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External factors behind price hike?

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni cabinet has last Tuesday familiarized itself with a special report on the price changes in wheat and flour and some other commodities, which according to the council of ministers, are ascribed to outside factors. The cabinet says the increase in prices are caused by the rise of those commodities prices at the world level, added to that the increase in transportation costs. The council of ministers has also affirmed that the current hikes in prices could be considered as emergency and extraordinary state and that it has entrusted the minister of Industry and Trade to implement the part related to the foodstuffs included in the cabinet resolution No. 69 for the year 2003 for another six months.

The request also included carrying out an inspection campaign to warehouses and preventing any manipulation of monopoly of foodstuffs, especially the commodities of wheat and flour. The council of ministers has given its directives to give priority in the unloading operation at Yemeni ports to basic foodstuffs and also to study reflections of price increase on local commodities.

Continued on page 3



Due to significant increase in eggs prices, many citizens abstained from buying, causing significant drop in eggs sale throughout the country. YT Photo by M. Bin Sallam

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Yemen safer than before but Qaeda threat remains

BY MIRAL FAHMY
REUTERS

Yemen appears to have claimed a rare victory against al-Qaeda with help from Washington, analysts and diplomats say.

But they warn that militants still pose a threat in a country where arms are plentiful and sympathy for the al-Qaeda network's holy war against the West runs high.

Sana'a, in the cross hairs of the U.S. war on terror since the September 11 attacks, has scored some major successes with the help of military

training and funding from Washington. Last year, the authorities arrested Yemen's number two al-Qaeda suspect, Mohammad al-Ahdal.

In November 2002, Yemen turned a blind eye while the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency killed a top leader of al-Qaeda — blamed for the attacks on U.S. cities — in an airstrike there.

Sana'a has also rounded up hundreds of militants and launched a massive campaign to disarm a largely tribal population that prizes automatic weapons and grenades. Roads linking cities bristle with army checkpoints, where tribesmen are required to deposit their weapons

before carrying onto their destination.

"The most important thing is that the Yemeni authorities have in one way or another arrested or eliminated the top echelon of al-Qaeda," U.S. ambassador Edmund Hull told Reuters.

"Yemen has moved from reactive measures to proactive measures. It's not 100 percent yet, but Yemen has improved its capabilities and now the challenge is to maintain these efforts."

Western diplomats agree security in Yemen has improved in leaps and bounds since the September 11 attacks.

Continued on page 3

No democracy, but totalitarian regimes exist in Arab World: Qaddomi

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister, Farooq Qaddomi strongly criticized Arab

regimes, describing them as totalitarian and dictatorial and said there is no democracy in the Arab countries at all.

Qaddomi told Yemen Times that "democracy in the Arab world does not exist because of the totalitarian political regimes and absolute monarchies." He said democracy does not mean election only and that democracy is practiced in Lebanon and Palestine where people have the right to express their own views and the newspapers can criticize.

He observed that newspapers in other countries just praise the rulers who are far away even from self-criticism, adding that these countries have nice constitutions but they are not followed and that these regimes are concerned with how they can control the people, mainly through the intelligence offices which are "watching the people rather than the enemies of these countries." He said that the only way to get rid of these dictatorships is not by ousting them by the U.S. like Saddam but through the continuous struggle of the people, which will of course need time.

He said that his participation in the Inter-Governmental Regional Conference on Democracy, Human Rights and the role of the International Criminal Court which was held in Sana'a during 11-12 January was meant to "convey an actual picture of what is happening

inside the occupied territories and to tell the participants that there is an absence of respect for human rights there." He pointed out that he wanted to convey this situation to the Europeans who are friends of Israel and they, with the U.S., support it. He demanded that their attitude towards Israel should be changed and support the just cause of the Palestinians, establishing democracy in the Palestinian territories.

He said that there are no recent negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and Israeli government as the Israelis, to him, have no credibility. He asserted that resistance will continue. "Our resistance is continuing as we do not trust the Israelis; they have no credibility as they sign agreements and do not fulfill their decisions; they continue their atrocities against the Palestinian people; they kill, arrest and destroy houses on a daily basis. We try to deal with them openly and truly. Unfortunately, they continue their acts of assassinations. Instead of building confidence measures, they build new settlements and finally they started constructing the separation wall," he said. He claimed that the Palestinians accepted the Road Map endorsed by the U.S., EU, UN and Russia but it has been frozen as the Israelis refused to implement it.

Continued on page 3



Farooq Qaddomi

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Yemen insists it is qualified to join GCC

A Yemeni government official criticized the statement of Emirate's Information Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahayan who said that Yemen is not qualified to join the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). In a statement to Al-Wahda weekly, a senior official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that "Yemen, with its historical heritage, its political strength and its strategic importance to security and stability on the Arabian peninsula and in the GCC countries, is qualified to join."

The official voiced "astonishment" at the Emirati statement, which clearly mentioned that in the short term Yemen was not ready to stand alongside Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as a member of the GCC that was set up in 1981.

"I don't think Yemen could join

after a year or two because it would not be in the interest of Yemen or the GCC countries," said Sheikh Abdullah.

"The European Union spent hundreds of millions of dollars to prepare countries like Greece and Spain to join. It took a dozen years for some countries to join," he said.

It is worth noting that Yemen has repeatedly sought to enter the club of rich oil countries.

In December 2001, GCC leaders decided in a summit to allow Yemen to join the GCC in areas of health, education, labour and social affairs and participate in the Gulf football cup as part of a gradual integration.

Indeed, Yemen has recently participated in the recent GCC football club and came out in the last spot with only one point from a draw in its team's opening match with Oman.

Report reveals scary number of accidental deaths by small arms

According to a recent report released by the Ministry of Interior, carrying arms and tampering with them during 2003 continued to be one of the most prevalent problems in Yemen, especially as many victims were reported last year because of the misuse or criminal use of weapons. Many of the victims were women and children.

The competent security bodies have observed last year sad incidents due to fiddling with small arms in various parts of the country. In some incidents fathers killed their sons, in others sons killed their mothers and there were incidents where a brother, a friend, and in rare cases a passerby were killed. However, most of the victims are usually close relatives, not to mention retaliatory incidents and the settlement of accounts using violent means.

It was also unveiled that the denominator of all these incidents was a result of negligence and fiddling with arms by

novices and children, and sometimes by experienced adults.

However, the government is still to blame for the disregard of this issue and its dillydallying in issuing a law for the regulation of carrying arms by the people, not to mention the absence of security, fair judiciary and other factors which cannot be mentioned here.

If we review the statistical indicators prepared by the security apparatuses at the Interior Ministry during last year, we shall find that the Capital Mayorality Jurisdiction came at the top in terms of

crimes perpetration.

According to those indicators the number of gunfire related attacks committed in the capital city has risen to 7,372 forming a percentage of 39.46% of the general total of all crimes committed in Yemen during the same year, followed by Aden governorate which recorded 1,382 crimes while Ibb Governorate came third with 1,257 incidents.

According to those statistical indicators Al-Mahra Governorate came at the bottom of the list where during the same year only 75 incidents were recorded.

Activities of Children's Parliament for 2004 announced

Ismail Al-Ghabiri
Yemen Times Staff

Plans have been announced to hold the upcoming elections for the Children's Parliament in the Republic of Yemen with a total number of voters amounting to 30,000. The elections are to be held from 28 February 2004 to 27 April 2004 during which children shall register themselves, declare their election programs, and present their candidates.

The first session of the parliament shall be 15 days following announcement of the results.

The elections of the Children's Parliament for the year 2004 is supposed to cover all the Republic as per population density and the number of constituencies. The parliament's tenure shall be two years and the allowed number of elected children parliamentarians will be specified.

The Children's Parliament, which is copied out from a regular French practice, was evolved out of the idea that the available democratic margin should be utilized so that children could learn how to practice their rights to vote by electing whom they see best fit to represent them. The project targeted preliminary class students.

The project started in 2000 by allowing 20,000 children to participate in the election of a parliament constituted of 31 children of both sexes. The first session was held on 27 April 2000. The parliament's most important activities were meeting high-ranking officials, and in the forefront was the President of the Republic.

Disregarding the negativities, the experience was considered successful by many interested people.

Huge losses due to crimes in 2003

In a recent report by the Yemeni Interior Ministry, the crimes committed during the past year 2003 had led to huge human and material losses in which 15,500 people were killed in different areas of the republic, 152 of which were females and the rest were males.

This number of people killed last year was relatively similar to that of 2002 with the difference in the number of the injured as 5,913 were injured in 2003 and that is a little bit more than that of the year 2002 which amounted to 5,680.

With regard to material losses resulted from crimes during past year 2003, their value amounted to more than YR 1.3 billion.

lows:

Premeditated Murder: Such crimes are committed in Yemen in the rate of 3 crimes per day, 19 per week and 82 per month.

Murder Attempts Crimes: They happen at the rate of six per day, 41 per week and 179 per month.

Cars Theft Crimes: The theft of cars takes place at the rate of 2 per day, 14 per week and 63 per month.

House Burglaries: House burglaries take place at the rate of 2 per day, 14 per week and 70 per month.

Banditry Crimes: The weekly rate of banditry is 6 and amount to 27 per month.

In another report by the Yemeni Interior Ministry, it is mentioned that the rate of committed crimes in Yemen is relatively constant and that uncovering such crimes has risen significantly in the year 2003.

The report also mentioned that crimes committed during the year 2003 amounted to 18,680 crimes all over the Republic and that is according to statistics prepared by the competent bodies in the Yemeni Interior

Ministry.

Those crimes have covered different aspects of society where grave crimes amounted to 11,563, non-grave crimes amounted to 7,117 whilst the uncovered crimes amounted to 15,536 of the same year.

As for the crimes which are still under investigation they amounted to 3,144 crimes. Statistical indicators refer to the deterrence of 2,303 potential crimes during the year 2003.

Crime rate for 2003

The daily rate in crimes committed all over the governorates of the Republic of Yemen during the year 2003 according to statistics by the security competent bodies amounted to 51, whilst the weekly rate during the same year amounted to 359. As for grave crimes the time rate was as fol-

Biological safety introduced

**BY ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF**

The General Authority for Protection of the Environment at the Ministry of Water and Environment is planning to organize next Tuesday January 20, 2004 an Informational Introductory Workshop and Carthaginian Protocol on Biological Safety.

The working papers to be presented in the workshop will touch upon the biological diversity in the Republic

and the concepts of biological technology as well as the legal organization of Biological Safety in addition to a précis about the National Program for Biological Safety and the Role of Media in Environmental Public Awareness. The presentation of the Carthagena Protocol as well as the impact of genetic engineering on the agricultural diversity in Yemen will also be tackled.

The Workshop shall bring together a number of specialists in the domain of biological diversity and the media.

Course on security measures at seaports

**BY RIDWAN AL-SAQQAF
YT ADEN BUREAU CHIEF**

A Training Course shall be held on Monday 19 January 2004 at the Yemeni Ports Authority Naval Training Center in Aden devoted to organization of security measures at Yemeni seaports and ships.

The course is attended by 45 participants from the various seaports of Aden, Mukalla, Aden Refinery, Coast Guard and the Navy Force.

Mr. Mayad Saeed Al-Yafie, the course coordinator says that the purpose of this course is to raise the level of security capabilities working at the seaports and also to train the participants on the latest ways used for organizing security measures for seaports and ships.

He indicated also that Hudson Trident, a pioneering International Company in security qualifying of international seaports would also inspect the security preparedness at the Yemeni seaports, affirming that this

course comes as part of the security measures being carried out by the Yemeni Government to qualify Yemeni seaports in implementation of the ISPS Code issued by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of which Yemen is a member. The ISPS Code shall be obligatory in all seaports worldwide as of next July 2004 and hence Yemen is counted amongst the first in the region in starting to qualify its seaports in application of the IMO resolutions. He has further added that this course shall be contributing to develop performance level of all the participants, hoping that this shall contribute also to persuade Insurance Companies to end the war risks premiums and return them to Zero.

It is also meant that other bodies can benefit from this course, including the participants from the Coast Guard, The Maritime Police, The Navy Force, in addition to Yemeni Seaports Authority underlings working in Aden, the Aden Refinery Company and Mukalla Seaport.

Insulin medicine absent from public pharmacies

The Poor and needy Diabetics of Taiz have raised complaints to the health authorities in the city for the absence of Insulin medicine, namely Mixtard.

Poor patients used to be dispensed through monthly cards in Taiz before the distribution was delayed and halted, resulting in the suffering of hundreds of patients, who are under the threat of impending death because of their inability to purchase the medicine from the market.

The patience had requested from the Minister of Health and Population as well as the International Health Organizations in order to resume the distribution of the medicine for the poor and needy on monthly and regularly so that they can avoid the impending danger on their lives.

Verdict in favor of deaf-mute society in Taiz

The Chairman of Western Taiz First Instance court has sent a memorandum to Taiz Security Director last week in order to enforce a verdict in favor of a death-mute board, who won their case against a board appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

It is worth mentioning that "The Ambition Society for Care and Protection of the Deaf-mutes" through its legitimate board has filed a case against the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Bureau in Taiz for enabling an illegitimate board to take over the Society's Headquarters.

The verdict was duly legalized by the supreme court in their favor, following another verdict by the same court legalized by the court of Appeal and ordering the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Bureau in Taiz to pay YR 200,000 and annul all the already implemented illegitimate procedures.

Al-Saeed Foundation For Sciences and Culture Showki A. Hayel supports the Documentation of Cultural Heritage

In a statement to Yemen Times, Mr. Faisal Saeed Farie, the General Manager of the Al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture in Taiz affirmed that prominent figure and active Taiz-based businessman Mr. Showki Ahmed Hayel Saeed has supported the Oral and Material Documentation of Cultural Heritage project, facilitating the implementation of the project by the foundation.

Mr. Faisal added that the project is of great importance for preserving the heritage of the country, and that the assistance of Mr. Showki has played a significance role in this respect.

The project is being implemented within the framework of the Program of Al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture for the year 2004 and is currently occupying a crucial status amongst many other activities sponsored by the Foundation.

Hadramaut journalists call for release of colleague

Journalists in Hadramaut governorate called for the immediate release of their colleague journalist Mr. Fuwad Rashid last week. The Yemen Journalists Syndicate member was imprisoned based on orders by the prosecution in Al-Manwara jail in Mukalla where he is still detained till date without any charges filed against him. Journalists complained that the authorities disregarded the verdict issued by Al-Mukalla First Instance Court, which refused the prosecution's request to extend the detention of the journalist.

According to the protesting journalists, the insistence by the prosecution to keep Rashid in prison is considered a serious precedent and a challenge to the judiciary and an attempt to undermine the justice system in the country.

The syndicate's branch in Hadramaut as well as protesting journalists expressed their solidarity with Rashid, demanded his immediate release and requested from authorities to hold the prosecutors responsible for any consequences of the arrest, indicating that the health of their colleague has already started to deteriorate.

Readers' Voice

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

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

This edition's question:

Do you believe that the claim that Yemen is not fit to join the GCC in present is realistic?

- Yes, and there is no need to be angry
- Yes, but it should not have been said so bluntly
- No, Yemen is more or less fit to join the GCC
- I cannot tell

last edition's question:

What do you expect would be the response of the public to the expected hike in prices?

- No demonstrations and things will continue normally 35%
- Let's wait and see 33%
- Violent demonstrations leading to victims 23%
- Peaceful demonstrations 9%

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These positions are open to all qualified applicants. Applications that do not meet specified criteria will not be considered. Applications are due Monday at 5 P.M., February 9, 2004. NO inquiries accepted; finalists will be contacted directly for interviews.

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Aptech promotes computer education

By YASSER AL-MAYASSI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a remarkable initiative representing the private sector contribution to human resources development, Group of (Aptech-Yemen based institutes) supported the celebration of computer education promotion at the stadium of IT & Telecom. Technology City attended by Minister of Telecom. & IT, Minister of Culture & Tourism, Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training and Staff Col/ Mohammed Abdullah Saleh in addition to a host of IT & Computer Education in Yemen fans.

During the gathering, Mr. Khalil Al-Jabel- General Manager of Al-Jabel IT Company -for (Aptech-Yemen based institutes) stressed in his address that (Aptech-Yemen based institutes) have been contributing within the last four years in providing specialized quality education in the field of computer cleared the room for the youth to exploit their abilities and rehabilitated them towards the overall development in Yemen and according to the update requirements in IT market.

Eng./ Abdul Melik Al-Mualimi - Minister of Telecomm. & IT - highly appreciated in his word and highlighted the contribution of the civil society organizations and public sector in serving the developments objectives. Meanwhile, he extended his great acknowledgement to Al-Dali Center for Development, which organized this celebration and Group of (Aptech-Yemen based institutes) for their support in this activity.

He further emphasized that the number of Internet subscribers in Yemen has



Mr. Khalil Al-Jabel- General Manager of Al-Jabel IT Company

reached up to September 27th thirty five, two hundred. Mr. Al-Mualimi stated that the Ministry is currently finalizing the formalities of the project of the President of the Republic for circulation of computer education. Simultaneously, equipment are being furnished for establishing a computer-assembly plant in Yemen as the abilities are secured -according to the Minister- and it is going to be inaugurated during next July.

The Minister of Culture & Tourism, in his turn, demonstrated that Yemen is characterized from other countries in the region with two merits:

Abundance of Internet cafes & shops in Yemen streets plus telecom. Centers with lowers prices compared with other Arab countries-According to the Minister of Telecom. & IT.

On his part, Mr. Abdul Salam Al-Dali - Principal of Al-Dali Center for Development, outlined that the juncture of his center and group of Aptech institutes efforts with those of the ministry of Telecom. Is deemed a practical parameter of the attention in eradication of computer illiteracy in the circles of public ser-

vants and among Yemeni community. He also added that the Ministry initiatives have become incentive in the training process considering that the first supporter thereto is the project of the President of the Republic for circulation of computer education in that a citizen could receive a computer set by installment.

Mr. Al-Dali added that according to a field survey conducted by the center on computer training for the public servants showed that more than (77%) of them is computer illiterate and they are waiting for a chance to join computer training courses.

The promotion celebration for computer education had been held in the conclusion of planning training workshop organized by Al-Dali Center for Development supported and contributed by Group of (Aptech-Yemen institutes) and sponsored by Eng. Abdul Melik Al-Mualimi - Minister of Telecom. & IT, attended by the majority of those in charge of training, development of human resources during tenure in different public institutions in addition to some training -related authorities.

The workshop targeted developing and cultivating the participants abilities in realizing the dimensions of training process, analyzing the training needs as well as evaluating offers, training authorities and implementing the training programs for computer education. In this regard, Dr. Mohammed Al-Sa'di submitted a paper on methodology of training planning. In his turn, the Indian expert, Dr. Rajaram elaborated on the training methods matching with the accelerant development in IT and the strategy of the training process based on future perspectives for different technological trends to which we would have an access within three years. The last paper in the workshop was presented by Mr. Mustafa Al-Barakani- Aptech Manager of Sana'a branch on:

Mode of Integral Planning for Carrying out Computer Education Course. The program of the workshop also included the discussions whose favorable effect became clear in exchange of views and experiences and reflected the reaction and interest of participants in this workshop.



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U.S. may shift Iraq handover plans to appease cleric

WASHINGTON/BAGHDAD, Jan 17 (Reuters) - The United States is willing to adjust plans for handing over power in Iraq to appease the country's top Shi'ite cleric but, officials said, is unlikely to meet his key demand for

elections this year. The U.S. governor of Iraq, Paul Bremer, announced the shift after talks with President George W. Bush on Friday but stressed that the June 30 deadline for transferring power to an Iraqi government would not be

extended.

A team of Japanese soldiers on their way to Iraq, Tokyo's most controversial military deployment since World War Two, landed in Kuwait on Saturday and are expected to move into Iraq next week.

"We are making history today. It is the first time that we have Japanese troops going into a combat zone since World War Two," U.S. forces spokesman Captain Randall Baucom told reporters after the Japanese troops' plane arrived in Kuwait.

Bremer expressed "doubts" about Shi'ite demands for direct elections before the transfer of power, but added: "These are questions that, obviously, need to be looked at."

He said Washington may alter the way a transitional Iraqi assembly is selected and make other "clarifications", but gave few details.

Bremer's comments are unlikely to impress Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, one of the most revered men in Iraq, who has demanded that the transitional assembly be elected, instead of being chosen by regional caucuses under current U.S. plans.

Aides have said he could issue a fatwa, or edict, banning his followers from cooperating with the U.S. authority in Iraq if his demands were not met.

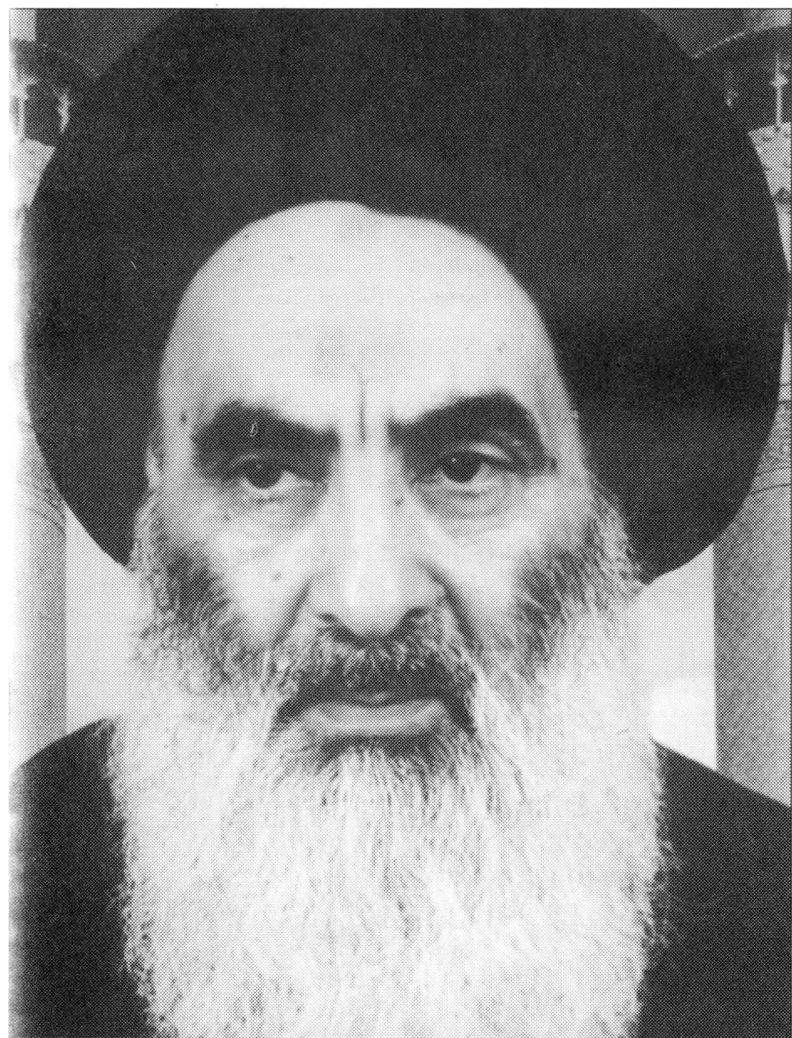
Shi'ite Muslims are a majority in Iraq and any such move would be a huge setback for Washington, which is battling Saddam Hussein loyalists in areas dominated by his minority Sunni sect.

"We're intending to stick to the timeline that we've laid out" — for the transfer of power on June 30 and direct elections in 2005, Bremer told reporters.

OPEN TO CHANGES

But senior administration officials said they were open to changes — within that timeline — to address Iraqi concerns. "We are willing to discuss refinements or improvements," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

Bremer added "We are prepared to see clarifications in the process, ...the ways in which the selection of the transitional assembly is carried forward."



Undated file photo of Iraq's most revered Shi'ite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who has refused to support the U.S. plan for regional caucuses to select a transitional assembly that will pick an interim government for sovereignty by July and demanded direct elections. Iraq's U.S. Governor Paul Bremer consulted with President Bush on Friday as the United States acted to smooth over a dispute with Iraq's top Shi'ite Muslim cleric on Friday, saying it was willing to make changes to its plan to hand political power to Iraqis.

REUTERS

Bomb kills three US soldiers, two Iraqis



Iraqis view a bomb crater on a rural road north of Baghdad, near the town of Taji, after a fatal blast destroyed a U.S. Army Bradley fighting vehicle January 17. In the attack, a huge roadside bomb near the town of Taji, 30 km (19 miles) north of Baghdad, set a Bradley armored vehicle on fire and killed five inside, said Lieutenant Colonel William Macdonald of the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division.

REUTERS

TIKRIT, Iraq, Jan 17 (Reuters) - Three U.S. soldiers and two Iraqi civil defence officials were killed on Saturday in a bomb attack on their patrol north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

Lieutenant Colonel William Macdonald of the 4th Infantry division said a Bradley armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb near the town of Taji, 30 km (19 miles) north of Baghdad.

Five people, including three U.S. soldiers and two Iraqi civil defence officials, were killed and two soldiers were wounded, he said.

CNN had earlier reported that all five dead were U.S. soldiers.

Macdonald said three Iraqi men travelling in a truck in the area were arrested after troops found bomb-making material in their vehicle.

The Bradley, with its caterpillar tracks and swivelling gun barrel, resembles a small tank, suggesting the bomb was very powerful. Previous attacks on U.S. convoys have tended to cause casualties aboard lighter vehicles like trucks and Humvee four-seater cars.

The deaths within the "Sunni triangle" north and west of Baghdad, where resistance to U.S. forces has been fiercest, take the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq since the war began to 499, including 153 killed in accidents.

"Black box" from Red Sea crash site heads to Cairo

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt/PARIS, Jan 17 (Reuters) - A French salvage team gave Egypt on Saturday the data recorder from a Boeing 737 that crashed into the Red Sea killing 148 people, and

Egyptian officials said it was going to Cairo for analysis.

The office of French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said the salvage team had also located the second "black box", which records cockpit conversations, and was trying to retrieve it from the bottom of the Red Sea.

Search and rescue experts detected a weak signal from the second flight recorder four days after the plane, carrying 133 French tourists and 15 other people, plunged into the sea minutes after take-off from Sharm el-Sheikh on January 3.

But so far they have not been able to retrieve it from the sea bed with their submersible robots.

In Cairo, Egyptian Civil Aviation Minister Ahmed Mohamed Shafiq Zaki told reporters that Egypt had the technical means to download and analyse the data from the flight recorder, while personnel from the U.S. plane manufacturer Boeing would take part in the investigation as observers.

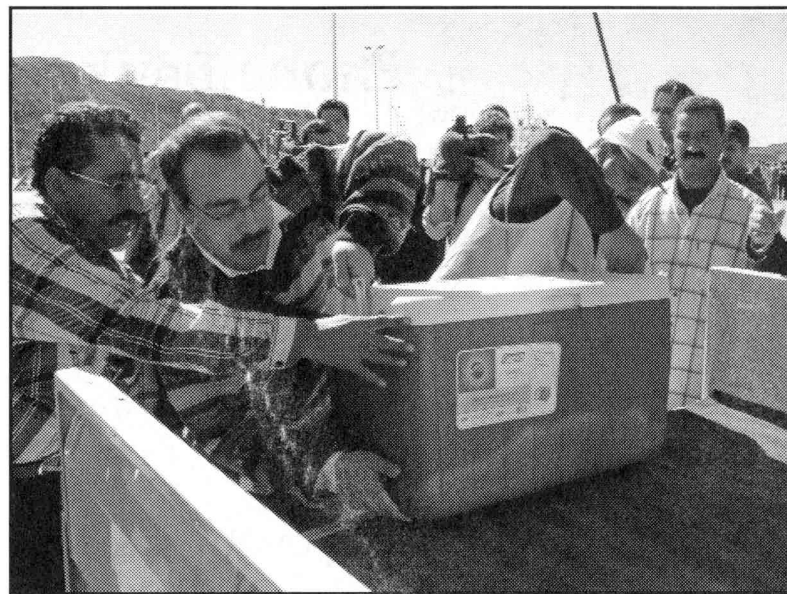
If the Egyptians need any help from France, they will ask for it "without embarrassment", the minister added.

Egypt has asserted its sovereign right to take the lead in the investigation and has defended its air safety record against allegations that Switzerland banned the operating company, Flash Airlines, from its air space because of safety violations.

Zaki said: "If it turns out there was a flaw in the plane, we will announce that straight away without any embarrassment."

Laboratory analysis

He said that the Swiss ambassador in Cairo had admitted to him that a Swiss official made a mistake when she told reporters that Switzerland had taken steps against the airline.



Egyptian officials put the Black box of the plane that crashed off the coast of the Egyptian Red sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on a pickup truck January 17, 2004. The Black box was recovered in a joint operation between the French and Egyptian Navy experts. The Egyptian Boeing 737 crashed into the sea on January 3 killing all 148 people on board, 133 of whom were French tourists.

REUTERS

The ambassador, Raimund Kunz, told Reuters he had told the minister that he personally felt that it was "not the best moment" to make such a statement so soon after the crash.

"But I could not admit that the Swiss authorities made a mistake," the ambassador added.

Shaker Qilada, the head of the Egyptian inquiry into the crash, took possession of the first recorder at the commercial port of Sharm el-Sheikh after the French navy-led search team retrieved it late on Friday night.

The "black box", still wet, was in fact orange with the words "flight recorder, do not open" written on its side.

"The box will now be moved to Cairo in a private plane. It will be taken to the laboratories of the civil aviation ministry where it will be analysed," Qilada told reporters at the port.

Qilada had said before the pinpointing of the second box that its evidence would be very valuable.

"If we find the second box we will get a much better picture of what happened," he said.

The first box lay at a depth of about 1,000 metres (3,000 ft), said the head of the Egyptian navy in Sharm el-Sheikh, Tareq el-Gamal.

The French navy said the second box lay at around 800 metres. The team used a remotely controlled robot on loan from France Telecom to retrieve the flight recorders and have been working 24 hours a day since Tuesday with the robot.

France has vowed to do all it can to find out why the plane crashed. The French Navy says it has contracted another robot, expected to arrive on Saturday, which can dive to a depth of 1,000 metres.

France says there is no reason to suspect an attack and gives little credence to a previously unknown Islamic group's claim to have brought down the plane shortly after take-off.

VACANCY

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The UN Refugee Agency
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Aden-Republic of Yemen

Vietnam deaths from bird flu up by one to four

HANOI, Jan 17 (Reuters) - The number of Vietnam's confirmed bird flu deaths has risen by one to four, the World Health Organisation said, while a hospital in the country's south said on Saturday it had two very sick patients with bird flu symptoms.

The U.N. health agency, which is helping Vietnam battle the fast-spreading disease, said a five-year-old boy, from Nam Dinh province, died on January 8 from bird flu. Nam Dinh is about 100 km (60 miles) south of the capital, Hanoi.

"WHO now counts four confirmed cases of H5N1 in Vietnam," the agency said in a statement issued late on Friday.

Five children remain hospitalised in Hanoi as suspected avian flu cases, but only one is very sick, Peter Horby, WHO epidemiologist, told Reuters Television in an interview.

He said another seven adults suspected of having bird flu were being treated at Hanoi's Bach Mai hospital, but added it was difficult to assess the number of cases as the disease had symptoms similar to other ailments.

"It's not easy to distinguish it from any other severe respiratory disease," Horby said.

South Korea, Japan and Taiwan have also reported outbreaks of bird flu but Vietnam has been the hardest hit.

The cases have raised fears of a new deadly epidemic sweeping out of the region that saw an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome spread around the world last year and kill about 800 people.

All of Vietnam's confirmed cases, plus eight other human flu deaths under investigation, were from the north. But a hospital in the southern province of Kien Giang said it was treating a woman and man, both in their twenties, for serious influenza infection with symptoms similar to the avian flu victims.

Vietnam has reported 18 suspected cases of bird flu in humans with 12



A Vietnamese woman waits for customers for her chickens at a market in Hanoi January 17. The World Health Organisation has raised the number of Vietnam's confirmed bird flu deaths by one to four, while a hospital in the south said it was treating two adults who were showing symptoms similar to confirmed cases. REUTERS

deaths suspected of being linked to it.

The type of avian flu virus that caused the four confirmed bird flu deaths is similar to a variant that struck Hong Kong in 1997, killing six people.

But the WHO said it had found no evidence of human-to-human transmission of the H5N1 virus.

There had been an increase in respiratory cases in Hanoi's hospitals but they had not been proven to be bird flu, the WHO said.

Culls, ban

The virus emerged just ahead of the country's biggest celebration, Tet or the Lunar New Year which kicks off January 21 and usually features chicken

as a major dish.

The flu has resulted in the death or slaughter of more than two million chickens in Vietnam and bans on the sale of poultry in its biggest city, Ho Chi Minh City. Two other provinces near the city have also banned trade in fowl.

A check of several Ho Chi Minh City markets that would normally be teeming with chicken traders and shoppers found no signs of poultry on Saturday.

"There's no business with the ban on selling chicken. We're closing up," said one market worker.

Experts from the WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organisation will travel on Sunday to Ho Chi Minh City to assess the situation in the south, said

Anton Rychener, FAO Vietnam representative.

Fifteen provinces in Vietnam have declared outbreaks of bird flu, eight in the north and seven in the south. The communist country has 64 provinces and major cities.

Vietnam has ordered that farms and villages reporting bird flu destroy all poultry in their vicinity, but has not sought mass destruction of fowl in the 15 provinces.

At one of the two biggest chicken and egg plants in Binh Chanh district, a Reuters journalist saw a farmer bundling chickens into sacks and burying them. He said he planned to destroy his stock of 60,000 birds.

First Iraq-bound Japanese troops arrive in Kuwait

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait, Jan 17 (Reuters) - A team of Japanese soldiers heading to Iraq in the Asian power's most controversial deployment since World War Two flew into Kuwait early on Saturday.

"We are making history today. It is the first time that we have Japanese troops going into a combat zone since World War Two," U.S. forces spokesman Captain Randall Baucom told reporters after the plane arrived.

The advance team of 35 soldiers will pave the way for the arrival of a force which may eventually number 1000 personnel.

Their dispatch marks a historic shift away from Japan's purely defensive post-war security policy and poses a political risk for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, whose government could be rocked if there are casualties.

The deployment was made possible by a law passed in July, but in line with Japan's pacifist constitution it limits the military's activity to "non-combat zones", a murky concept in Iraq, where there are almost daily attacks on U.S. forces and their allies.

No member of Japan's military has fired a shot in combat or been killed in an overseas mission since World War Two, although Japanese forces have taken part in United Nations peace-keeping operations since a 1992 law made that possible.

The advance party of the Ground Self-Defence Force, as the Japanese army is called, arrived at Kuwait International Airport at 0345 GMT.

Baucom said the team would meet embassy officials and then head to Camp Virginia, 45 km (30 miles) northwest of Kuwait City.

The sprawling camp is used by thousands of U.S. troops and coalition forces.

The Japanese forces, who are set to travel overland to the southern Iraqi city of Samawa, will train in Kuwait until



Japanese commander Colonel Sato speaks with journalists on arrival at camp Virginia 46 kilometers south of the Iraqi border in northern Kuwait Jan. 17. A team of Japanese soldiers heading to Iraq in the Asian power's most controversial deployment since World War Two flew into Kuwait early on Saturday. REUTERS

their departure. Baucom did not say when this would be.

A small advance team from Japan's air force arrived in Kuwait in late December. They are staying at Ali al-Salem Air Base, south of Camp Virginia.

The main body of about 600 ground troops is expected to set off from Japan later this month. Their mission will be to provide humanitarian aid and help rebuild the country.

Koizumi has effectively staked his career on the dispatch in order to cement ties with Japan's most important security ally, the United States.

The advance party arrives amid a tussle between the United States and Iraq's most powerful cleric over U.S. plans to hand back sovereignty to Iraqis without first holding elections.

VACANCY

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Taiwan referendum seen milder after U.S. concern



Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian (C) greets his supporters at the opening of his campaign headquarters in Taipei on Jan. 17. Chen outlined his plans on Friday for a referendum that has angered China and drawn a blunt warning from the United States, but set ballot issues that were less aggressive than expected. REUTERS

TAIPEI, Jan 17 (Reuters) - Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's toned-down referendum questions are aimed at soothing U.S. concerns and may ease tension with rival China, Taiwan newspaper editorials said on Saturday.

But newspapers were divided on whether the milder ballot issues indicated that Chen, who faces a tough presidential election in two months, was a responsible head of state or if they made the March 20 referendum a waste of time.

"We reserve judgement on whether it's necessary for Taiwan to spend T\$500 million (US\$15 million) on a referendum on issues that have no impact," the mass-circulation China Times said.

Chen has made the referendum a central plank of his re-election campaign.

But China, which considers Taiwan a breakaway province that must be brought back to the fold, by force if necessary, has warned that any referendum

would be seen as a step towards independence that could lead to war.

Chen said on Friday Taiwan voters would be asked two questions — whether the government should buy more anti-missile weapons if China refused to withdraw its missiles pointed at Taiwan, and whether Taipei should open talks with Beijing.

Analysts say he backed off from language that would assert Taiwan sovereignty, after a U.S. warning, issued by President George W. Bush, against upsetting the delicate political status quo with the mainland.

The United States cautiously welcomed Chen's announcement.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told Hong Kong-based Phoenix TV Chen had showed "a little flexibility".

The pro-independence Taiwan Daily praised Chen for addressing U.S. concerns and said he was sending China a "peace overture".

"The two ballot questions eliminate

unnecessary worry for the people before the Lunar New Year, and is a benevolent response to the concerns of the United States, Japan and Europe," it said.

Washington switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979, but remains Taiwan's main arms supplier.

Analysts said the referendum's question on bolstering defence echoed U.S. advice that Taiwan should spend more on security in the wake of an arms build-up on the mainland.

"Taiwan people have extended their olive branch to China, they can't be seen as provocative or trouble-making," said the Liberty Times.

But critics said Chen had diluted his referendum into a meaningless opinion poll.

"He is making a last-ditch effort for re-election. He does not care about how the referendum content has been twisted and how its significance has changed," said the United Daily News.

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سيارة سوزوكي ليانا
وهناك المزيد
تخفيضات هائلة

تسوق وأربح جوائز أسبوعية



تمتع بالتسوق في مركز كريتر سنتر والذي يقع في قلب مدينة عدن وحتوي على تشكيلة واسعة من المحلات التجارية والمميزة ويضم أكثر من (50) محل رائدة في مجال البيع بالتجزئة والتي توفر لكم كل متطلباتكم وبأسعار مغرية أدوات التجميل، العطور، الاكسسوارات، الملابس، الرجالية النسائية، الساعات، النظارات، الإلكترونيات، الاتصالات، الجوال، المنتجات الجلدية، الهدايا واجهزة الكمبيوتر إضافة الى السوبرماركت.

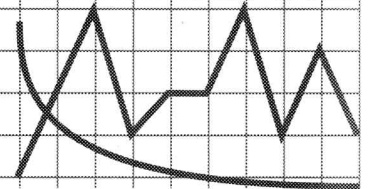
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YT Business



Businessman Mohammed Ahmed Jama'n narrates his life journey

A story of success

Al-Raie Al-A'am International House has honoured Haj Mohammed Ahmed Jama'n, chairman of the board of directors of Jam'm Establishment for Industrial Machines and Equipment for Agriculture. Al-Raie Al-A'am International House annually honours top winners of the House prize for leading personalities in the fields of journalism, literature, art, science, celebrities, pioneers in economy, industry and investment in addition to businessmen in the Arab world.

His potentials, willpower, the expansion of his comprehension and many initiatives, have created the private and general aspects in his life, also contributing to making that was the environment around him including economic and social circumstances. Also what those circumstances have produced of sweet and bitter tastes of life have together contributed to the making of his life. The one who makes history is not like he who writes it, and he who lives the pains and joys resulting from life and its events is not the same as he who hears about them.

When I review five decades of my life in which I placed all that I possess of material and moral potentials, beginning with will and determination for better life and honest living and the positive outcomes that I and my family and sons of the homeland have

achieved, there unfolds before my eyes a long tape of painful images but motivating work and challenge and search for better life and other very

joyful images of what has been achieved through the use of reason and action together and taking well-studied initiatives and calculations. Reason is what God invested the human with distinguishing him from other creatures and the road to success is to employ it in the way accepted by God and satisfying the people and the homeland. This has been the essential impetus in developing the work that extends from the year 1958 till now and by the will of God would be open along the future and that is what I recommend my children and grandchildren; the use of reason, openness and sincerity with God, the homeland and the human.

The first image is that of fourteen years old boy bearing the name of Mohammed Ahmed Jama'n deciding at that age to leave his kind family that was working in farming, to work with his uncle at a restaurant in Aden. No other one than himself can imagine the meaning of leaving the family towards the unknown and what does it mean for this child who did not have anything but his strength and decision to start a better life that he may or may not find. The child was equipped with some education confined to reading and writing acquired at institutes teaching the Koran, without scientific and practical skills except the love of science and knowledge and adventure for realizing a better life for a family living on agriculture with its primitive ways and limited production.

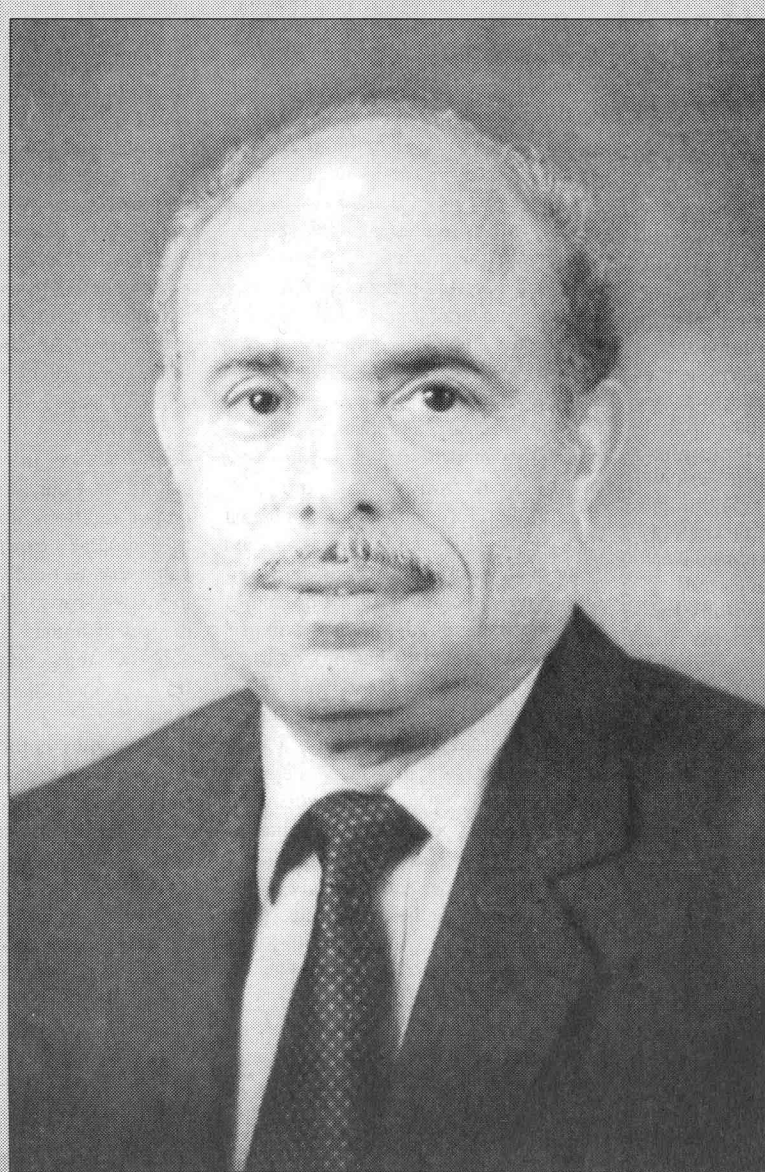
The second image was that of the important commercial port of Aden situated at the communication route with India and world continents and the

activities performed there by Indians, Arabs and Europeans. There was his decision to move to the trade business. He opened a small trade shop selling clothes and other things. It was an indescribable feeling that I lived by moving from working in a restaurant to business where there is dealing with the market and foreign currency; Indian rupees to the sterling pound and rial. From there started the commercial work with the northern part of the homeland where the first announcement of the company began in 1958.

In Aden where the British colonization, merchants of India and Europe and the Arabs, where he moved from a restaurant into commerce, from limited income to open income in the world of commerce, that child-man realized that the market was in need of importing goods from abroad to meet some needs of the market. He hired a translator for his foreign correspondence and started dealing with neighbouring countries and financial dealings with banks. He was among the pioneers who opened credits with foreign companies.

The third image is that of nowadays presenting a work extending for fifty years the strife was the guiding principle, seeking the help of God, the sincere work and serving the country. The other image of his is that he has sons and daughters, educated and graduated from the best universities of the United States of America.

Under sponsorship of SMART Advertising & Promotional Solutions, the business page staff of Yemen Times conducted this interview with this celebrity Yemeni businessman.



Haj Mohammed Ahmed Jama'n

problems which he confronts to deal with them with all his physical and mental potentials.

Q: What are the characteristics of the effective human?

A: Despite his outward simple features, the man was created in this world possessing much power with deep secrets. He keeps a long-term strong strife to catch the means of his living and ensuring his security and protection of himself and family. He tends to tackle overcoming the problems by unleashing his forces with all moments of pride and ignorance that haunt him, sometimes scoring success and failure in others in order to defeat his weakness and soar high with his individual life to the positions discovered by his mind and his soul that is looking for the good.

Q: How can you reconcile self strife and that of nature?

A: Both self and nature strife are not two separate factors. They are rather interconnected and interactive. This leads us in the end to say that the man who encounters the problems is the one who is free in his behaviour and aware of what is god for him with many options open before him. There is no work he may do without being preceded by freedom the individual entertains and uses in reaching resolutions serving his interests and actions. The free man is the one aware of his decisions and evaluating their results, be they positive or negative. The nature of our decisions depends on the extent of our power in taking the conscious and sound determination without ignoring that life has limits and restraints.

Q: Do you assess your success as resulting from your courage and creativity in work?

A: Any boldness leads to progress or produces creativity and success; nevertheless they are not the outcome of only boldness. They should be accompanied by faith, rightful distinction, suitable choice, freedom and creative human effort. Life is a continuous dealing between thought and action and each pushes the other. The wiser the thought was the more creative and accurate the work was.

Q: How did you perceive your future when first embarked on practicing trade?

A: I cannot give you a detailed review of my practical life or present an extensive research of the philosophy of my businesses I had practiced. In short the question has recalled to my mind he many difficulties that intercepted me during my long journey that ultimately ended with an asset of success and fruitful results. I find it my obligation to answer your questions about my business works and the stages they had gone through to be published on pages of your newspaper as I believe that words have role in building societies and to express the many contradictions that life bears and are basically useful lessons open before man new horizons for the future.

Q: Let's begin then a question about your education degree.

A: Concerning my education degree or scientific level, I dare say I am a graduate from the school of life that hat taught me a lot. It is the eternal school on which the community and individuals draw however high they reached and whatever knowledge they have acquired.

Q: What about your life and practical experience?

A: I have a large-scale practical experience in my life and I used to have my unique style on whose guidelines I used to follow the right path and make out of it an impetus drawing for me features of my future. This has led in consequence to motivate my ambition, making it extend and develop. It has worked actively from the inner part of my mind and interacted with mentalities of all those possessing knowledge and experience in business action and that ambition attracted me like a torrent towards in goals.

Q: Ambitions could have negatives as well as positives; could you tell us about ambitions negatives?

A: That's true. This ambition has created a burden in my life due to many factors, I think no one can escape from however keen he was to avoid them. Life is full of surprises, contradictions and burdens. During the course of my practical life I have been faced with many burdens of which I suffered much, among which for instance the attempted desire for leapfrogging.

Q: How could you manage to overcome such desires?

A: I sought the guidance of practical and scientific development to tackle it. I adopted an administrative and financial system and employment of experienced cadres entertaining good scientific and mentality standards which resulted over stages in a better performance.

Q: Is the mentality fruitage the only effective role?

A: Mentality is in the first place. I daresay the one without mind has no knowledge, not that he without knowledge has any brain. Fruitage of brains is associated with human tendencies and hard work and what they imply of ambitious personal intentions aimed for achieving the best. The man can surmount the stages of negatives through learning from mistakes and taking sound stances to push his business and investment activities into the right direction.

Q: In your first experience, how could you form the vision?

A: It has become clear through the self-estimation and channeling it towards ambition. By using organized practical development the vision became clear before me and I could

reach a stabilized conviction and deep faith that despite of various mentalities, those holding specialties, broad knowledge and creative talents can with their sophistication and wisdom can push the businesses they are managing into the right course with utmost accuracy and keenness and with sharp mentality believing in profit and loss.

Q: After you have attained the stage of success in your work, how do you assess it?

A: Economists say success comes out of correct comprehension that usher man to resort to active reason and good planning. The unique talent the man possesses can be a motive pushing us to make ambition we aim at on condition it is directed accurately heading through virtue and taking it as a launching point. Thus the loyalty would be that of principle connected to our values and morals. In this way the honest work is the principle of man as everyday he feels a new creativity culminating his activity and results of his effort. Correct realization begins with distinguishing between the good and the bad. Only in this way the person can feel happiness and taste the real flavor of success he has attained.

Q: What are the stands you believe in?

A: The stands I believe in are not the ones motivating an act beneficial for the present and future if that does not lead us to rise over the level of self-judgment that obliges us to be keen on and protect. Our understanding of the past is not a sole way for gaining awareness about the present or is an easy shortcut. It is rather one way stemming from the effort for recalling the events of the past to the comprehensive thinking that connects between the past and the present then the future. It probes its depths as one event directing man to the attempt to discover the

factors leading the judgment on its aspects and results using the most accurate scales.

Q: What are the results you have achieved?

A: Among results of this endeavor is the learning of facts that are ought to be characterised by distinguished mental, moral and cultural virtues which are the end of the mental effort whose fruitage is represented by the success achieved through this endeavor.

Q: How could you attain success

within the then available culture?

A: The human is not only a reasonable creature, but rather an active worker whose capabilities do not stop at the limit of perception or thinking about what is in his environment or pondering his past and present, rather his abilities are embodied in thinking and them movement and work till his activity becomes a tangible form and his efforts can be of clear impact. Man is the only creature that suffers from the gift of thinking that does not stop at giving only, but transcends sometimes to suffering and facing the multiple

Private sector development, A national responsibility

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of small investors have considered the development of private sector in Yemen as a joint national responsibility and that necessitates heading for encouragement and supporting small enterprises, vocational training and offering loans to small producers.

Minister of industry and trade of Yemen Dr Khalid Rajih has confirmed the necessity of embarking on a project for development and growth of the private sector and creating opportunities of jobs in the bid for alleviating the amount and sharpness of poverty.

At a workshop held for that pur-

pose in Sanafa the minister added that implementing the project must be accomplished with the spirit of a unified team in the way ensuring its continuation and expansion the base of beneficiaries from it in all governorates.

The project includes preliminary activities for development of small enterprises, among which the conducting of a field survey aimed at trading sector, economic structure of medium and small industries and forming the Yemeni working team beside the German team that is carrying out implementation of the project in favour of the private sector.

The project is receiving attention of the Yemeni government with the help of donor parties according to a program aiming at developing productive

skills and the increase of their marketing production.

The program would rehabilitate small enterprises and getting acquainted with volume of their commercial components and the extent of possibility for developing to increase national exports and developing national income from non-oil sources.

Owners of medium and small industries ascribe the recession of their products in the Yemeni market to the intensive competition before them in imported food and other commodities. Those demand for not flooding the local market with imported goods which are of low grade in quality, specifications and standardizations and also of low prices. Those factors would expose their goods to be unsaleable and cause them losses.

I believe in conspiracies

BY JOHN LAUGHLAND
FOR THE SPECTATOR

Believing in conspiracy theories is rather like having been to a grammar school: both are rather socially awkward to admit. Although I once sat next to a sister-in-law of the Duke of Norfolk who agreed that you can't believe everything you read in the newspapers, conspiracy theories are generally considered a rather repellent form of intellectual low-life, and their theorists rightfully the object of scorn and snobbery. Writing in the Daily Mail last week, the columnist Melanie Phillips even attacked conspiracy theories as the consequence of a special pathology, of the collapse in religious belief, and of a 'descent into the irrational'. The implication is that those who oppose 'the West', or who think that governments are secretive and dishonest, might need psychiatric treatment.

In fact, it is the other way round. British and American foreign policy is itself based on a series of highly improbable conspiracy theories, the biggest of which is that an evil Saudi millionaire genius in a cave in the Hindu Kush controls a secret worldwide network of 'tens of thousands of terrorists' in more than 60 countries (George Bush). News reports frequently tell us that terrorist organisations, such as those which have attacked Bali or Istanbul, have 'links' to al-Qa'eda, but we never learn quite what those 'links' are. According to two terrorism experts in California, Adam Dolnik and Kimberly McCloud, this is because they do not exist. 'In the quest to define the enemy, the US and its allies have helped to blow al-Qa'eda out of proportion,' they write. They argue that the name 'al-Qa'eda' was invented in the West to designate what is, in reality, a highly disparate collection of otherwise independent groups with no central command structure and not even a logo. They claim that some terrorist organisations say they are affiliated to bin Laden simply to gain kudos and name-

recognition for their entirely local grievances.

By the same token, the US-led invasion of Iraq was based on a fantasy that Saddam Hussein was in, or might one day enter into, a conspiracy with Osama bin Laden. This is as verifiable as the claim that MI6 used mind control to make Henri Paul crash Princess Diana's car into the 13th pillar of the tunnel under the Place de l'Alma. With similar mystic gnosism, Donald Rumsfeld has alleged that the failure to find 'weapons of mass distraction', as Tony Blair likes to call them, shows that they once existed but were destroyed. Indeed, London and Washington have shamelessly exploited people's fear of the unknown to get public opinion to believe their claim that Iraq had masses of anthrax and botulism. This played on a deep and ancient seam of fear about poison conspiracies which, in the Middle Ages, led to pogroms against Jews. And yet it is the anti-war people who continue to be branded paranoid, even though the British Prime Minister himself, his eyes staring wildly, said in September 2002, 'Saddam has got all these weapons ...and they're pointing at us!'

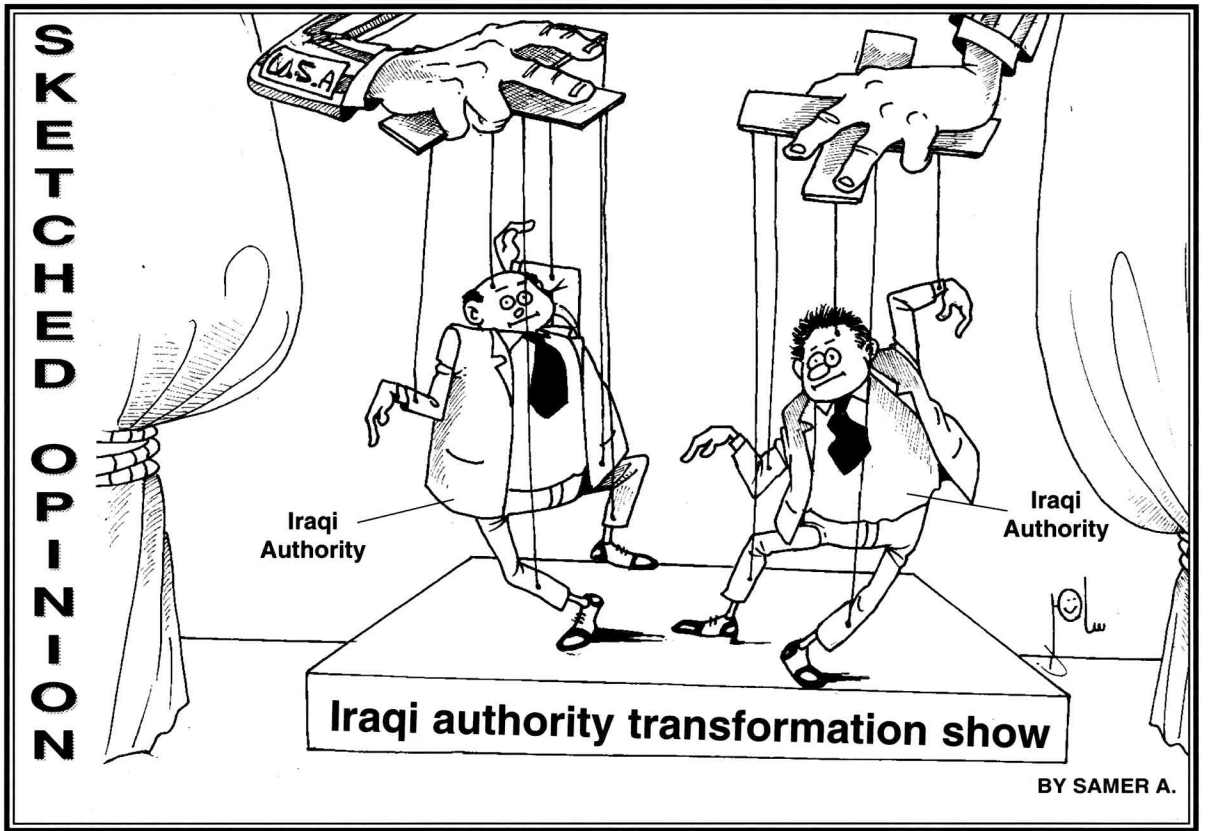
In contrast to such imaginings, it is perfectly reasonable to raise questions about the power of the secret services and armed forces of the world's most powerful states, especially those of the USA. These are not 'theories' at all: they are based on fact. The Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Office of Naval Intelligence, the National Reconnaissance Office, the Defense Intelligence Agency and other US secret services spend more than \$20,000,000,000 a year on espionage and covert operations. Do opponents of conspiracy theories think that this money is given to the Langley, Virginia Cats' Home? It would also be churlish to deny that the American military industry plays a very major role in the economics and politics of the US. Every day at 5 p.m., the Pentagon announces hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts to arms manufacturers all over America — click on the

Department of Defense's website for details — who in turn peddle influence through donations to politicians and opinion-formers.

It is also odd that opponents of conspiracy theories often allow that conspiracies have occurred in the past, but refuse to contemplate their existence in the present. For some reason, you are bordering on the bonkers if you wonder about the truth behind events like 9/11, when it is established as fact that in 1962 the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Lyman L. Lemnitzer, tried to convince President Kennedy to authorise an attack on John Glenn's rocket, or on a US navy vessel, to provide a pretext for invading Cuba. Two years later, a similar strategy was deployed in the faked Gulf of Tonkin incident, when US engagement in Vietnam was justified in the light of the false allegation that the North Vietnamese had launched an unprovoked attack on a US destroyer. Are such tactics confined to history? Paul O'Neill, George Bush's former Treasury Secretary, has just revealed that the White House decided to get rid of Saddam eight months before 9/11.

Indeed, one ought to speak of a 'conspiracy of silence' about the role of secret services in politics. This is especially true of the events in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It is the height of irresponsibility to discuss the post-communist transition without extensive reference to the role of the spooks, yet our media stick doggedly to the myth that their role is irrelevant. During the overthrow of the Georgian president, Eduard Shevardnadze, on 22 November 2003, the world's news outlets peddled a wonderful fairy-tale about a spontaneous uprising — 'the revolution of roses', CNN shockingly dubbed it — even though all the key actors have subsequently bragged that they were covertly funded and organised by the US.

Similarly, it is a matter of public record that the Americans pumped at least \$100 million into Serbia in order to get rid of Slobodan Milosevic in 2000, and huge sums in the years before. (An election in



Britain, whose population is eight times bigger than Yugoslavia's, costs about two thirds of this.) This money was used to fund and equip the Kosovo Liberation Army; to stuff international observer missions in Kosovo with hundreds of military intelligence officers; to pay off the opposition and the so-called 'independent' media; and to buy heavily-armed Mafia gangsters to come and smash up central Belgrade, so that the world's cameras could show a 'people's revolution'.

At every stage, the covert aid and organisation provided by the US and British intelligence agencies were decisive, as they had been on many occasions before and since, all over the world. Yet for some reason, it is acceptable to say, 'The CIA organised the overthrow of Prime Minister Mossadeq in Iran in 1953', but not that it did it again in Belgrade in 2000 or Tbilisi in 2003. And in spite of the well-known subterfuge and deception practised, for instance, in the Iran-Contra scandal in the mid-1980s, people experience an enormous psychological reluctance to accept that the British and American governments knowingly lied us into war in 2002 and 2003. To be sure, some conspiracy theories may be outlandish or wrong. But it seems to me that anyone who refuses to make simple empirical deductions ought to have his head examined.

A taste of our own poison

BY LAWRENCE LESSIG
FOR WIRED MAGAZINE

When America was poor, its citizens "stole." We took the intellectual property of Dickens and other foreign artists without paying for it. We didn't call it stealing, but they did. We called it a sensible way for a developing nation to develop. Eventually, we saw it was better to protect their rights as well as ours — better because we had rights to protect elsewhere, too. But we only imposed this burden on ourselves when it made sense to do so. Until 1891, we were a pirate nation.

Things have changed. Now that we're the world's leading exporter of intellectual property, we're also the most self-righteous about the importance of protecting it globally. Indeed, we can be vicious in our self-righteousness — threatening trade wars with developing nations for the crime of being just like us. Recently, through a series of trade agreements, we have demanded stricter protection for intellectual property internationally than US law would allow domestically. (Fair use, for example, is mandated by our constitution but invisible in these agreements.)

This push to protect intellectual property is defended as just one aspect of free trade — the aspect that benefits Hollywood. Since Adam Smith penned *The Wealth of Nations*, we've understood that borders are best when opened and when property from one country is respected in another. Free trade so enabled is the promised elixir for the woes of developing nations. Open your borders, protect property rights, and prosperity, the Smithies say, will quickly follow.

The dirty little secret, however, is that we don't respect the free trade rules that we impose on others. While the US sings the virtues of free trade to defend maximalist intellectual property regulation, we poison the free trade that developing nations care about most — agriculture — by subsidizing farming in the industrialized world to the tune of \$300 billion annually. Rhetoric about family farmers aside, most of that money passes quickly to agribusiness. This is not Adam Smith; it is corporate welfare par excellence.

There's little developing nations can do about this — individually. But increasingly they are acting together. One group recently walked out of trade talks

because agribusiness subsidies were not on the table. Others are openly discussing ways to get US attention.

What developing nations need is better lobbyists. In particular, advocates as persuasive as Hollywood's lobbyists, who've managed to defend the entertainment industry's intellectual property rights extremely well. Here's one way to get power (or the Man) on their side.

A block of powerful developing nations should first take a page from the US Copyright Act of 1790 and enact national laws that explicitly protect their own rights only. It would not protect foreigners. Second, these nations should add a provision that would relax this exemption to the extent that developed nations really opened their borders. If we reduce, for example, the subsidy to agribusiness by 10 percent, then they would permit 10 percent of our copyrights to be enforced (say, copyrights from the period 1923 to 1931). Reduce the subsidy by another 10 percent, then another 10 percent could be enforced. And so on.

The mechanism is clumsy, but the message is clear: Both the subsidy of agribusiness and the subsidy of local culture and science violate the principles of free trade by ignoring American intellectual property laws. Both violations are bad. But the two bads should be resolved together. Indeed, if anything, American subsidies should be ended first. The actual loss to US firms from piracy worldwide is not terribly high — if "actual loss" means the amount Americans would get if the piracy ended. (Would Microsoft be better off if China ended its piracy of Windows and instead used GNU/Linux — the only OS they could then afford?) But when crops grown by farmers in Peru rot in the field because the US House of Representatives cares more about agribusinesses than about Adam Smith, then there is real harm. The resentment and anger at this American hypocrisy festers as poisonously as moldering crops in the hot sun.

Of course, this solution won't work unless enough developing nations join together. But if they do, their message will have meaning. A principle is a principle. And a content industry keen to defend its "property" on the basis of that principle would then have an interest in defending principle more generally.

The world is already skeptical enough about Adam Smith's magic. Throwing hypocrisy into the bargain can't help.

of-war decisively in favor of the latter. The "caucus" farce Bremer unsuccessfully tried to impose on the Iraqis is a desperate attempt to stave off this result, at least temporarily, and subordinate the Shia majority to a multi-cultural "federal" entity presided over by American and British overseers, a Potemkin Village of Middle Eastern "democracy," neocon-style.

The revolt of the Shi'ites threatens to upend the decorative façade of the New Iraq, elaborately painted by the War Party's public relations flacks both in and out of government. The whole edifice is slated to come crashing down just as the curtain opens on "Race for the White House, 2004." It serves the Grand Old Party right (not that the Democrats

would have done it any differently). They sold their souls to the neocons, who then sold the White House a bill of goods labeled "Weapons of Mass Destruction," and "Niger Uranium," outing CIA agents and smearing their enemies as traitors. Now let the Republicans suffer the consequences of their Faustian bargain.

What is happening today in Iraq is proof positive of Joshua Marshall's fascinating thesis, that the whole idea behind the neocons' postwar plan for Iraq is that there wasn't one. As the sub-head of his *Washington Monthly* piece put it:

"Chaos in the Middle East is not the Bush hawks' nightmare scenario — it's their plan."

A giant awakens

Iraq's Shi'ites are on the march

BY JUSTIN RAIMONDO
FOR ANTIWAR.COM

As they gathered in the southern city of Basra, the cry went up from the crowd of tens of thousands:

"No, no to America! Yes, yes to al-Sistani!"

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Hussein al-Sistani, the leader of Iraq's Shi'ites, isn't happy about the Coalition Provisional Authority plan to hold provincial "caucuses" of their hand-picked stooges, who would then organize a government. Last summer the Ayatollah, spiritual leader of Iraq's 60-70% majority Shi'ites, issued a fatwa calling for direct, democratic elections to a constituent assembly, torpedoing an American scheme to write a Constitution first. Imperial proconsul Paul Bremer then came up with his caucus plan, which is now effectively blocked by the Ayatollah's veto.

Undeterred by prudence, Bremer is now launching a campaign to get Sistani to change his mind, mobilizing his amen corner in the Iraqi Governing Council and even pushing Kofi Annan to lobby for the caucus plan. Annan has cited numerous "experts," who all claim that a census couldn't possibly be taken in time, the security situation is too tenuous, and giving half a dozen other reasons why the "liberation" of Iraq just can't mean one person, one vote.

So let's see if I get this straight: the U.S., which went to war to export "democracy" to Iraq (and the entire Middle East), in defiance of the UN, is telling the Iraqis that they aren't ready for self-government — and is now seeking the UN Secretary General's imprimatur for what amounts to a policy of brazen imperialism. Instead of elections, a series of elite "caucus" meetings will be held, in which the neocons, er, um, I mean, the Americans, handpick the voters — and predetermine the results.

Some "liberation"!

This malarkey about the lack of a reliable census is laughable. The Americans refused to cooperate with a plan by the Iraqis to take a census: Nuha Yousef, the Iraqi census director, guaranteed a count by December. But, as the New York Times reported, the occupation authorities nixed the plan. CPA spokesman Charles Heatly opined:

"Rushing into a census in this time frame with the security environment that we have would not give the result that people want."

Translated into plain English, what Heatly means is that a direct election would yield results that certain people in Washington don't want. And we can't have that!

It would be funny, but for the tragedy of it: here we have the pretend-"liberators" of Iraq, preening and posturing as the great teachers of democratic governance, being taught a lesson in the real meaning of the principles they supposedly espouse.

For comic relief, we have the "Iraqi Governing Council," appointed by Imperial Viceroy Bremer, whose role in all this is to make themselves look like sock-puppets at a carnival show. As the Times reported:

"Informed of the [census] proposal this week, several members of the governing council who advocated a direct national ballot next June 30 said they were upset that they had not seen it. The Census Bureau said it had delivered the plan to the Governing Council on Nov. 1, but apparently it was lost in the bureaucracy."

Ooohs! Sorry about that. I guess this just means the elections will have to be delayed for sometime in the indefinite future, oh, say around 2005. But I wouldn't count on it. By that time, if this keeps up, the insurgency will have the members of the "Governing Council" on a deck of cards, and on the run. Iraq's Shi'ite majority is on the march — and this means big trouble for the occupiers. So far, the Shi'ites have stood on the

sidelines, waiting for the chance to take advantage of their majority status and impose an Islamic "republic" on the rest of the country. Centered in the south, which has not seen, up until now, the kind of guerrilla violence that regularly erupts in the infamous "Sunni Triangle," such groups as the pro-Iranian Badr Brigade and the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), have been patient, and so far refrained from violence — except against Christian merchants who sell alcohol and other un-Islamic consumer items. The occupiers, up to this point, have had no serious trouble from SCIRI and allied groups. That could change rapidly, and dramatically, as the Ayatollah Sistani has pointed out, if the Americans insist on their caucus plan.

In a Sunday meeting with Sistani, American officials and their Iraqi protégés ran up against a brick wall. The Ayatollah is holding fast to his demands that a direct election be held — and that the provisional government which results should have the power to rule on the question of a continuing U.S. military presence. And his position has popular support.

Sistani scotched an earlier move for a made-in-the-USA Constitution, and the Americans, for all their firepower, can't stop him from sabotaging this one. Their neat plan to hand over fake "sovereignty" to their favored collaborators on July 1, all the while settling comfortably into permanent military bases on Iraqi soil, is running into some serious problems, even as the insurgency reaches into the previously peaceful Shi'ite south.

Short of pulverizing the country, or sending all the Ayatollahs off to Guantanamo — neither of which is an option — Bremer is stymied, and that's why he's counting on the United Nations and the Arab League to give the American plan at least a modicum of legitimacy.

Yes, that's right, the UN! You remember those guys, a supposedly "anti-American" assembly of ingrates and

Yemen's capital Sana'a unchanged by test of time

BY MIRAL FAHMY

Nestled in the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula is a city where time seems to have stood still.

Sana'a, capital of the Arab state of Yemen, is home to unique mud-brick architecture and over a million inhabitants who still cherish their forebears' customs — an island of tradition in a region where western influences have become the norm.

The contrast is greatest when Sana'a is compared with the capital cities of its wealthy Gulf Arab neighbours, with their glittering skyscrapers, wide boulevards and shopping malls.

"Sana'a is an open-air museum," said Italian Marco Livadiotti, who has lived in the city since 1960 and is now a heritage consultant who runs one of the country's biggest and oldest tour operators.

"It is like Venice, a place whose history is an integral part of its present and future. It's a very special place."

Historians say Sana'a's ancient quarter, declared a world heritage site by the United Nations, is one of the best-preserved Arab medinas or cities in the world.

Some of the buildings in the walled area are 1,000 years old and its residents go about their daily lives in much the same way as they have done for hundreds of years.

Once through the main entrance, known as the Bab or Gate of Yemen, vis-

itors feel they have slipped into the past.

The area remains the city's main souk or market where men in colourful sarongs, daggers strapped to their waists, hawk the frankincense and myrrh that Yemen once exported to the world.

The souk is still divided into specialised districts, with tiny shops clustered together along cobbled alleyways selling everything from coffee, spices and silver to modern necessities such as mobile telephones and electronic appliances.

"Every one that passed through Yemen passed through here and left something behind so it's got everything," said 11-year-old Mohammed, who takes visitors around the area after school.

Most of Sana'a's residents come from conservative tribes located in the mountains that loom over the city and women still dress in tie-dyed robes that reveal only the eyes.

Old Sana'a is currently undergoing a state-sponsored restoration of the caravanserai hotels and homes that are built from clay in keeping with centuries-old traditions. Almost all buildings boast elaborate, stained-glass windows known as kamariyat in reference to their half-moon shape.

Hammams or communal bathhouses also abound in the city and many are still operational. Most districts have their own garden where sheep graze and women cultivate salad vegetables.

When Sana'a became the capital of the Republic of Yemen in 1962, it was a city

of lush fields and some 34,000 inhabitants.

Rather than espouse modern traditions, Sana'anites chose to expand the city in the same style as before but with modern twists such as satellite dishes and air conditioning.

Sana'a's tallest buildings are about nine-storeys high and only a few along the downtown Tahrir square are the squat concrete and aluminium structures common in most Arab cities.

Living history

Sana'a's relatively unspoiled splendour makes a walk in the city akin to a history lesson.

According to Yemeni lore, Sana'a is one of the oldest sites of human settlement and was founded by Noah's son Shem.

Legend has it that Shem travelled down the Arabian peninsula until a bird took the lead of his horse and dropped it when he reached a fertile plain ringed by mountains. He then laid the foundations of Sana'a, which means a fortified city.

Inscriptions from the first century AD refer to Sana'a as an important post along the ancient trade routes between Africa and Asia. It served as the capital for several Himyarite kings as well as the Ethiopian and Persian conquerors of Yemen in the fourth and fifth centuries.

Some buildings still bear the Star of David, a testament to the city's once vibrant Jewish community. The Jews were once the city's powerful merchants until a 1950 exodus to Israel took most of them away. Only 200 Jews remain in



According to Yemeni lore, Sana'a is one of the oldest sites of human settlement and was founded by Noah's son Shem.

Yemen, living on the outskirts of Sana'a.

Sana'a is one of Yemen's biggest attractions, but fears of militant attacks and kidnappings by disgruntled tribesmen have kept the tourists and their much-needed cash away.

Yemen is the ancestral home of

Osama bin Laden and the government has launched a huge crackdown on his al Qaeda network in an attempt to clean up its image as a haven for militants.

Despite the tighter security measures, shootings and stabbings are not uncommon. Policemen often accompany the

few tourists who brave the old city.

"It's a shame Sana'a is still seen as unsafe," said Ahmed Haj, who sells silver daggers in the souk. "We live in the cradle of one of the oldest civilisations in the world yet nobody visits us to appreciate it."

Reuters

Children Drawing Festival in Taiz:-

Children portray their dreams

BY IMAD AL-SAQQAF
Y T BUREAU CHIEF
TAIZ & HODIEDAH

Taiz- Under the sponsorship of the Taiz governor, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah al-Hajri, the Al-Saeed Foundation for Culture & Sciences concluded its child festival activities on drawing titled "Children Portray Their Dreams" in Taiz on January 15.

The Children Drawing Festival started on January 4. The festival was financed by the General Industry & Packaging Company, (Konouz) and attended by the general directors of the executive offices at the governorate and Mr. Faisal Saeed Fara'e, the General Manager of Al-Saeed Foundation for Culture & Sciences. The Children Drawing Festival is considered to be the first of its kind at the national level which has been recently hosted by the Al-Saeed Foundation for Culture & Sciences.

It is an exceptional annual child-related event in a time in which Sana'a has been declared as the 2004 Arab Culture Capital and Taiz is the Yemen's tourist and culture capital. The children drawing fair was a clear testimony of children's genius to express their feelings freely through those drawings their dreams, their existing reality, as well as interweave their abstract ideas into tangible por-

traits.

Discovering talents During the closing ceremony, a number of speeches were delivered and among those speeches was by the General Manager of the Al-Saeed Foundation for Culture & Sciences, Mr. Faisal Saeed Fara'e. In his speech, Mr. Fara'e welcomed the chief guests, media men, attendees and said that crowning such progress with the world of childhood and dream was a humble endeavor from his foundation in order to draw a smile on the childhood visage.

"Honoring them might have left a wonderful impression upon them which will in turn motivate those budding talents to continue their progress in order to polish their intellectual talents," the General Manager of the Al-Saeed Foundation for Culture & Sciences remarked. In his speech, Mr. Fara'e expressed his hope that the discovery of talents would not end in such activity where both the foundation as well as children talented have taken part.

"This is because those promising budding talents are in dire need to polish that valuable gem which is lodged in their inner selves. This can not be achieved through taking an interest by the people to such child-related events," Mr. Faisal said. "The achievement has been great and it has been achieved through mobilizing efforts made by the General Industry

& Packaging Company which has believed in the child's dreams and supported the idea with everything it has. This manifests itself by its General Manager, Mr. Faez Saeed Abdul Saeed," Mr. Fara'e noted.

The General Manager of the Al-Saeed Foundation for Culture & Science highly spoke of efforts made by the Education Office affiliated to the Taiz governorate for playing a pivotal role in supporting the Children Drawing Festival.

The General Manager of the Al-Saeed Foundation for Culture & Sciences has highly appreciated the role of the media means in this regard which has in turn taken part and published about the children-related events. He also expressed his deep thanks and admiration to Mr. Ahmed Abdullah al-Hajri, the Taiz governor and the Chairman of the Local Council for sponsoring such events as well as Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed and Mr. Ahmed Hael Saeed, top businessmen affiliated to the Hael Saeed Ana'am Group of companies.

Child's credibility conveyed On his part, Mr. Abdullah Abdul Saeed delivered a speech on behalf of Al-Saeed Foundation Board of Directors expressed his deep gratitude for the active role played by the Taiz governor for making the Children Drawing Festival a great success through his continuous sponsorship.

"We are delighted and happy to celebrate creativities of our budding talents and as a result, 26 of those children who have made a distinguished work have been honored.

The foundation has selected this activity in order to inaugurate its 2004 Exceptional Program which is aptly chosen," Mr. Abdullah Saeed said. "Through their drawing and portraits which have embodied their dreams and ambitions, children have made us to stop before their portraits with high esteem.

This is because, their portraits express their innocence and credibility of their feelings in a beautiful technical style," he noted. He also expressed his happiness for honoring the young talents because, they constitute the first seeds and hoped for

such child-related events to be followed in different form of arts such as, literature, poetry, theatre, and culture.

Priorities in such fields should be given by the education ministry in order to create young generation which possess multifarious talents in the Yemen's cultural arena.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Abdullah Abdul Saeed congratulated the budding talented winners in drawings. He also expressed his deep thanks to the General Industry &



The panel (L-R) Mr. Faez Saeed A. Saeed, Mr. Abdullah Abdul Saeed, Mr. Ahmed A. al-Hajri, & Mr. Faisal S. Fara'e. The photo views the governor honoring one of the children



Attendees of child activities festival



Al-Saeed Foundation honoring Yemen Times Est.

reconsider their matter," he said.

As for letters received by the governor regarding the high cost of living where a meeting was held with the local council. In the meeting, a number of decisions and recommendations were made and lodged to the cabinet for discussion. Mr. al-Hajri in his speech indicated that the children's portraits signify a real dream of the city to be clean and tranquil.

"This has helped a lot to increase our determination to adopt exceptional procedures and steps to launch tree-planting campaign in the city and preserving its our environment at the level of the city.

"We hope for the children's dreams to come true and we found that children themselves have been preoccupied with the nation's issues.

We found that the children's portraits convey symbolic connotations for the Palestinian resistance and the

Zionist obstinacy and the US superciliousness. "We hope that the elderly people have to abate our children's worries and concerns.

We think that our children are not young. They are the elder ones and this is the only hope we have to pin on. We could also become conscious for the children's portraits to transmit bad the parents' habits such as, smoking and chewing Qat," the governor commented. During the closing ceremony, the top budding talents in the field of drawing were honored as well as a number of distinguished media means which have played a significant role in supporting the Children Drawing Festival were also honored at the presence of the Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri, the Taiz governor and Mr. Faisal Saeed Fara'e, the General Manager of the Al-Saeed Foundation for Culture & Sciences and Mr. Abdullah Abdul Saeed.

Yemen Times Establishment for Press, Printing and Publication was honored during the closing ceremony. On its part, cash prizes were distributed to the top children winners in drawing by the Development & Family Magazine published by the Yemen Times for Press, Printing, and Publication.

Calendar 2004



شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة عدن National Cigarettes & Matches Industry Ltd-Aden



January

FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
2	1					
9	8	7	6	5	4	3
16	15	14	13	12	11	10
23	22	21	20	19	18	17
30	29	28	27	26	25	24
						31

February

FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
6	5	4	3	2	1	
13	12	11	10	9	8	7
20	19	18	17	16	15	14
27	26	25	24	23	22	21
					29	28

March

FRI	THU	WED	TUE	MON	SUN	SAT
5	4	3	2	1		
12	11	10	9	8	7	6
19	18	17	16	15	14	13
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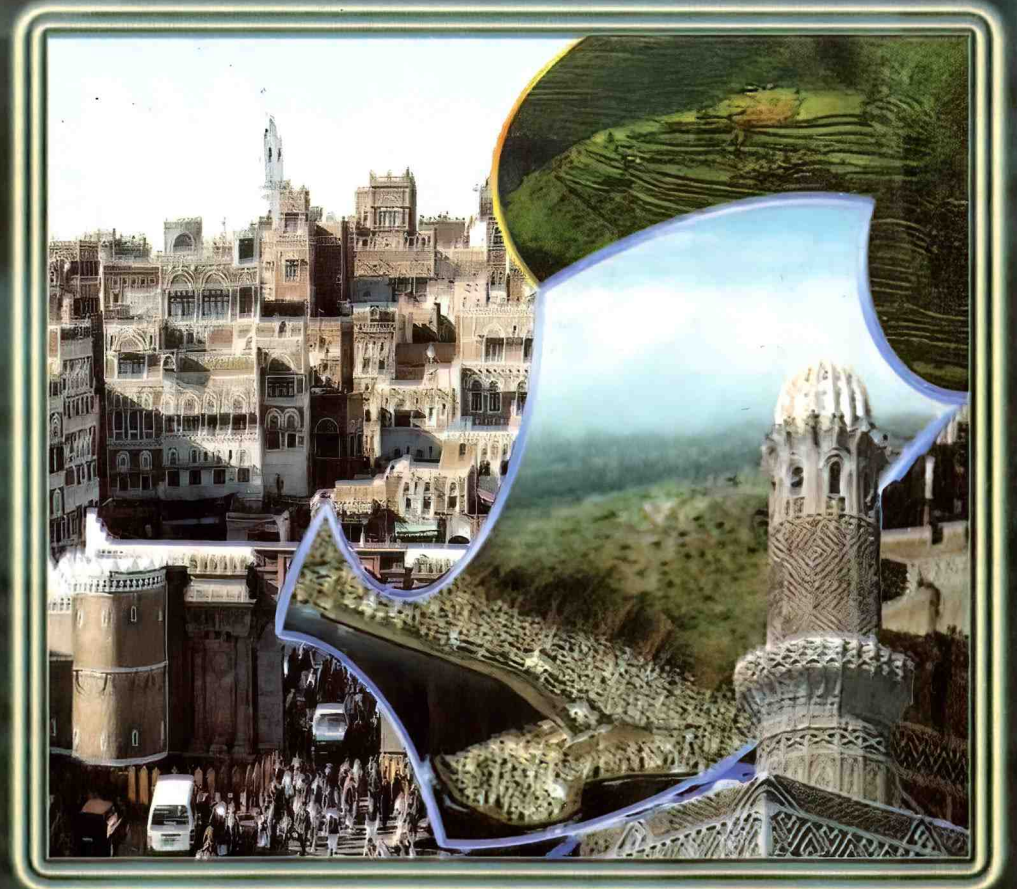
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فلتر الصناعة الوطنية

2004

صنعاء عاصمة الثقافة العربية

World record holder in positive drug test

BY GENE CHERRY

RALEIGH, North Carolina (Reuters) - World indoor 1,500-metre record holder Regina Jacobs, 40, has tested positive for the previously undetectable steroid tetrahydrogestrinone (THG), the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) has announced.

The committee also said on Friday that Sydney Olympics 4x400 metres relay gold medallist Calvin Harrison had tested positive for the stimulant modafinil.

Both positives came at June's U.S. championships in Stanford, California, and both athletes are disputing their cases, the USOC said.

On Tuesday, U.S. women's hammer champion Melissa Price became the fourth American track and field athlete to test positive for THG.

Britain's European 100 meters champion Dwain Chambers has also tested positive for the steroid.

Price is married to British shot putter Carl Myerscough, who has served a two-year ban for failing a drugs test.

Discovery of THG has touched off an international doping scandal that has involved not only track and field, but U.S. professional baseball and football.

A federal jury is investigating the BALCO laboratory in San Francisco which the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency believes to be the source of THG.

Jacobs set the world indoor record of 3:59.98 last February and a month later won the 1,500-metre title at the world indoor championships in England.



World indoor 1,500-metre record holder Regina Jacobs, 40, has tested positive for the previously undetectable steroid tetrahydrogestrinone (THG), the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) has announced. Jacobs of the U.S. celebrates winning the 1500 Metres final at the 2003 World Indoor Athletics Championships in Birmingham in March 2003. REUTERS/Yves Herman

She would face a two-year ban if her positive is upheld but her lawyer Edward Williams has denied the athlete knowingly took banned substances.

Harrison admitted in October he had testified positive for modafinil, saying he had been told by a coach who gave him it that it would keep him from getting too fatigued.

World 100 and 200 metre champion Kelli White also tested positive for the stimulant. Her case is under review and she could be stripped of her titles.

White has said she was prescribed modafinil to treat a sleep disorder.

Nalbandian shocks Agassi

BY OSSIAN SHINE

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - David Nalbandian shocked Andre Agassi in the final of the Kooyong International, denying the American a fourth title here in five years.

The Argentine was solid throughout his 6-2 6-3 victory, never allowing Agassi to get a grip on the match and thoroughly deserving the win.

Three times in the last four years Agassi has lifted the cup in Kooyong and on each occasion he has gone on to win the Australian Open.

This time, the Open champion will begin the defence of his crown next week with a defeat blotting his 2004 record.

"Sorry, I couldn't give a better final," Agassi told the crowd. "I could only manage five games...it was a tough day that's for sure.

"There's no question I felt pretty good. There was nothing to complain about except my opponent.

"Give him the full credit for playing a great match. He did a lot of things really well," the American told reporters.

"He played well on the big points, he came up with some great shots. I found myself appreciating his shots quite a bit out there.

"Today is a good example of how hard it is to win out here...today I came off worse."

Real boost

For Nalbandian, who beat world



David Nalbandian (L) from Argentina holds the trophy as he stands next to Andre Agassi from the U.S. after the final of the Kooyong International tennis tournament in Melbourne on Saturday. Nalbandian won the match and tournament 6-2 6-3. REUTERS/David Gray

number one Andy Roddick here on Friday, the victory is a real boost ahead of next week's slam.

"Andre is a great player...I played really well today. Not every day you can beat an incredible, unbelievable player like this.

"Well, I think it was important to play these matches against these players...I am feeling very, very good at the moment and I hope to continue like this the next two weeks."

Agassi certainly rates the Argentine's chances.

"Movement is the biggest weapon in tennis and he moves really well," Agassi said. "He strikes the ball very cleanly with a lot of control.

"He counter-punches well and can do a lot with the ball. He has plenty of weapons to win.

"He has a great fighting heart and mind and that is going to be a problem for anybody.

"This might be his best surface. He is very versatile...he is a workman and is prepared to go out there in all conditions. I think he can beat anybody on this surface, no question."

But Agassi reflected on a solid week on the Rebound Ace hard court of Kooyong and said he was ready to hit the ground running on the same surface at Melbourne Park.

"I know that I've done my work and now it is time to play."

BARAKANI برکاني

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a								Aden							
Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hi	24	24	24	26	26	26	26	Hi	32	29	30	30	31	31	31
Lo	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	Lo	21	21	22	22	19	19	19

GARFIELD

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OH, THE PAIN OF IT ALL!

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LITERALLY

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THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**
Business trips will pay off, and talking to people with different lifestyles will give you some ingenious ideas. You will drum up all sorts of financial interest.
- Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**
You can get ahead if you do a little extra running around. Lend a helping hand to a group you believe in or to friends, relatives or a neighbor in need.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**
Don't be fooled by a high-priced investment or group asking for a large donation. An older relative may become your responsibility. Be careful not to promise more than you can handle.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
Don't leave money matters to chance. Refrain from going to stores that are just too tempting for you. Don't take on other people's responsibilities.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**
Work on any relationship issues that have been bothering you. If you are single, accept a blind date. Romance is apparent if you play your cards right.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
Emotional matters will escalate if you are involved in a partnership. Today it will be impossible to steer clear of emotional issues, so face facts and accept change.
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**
Put everything you have into your job or on self-improvement. You should be able to approach someone in a higher position than you for help.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
Don't let anyone sidetrack you today. Keep your intentions to yourself for now and focus on the little extras you can implement into your plans. Don't push your luck with an authority figure.
- Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**
You should get some interest in a project you are working on. An opportunity to meet someone who can make an important impact on your life is present. Romance can be yours.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
You will attract attention today. Partnership can begin if you want to share a business plan that you have been mulling over. Don't use your own money.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**
Don't take on something that you know you can't complete. You are likely to have trouble with someone you are close to or live with. Try to compromise.
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**
You may be put in an awkward position, especially if someone you are close to wants to borrow money. Be firm and offer advice — not your hard-earned cash. This is not the day to trust others.

2004 YEMEN TIMES

مسابقة صنعاء الثقافية

الفائز الأول 1,000,000
الفائز الثاني 500,000
الفائز الثالث 250,000
الفائز الرابع 150,000
الفائز الخامس 100,000

بالإضافة الى العديد من الجوائز العينية

برعاية الشركات التالية :

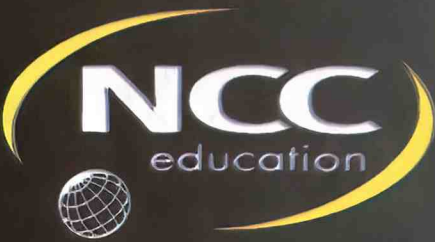
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كوبون اسئلة وض (١١)

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

- ١/ مشروب الطاقة والحيوية باورهورس يحتوي على عدة مواد منشطة وفيتامينات منها الكافين ويوجد بنسبة : ٣٢ ملغ أم ٣٠ ملغ أم ٦٠ ملغ ؟
٢/ عبوة مشروب الطاقة والحيوية باورهورس تحتوي على ٢٥٠ مل أم ١٥٠ مل أم ٣٠٠ مل ؟
٣/ اذكر أسماء ثلاثة أبواب لصنعاء القديمة ؟
٤/ ما هو الحدث الهام الذي شهدته العاصمة صنعاء مؤخراً والذي شارك فيه ستمائة وفد من مختلف دول العالم ؟
٥/ أين يقع جسر شهارة ؟

للمشاركة اقرأ التفاصيل:

على الراغبين في المشاركة في مسابقة الملايين الكبرى ٢٠٠٤ تعبئة المعلومات الشخصية في الكوبون المرفق وقص الكوبون ومن ثم عليهم ترقيب عدد الخيس 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 لمدة أشهر ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشارك باكثر من كوبون، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقا، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركين الاتصال بالصحيفة على ٢٦٨٦٦١ (٠١) في أوقات الدوام. حظاً موفقاً للجميع.....

المصداقية هي شعارنا، ونفتكم هي غابتنا، شاركو وترقبوا اسماعكم من بين الفائزين.....

للمشاركة عليكم الاجابة عن الاسئلة اعلاه في كوبون الاجابات
في عدد يوم الخميس القادم وإرسال الكوبونين إلى الصحيفة

Computer section featuring 'NOTEBOOK' and 'PC' ads with specifications and prices.

Computer section featuring 'Information Technology Experts' and 'YEMEN SOFT' logo.

Stationeries section featuring 'MAKTABATI STATIONERY' and 'مكتبتني'.

Bank section featuring 'Wafai Bank' and 'WB' logo.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'ADHBAN TRAVELS' and 'The one stop travel shop'.

Stationeries section featuring 'Al-Zahra Stationery' and 'مكتبة الزهراء'.

Cargo section featuring 'Al-Nasim Cargo' and 'ADHBAN'.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'ADHBAN TRAVELS' and 'عذبان للسفريات'.

Stationeries section featuring 'TEHAMA FOR STATIONERY' and 'تھامة للمكتبيات'.

Cargo section featuring 'ADHBAN' and 'CARGO SERVICES'.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'Attention!' and 'ADHBAN TRAVELS'.

Stationeries section featuring 'AL-FALAK' and 'الفلك لمستلزمات الكمبيوتر'.

Cargo section featuring 'ADHBAN' and 'CARGO SERVICES'.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'FOR YOU & FOR YOUR BABY' and 'center'.

Stationeries section featuring 'IMPORTANT Numbers' and 'Per line, Per year \$300 Only'.

Cargo section featuring 'ADHBAN' and 'CARGO SERVICES'.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'معرض النفيس' and 'NAFEES EXHIBITION'.

Stationeries section featuring 'AIRLINES' and 'BANKS'.

Cargo section featuring 'ADHBAN' and 'CARGO SERVICES'.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'Villa for rent' and 'A full furnished villa, 2 floors with a guard room and big garden'.

Stationeries section featuring 'COURIERS', 'DENTAL CLINIC', and 'HOSPITALS'.

Cargo section featuring 'ADHBAN' and 'CARGO SERVICES'.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'Real Estate' and 'for rent: Furnished villa with Beautiful small garden'.

Stationeries section featuring 'CAR RENTAL', 'CAR SHOWROOMS & SPARE PARTS', and 'HOTELS'.

Cargo section featuring 'ADHBAN' and 'CARGO SERVICES'.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'Real Estate' and 'for rent: Furnished villa with Beautiful small garden'.

Stationeries section featuring 'COMPUTER EDUCATION TRAINING CENTER' and 'INSTITUTE'.

Cargo section featuring 'ADHBAN' and 'CARGO SERVICES'.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'Real Estate' and 'for rent: Furnished villa with Beautiful small garden'.

Stationeries section featuring 'COMPUTER EDUCATION TRAINING CENTER' and 'INSTITUTE'.

Cargo section featuring 'ADHBAN' and 'CARGO SERVICES'.

Money Transfer section featuring 'WESTERN UNION' and 'Travels'.

Computer section featuring 'Real Estate' and 'for rent: Furnished villa with Beautiful small garden'.

Stationeries section featuring 'COMPUTER EDUCATION TRAINING CENTER' and 'INSTITUTE'.

Large advertisement for 'ACCOR' hotels and recruitment.

Bush Jr., Bin Laden, and Bill Gates:

Who's running the world today?

By Yemen Times Staff

In a survey launched by a Polish magazine "POLITYKA", editors who participated in the survey from all over the world decided that the three most powerful individuals in the world are current US President George W. Bush, Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, and Microsoft founder and chairman Bill Gates.

Most powerful individuals of this time

The survey tried to answer the question of "Who's running the world today?" by sending a survey to editors of newspapers and magazines throughout the world. The initial survey included a list of names to choose from.

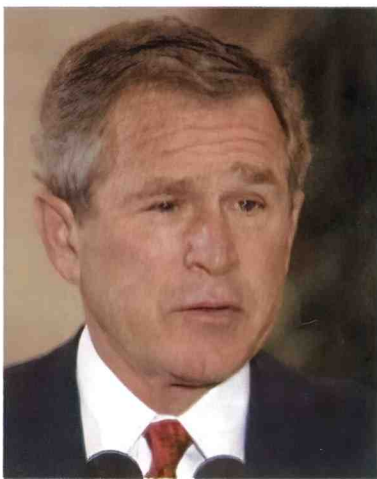
Even though survey results are not scientific and may not necessarily be reflecting reality, the opinion of the voters is a direct reflection of the opinion about the individuals who have participated in framing the events happening during this specific era. The results clearly indicate that the USA's president is the sole individual who has more power than anyone else in the time being. On the other hand, many



Bill Gates

believe that Osama bin Laden's role as the leader of al-Qaeda network, has changed the world especially after 9/11, and hence continues to have major influence on world events ever since.

Meanwhile, Bill Gates is a person behind the scenes who owns the largest software company in the world,



George W. Bush

and who has the power through his Windows operating system that is running 90% of computers around the world to speed up globalization trends in a way never witnessed before.

More names in the top ten

Among the top ten in the survey were Pope John P. II, Vladimir Putin, Annan



Osama bin Laden

Kofi, Saddam Hussein, and Tony Blair. Representatives of newspapers of more than 20 countries around the world participated in the survey, which is similar to many surveys carried out by the Polish magazine (polityka.onet.pl) in an effort to get a feel of the opinion of editors around the world.

Mounting pressure yields fruits:

Kilroy resigns BBC post

Robert Kilroy-Silk has agreed to quit as presenter of the BBC's morning talk-show after 17 years just a week after the row blew up over his anti-Arab diatribe in the Sunday Express.

In a carefully worded statement agreed by both sides, Kilroy-Silk said he believed it was the right time to leave the programme and concentrate on other projects but it is clear that he was given no choice by BBC bosses.

After a marathon eight hour meeting with BBC bosses today, the corporation announced that Kilroy-Silk would leave the show but that his TV production company will continue to make the programme with a different host.

But the former MP is set to take on new roles at the BBC after the corporation paid warm tribute to his "authority and style" and called him "a substantial force in the media industry."

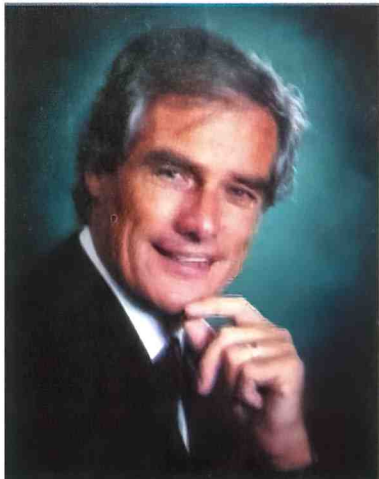
Kilroy-Silk said: "I believe this is the right moment to leave the programme and concentrate my energies in other directions. I will continue to lead the Kilroy Television Company Ltd and in addition to our existing commitments to the BBC, we will be bringing new ideas and programmes to the BBC and other broadcasters."

He added that he had been "overwhelmed" by the support from the public, saying: "I continue to believe that it is my right to express my views, however uncomfortable they may be."

The row blew up after he described Arabs as "suicide bombers, limp amputators and women repressors" in a Sunday Express column.

While Kilroy-Silk is unrepentant about what he wrote, he admitted today that his column had put the BBC in a difficult position.

"However, I recognise the difficulties this has caused the BBC, and I believe



Mr. Robert Kilroy

my decision is the right way to resolve the situation."

The BBC's director of television, Jana Bennett, said presenters of news and current affairs shows could not express "uncomfortable" views without their impartiality being compromised but was at pains to stress that the decision was not about freedom of speech.

"Presenters of this kind of programme have a responsibility to uphold the BBC's impartiality. This does not mean that people who express highly controversial views are not welcome on the BBC but they cannot be presenters of a news, current affairs or topical discussion programme," said Ms Bennett.

She went on to pay tribute to Kilroy-Silk's authoritative style, saying he "has ensured that BBC daytime viewers were better informed on almost every subject that affected their daily lives."

"He has done so with authority and

style, and his programme is one that many have tried to emulate.

"We are very grateful to Robert for his contribution over the years, and we look forward to building on his achievements with the programme and wish to continue to work with Robert in other on-screen roles. He remains a substantial force in the media industry."

The BBC is working on a new version of Kilroy-Silk's discussion programme which it hopes to begin broadcasting in the next few weeks.

The programme, which will continue

to be produced by the team at the Kilroy Television Company, will be presented by a number of guest hosts for the remainder of the present series.

He has presented Kilroy since it was first broadcast as Day to Day in November 1986, becoming Kilroy in 1987. His company has produced 15 series of the show for the BBC.

The 220 half-hour shows represent a huge chunk of the quota of programming that the corporation must commission from independent producers.

It took Kilroy-Silk, his lawyers, BBC bosses and the corporation's lawyer

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