours with a win and a draw in the two league meetings.

"We realise City will be keen to do what they did last year," said Van Nistelrooy.

"But we want to continue our form and keep playing well. We are doing fine in the Premiership and the Champions League.

"The City game is special. It is a game on its own. We have to be ready."



Manchester City play rivals United at Old Trafford on Saturday, where they have not won since 1974. File photo shows Manchester United's Ruud Van Nistelrooy (L) scoring under pressure from Manchester City's Sylvain Distin at Old Trafford in February. REUTERS/Ian Hodgson

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## Serena Williams signs huge Nike sponsorship deal

By STEPHEN WOOD

NEW YORK, Dec 11 (Reuters) - Six-times grand slam champion Serena Williams has signed an endorsement contract with sportswear manufacturer Nike that could make her the richest woman in sport.

"We are extremely pleased that Serena will be joining the team of Nike athletes," said Riccardo Colombini, global director of the brand's tennis marketing division, in a statement on Thursday.

No details of the agreement were made public, but sources close to the deal said it is an initial five-year link with the option of a further three years.

If Williams meets performance-related bonuses over the full eight years she could net close to the \$55-60 million figure quoted in media reports.

That would overhaul the \$38 million, five-year agreement between her sister Venus and Reebok and almost certainly surpass the massive endorsement earnings of Russian Anna

Kournikova.

Serena, the 22-year-old whose game was developed on the public courts of Compton, Los Angeles, has not played competitively since capturing her second Wimbledon title in July and her world ranking has slipped from first to third.

A knee injury, which required surgery, has kept her sidelined, although she is expected to return to action at this month's Hopman Cup in Perth, Australia.

Williams, who become well-known for her unique tennis outfits made by former sponsor Puma, has talked previously of her desire to pursue other interests outside the sport though she has said she plays to continue playing for another 10 years.

"She is one of the greatest athletes, male or female, in the world," said Nike spokesman Dave Mingey.

"We cannot reveal specifics (about how involved Williams will become in the design), but we will be working with her as both a woman and an athlete."

### 7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a								Aden							
Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hi	23	23	24	23	24	23	24	Hi	31	31	32	32	31	31	31
Lo	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	Lo	21	21	21	19	19	19	19
	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀		☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀

## THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

**Aries** (Mar 21 - Apr 19)  
You can make some professional moves that will enhance your bank account. You will have a greater concern with your long-term health today and what you can do to make yourself feel better.

**Taurus** (Apr 20 - May 20)  
Get out and do things that will get you in the mood for all the upcoming events. You will discover something about yourself through the company you keep today. Relationships will flourish if you aren't shy.

**Gemini** (May 21 - Jun 20)  
Expect to face some problems with family members or close friends, especially if there are money concerns. This isn't the day to fight back. Instead, listen to advice and compromise with those who have the upper hand.

**Cancer** (Jun 21 - Jul 22)  
Get to know some of the people in your neighborhood or community. You will learn a lot from these people and will build a good friendship that could turn into something more.

**Leo** (Jul 23 - Aug 22)  
Make sure that you have completed your work satisfactorily. Don't spend your money until you actually have it in your bank.

**Virgo** (Aug 23 - Sep 22)  
Sparks will fly today, so project the positive, not the negative. Situations could go either way depending on your mood and how you handle others.

**Libra** (Sept 23 - Oct 22)  
Don't presume that things will run smoothly today if you have to deal with a government agency or other institution. Expect to experience delays. Empty promises are evident, so be sure to get everything signed.

**Scorpio** (Oct 23 - Nov 21)  
You will have the opportunity to do something unique today that should benefit not only you, but others as well. You can make a difference to those you fight for and your courage will be recognized.

**Sagittarius** (Nov 22 - Dec 21)  
Proceed with the things you've been working on, but expect interruptions. Don't trust anyone else to finish what you start. This is not the day to push your luck.

**Capricorn** (Dec 22 - Jan 19)  
Plan your actions and proceed with confidence today. Changes should be welcomed. Try new things in an effort to get ahead.

**Aquarius** (Jan 20 - Feb 18)  
Expect to be burdened with extra responsibilities today. A financial challenge that has been causing you grief should clear up. Home projects will help to calm your nerves.

**Pisces** (Feb 19-Mar 20)  
Something is brewing over which you may have no control. Personal issues may be raised and problems will fester if you don't compromise.



# Internet summit makes call to "wire up" the world

GENEVA (Reuters, Dec 12) - More than 170 countries have approved an ambitious call to extend the Internet and the benefits of information technology to the poorest corners of the world, but dodged some of the difficulties of doing so. In particular, they put off a decision on whether to set up a special fund to finance the necessary infrastructure, for which African countries had lobbied hard.

The first World Summit on the Information Society wound up three days of lofty speech-making by endorsing a declaration of principles and a 29-point action plan, completed after hard bargaining just hours before the gathering got under way.

The declaration committed them to using telecommunications technologies, such as the Worldwide Web and mobile phones, to boost economic growth and meet United Nations development targets for eradicating extreme hunger and poverty by 2015.

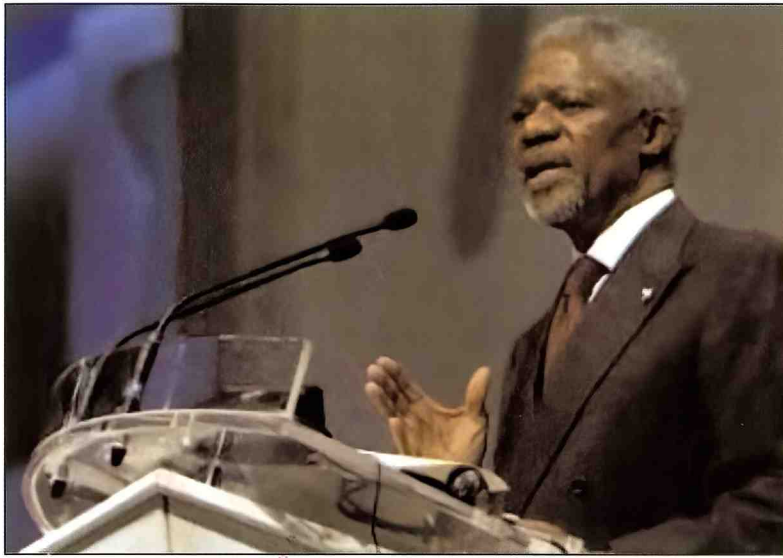
"The declaration represents a sort of constitution for the Information Society which must contain a social dimension and foster development," said Swiss President Pascal Couchepin, whose country hosted the U.N.-sponsored gathering. Around 90 percent of the world population is not connected to the Internet, depriving them of a 21st century resource and digging a "digital divide" between rich and poor.

But richer states, notably Japan and the European Union, which generally did not send top government officials to Geneva, resisted calls for a "Solidarity Fund" to close the gap.

As a compromise, states agreed to study the issue further and report back before the follow-up summit in Tunis in 2005.

## NOT JUST THE WEALTHY

But it was not just the wealthy states



U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan speaks during the opening ceremony of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva December 10, 2003. The conference aims to bridge a digital divide between rich and poor by extending access to information technology. (Denis Balibouse/Reuters)

that opposed rushing into new financing. Senior U.N. officials agreed it was better first to explore improved use of existing resources from the World Bank and other sources.

"It must take its place in line along with health and education. It has to be linked to investment in these areas otherwise it would be just a waste of public money," said Mark Mallock Brown, head of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP).

Also postponed was a showdown over Internet management, with developing countries such as Brazil pressing for a greater role for the United Nations or intergovernmental agencies in a business currently left to the private sector in rich states.

The liberal democracies won a tough battle in the preparation stage to have press freedom and the right of access to information enshrined in the summit documents.

"The right to freedom of opinion and expression is its (the declaration's) essential foundation," Couchepin said. But activists said it was ironic that while most Western leaders stayed away, the summit was attended by a number of figures, including Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, whose governments have been accused of hobbling their local media.

They promised to campaign for the second summit to be withdrawn from Tunisia unless there was a sharp improvement in the human rights situation in the North African state.

The Human Rights Caucus, grouping some 45 organisations, called for an independent commission to be sent to Tunisia to talk to government opponents and political prisoners as well as officials to assess whether it was a suitable host.



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## كوبون اسئلة وتم (٦)

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

- 1- في أي محافظة يقع فندق تاج سبا ؟
- 2- من هو قيادي لمنظمة القاعدة الذي تم اعتقاله مؤخراً من قبل السلطات اليمنية ؟
- 3- ما اسم الشركة التي هي وكيله لمنتجات (JVC) ؟
- 4- اذكر ثلاث جهات اعلاميه الذي وكيلهم الوحيد سمارت للدعايه والاعلان ؟
- 5- ماهي الايام التي تطير فيها اليمنية الى باريس ؟
- 6- في اي دولة يصنع مشروب الطاقه باور هورس الذي وكيله في الجمهورية اليمنية مؤسسة الكبوس ؟

للمشاركة إقرأ التفاصيل:  
على الراغبين في المشاركة في مسابقة الملايين الكبرى ٢٠٠٤ تعبئة المعلومات الشخصية في الكوبون المرفق وقص الكوبون ومن ثم عليهم ترقيب عدد 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 تعز أو الحديدة. كما يمكن للمشاركين إرسالها إلى بريد الصحيفة في صنعاء على عنوان (ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩، صنعاء).

ستستمر المسابقة لعدة أشهر ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشاركوا بأكثر من كوبون، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقاً، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركين الاتصال بالصحيفة على (٠١) ٣٨٦٦٦١ في أوقات النواص. حظاً موفقاً للجميع....

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# "Free Willy" whale Keiko dies

By INGER SETHOV

OSLO (Reuters) - Keiko the killer whale, star of the "Free Willy" movies, has died at 27 of pneumonia in a Norwegian fjord, ending campaigners' hopes of returning the people-loving mammal to life in the wild.

The world's most famous orca, a magnet for tourists who spent most of his life in captivity, died about 15 months after turning up in Norwegian waters, officials said on Saturday.

Millions of dollars was spent on preparing the 10-metre (30-foot) animal for the wild after the 1993 movie "Free Willy" prompted a campaign for his release, but Keiko never rejoined killer whale company.

Margrete Seter, mayor of Halsu municipality in western Norway which has been Keiko's home since he surprisingly turned up there in September last year,



said the giant mammal had been found floating on the surface of the sea late on Friday.

"It's terribly sad," Seter told Reuters. "We had been hoping to have him around for many more years." Killer whales can live to around 35.

The Hollywood star, a big tourist draw in Halsu, had shown signs of lethargy and lack of appetite just before he died, said the Free Willy Keiko Foundation, which has headed the campaign to free Keiko.

Trainers had hoped to lure Keiko back

into deep waters to readjust him to a life in the wild — the life from which he was removed when he was only two years old. After spending most of his life in marine amusement parks in Canada and Mexico, the six-tonne animal was flown back to Iceland in a U.S. Air Force jet in 1998.

### Surprise

Keiko showed up in western Norway — the only nation in the world that still hunts whales commercially — in September last year after swimming some 1,400 km (870 miles) from Iceland. He had stayed in Taknes bay since last winter, monitored and fed by his handlers in an area sealed off to boat traffic.

"Rescuing Keiko from a cramped pool in Mexico and bringing him back to his home waters is the most spectacular effort ever launched for an animal," David Phillips, president and founder of the Keiko Foundation, said in a statement.

"Keiko was a champion, the most incredible whale," he said.

When he arrived in Norway pictures of the playful orca — even allowing children to ride on his back — went worldwide, sparking a new debate over Keiko's future.

Some pro-whaling activists in Norway reckoned there was no hope for Keiko in the wild and urged the United States to take him back to captivity.

Among Keiko's many supporters, French celebrity animal rights activist Brigitte Bardot wrote an open letter to Norwegian Crown Princess Mette-Marit, begging her to help save Keiko.

An official at the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries said sea mammals would normally be buried at sea but Norway might consider burying Keiko on land if his handlers wanted this.

"We will listen to their demands," Directorate spokesman Olav Lekve told Reuters. "We understand that Keiko is special."

The Keiko Foundation said Keiko had been the second oldest male orca whale in captivity.

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