

Fighting terror through dialogue gains momentum

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Since Yemen joined the international community to fight terrorism soon after the attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, the Yemeni government has had an impressive record. Security forces have captured key Al-Qaeda members, have rounded up hundreds of suspects and have arrested those allegedly involved in the bombings of the USS Cole in 2000 and the French tanker Limburg two years later. Early this month, Yemen celebrated receiving seven gunboats from the United States to enhance the security of Yemeni ports and its coastline.

But the Yemeni government also has an alternative approach to fighting terrorism. The Dialogue Committee, headed by Judge Hamoud Al-Hitar, tries to steer alleged Al-Qaeda supporters away from violence and focus on peace and tolerance using the Holy Quran as the tool and guide.

"Dialogue is a good way to get rid of terrorist thoughts that lead to terrorist actions, so it is important to get rid of extreme thoughts," said Al-Hitar. "We have dialogue with the young people to help them arrive at a good understanding of Islam on a solid foundation."

The Dialogue Committee, which was



Judge Hamoud Al-Hitar

established in the fall of 2002, has dealt with over 200 alleged supporters of terrorist activities, and many have been released from jail on bail.

Al-Hitar gave an example of using dialogue to discuss jihad. He said he uses verses of the Holy Quran to prove that jihad is for protecting one's land if occupied but not to attack others elsewhere.

"We are trying to convince the young men that it is a person's choice to accept Islam, not to be forced to become Muslims," said Al-Hitar. "And jihad is to protect yourself if you are attacked by

others, not to attack and harm others outside your country."

According to Abdul Karim Al-Ariani, former Yemeni Prime Minister and advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Dialogue Committee has been very successful and is confident that its method of dialogue will continue to be effective.

"Al-Hitar is one of the most successful experiments in the region," said Al-Ariani. "What he has done has been very useful, and I am confident in this method, especially with someone like Al-Hitar."

The Dialogue Committee is also reaching out to fight terrorism through communication.

According to Al-Hitar, the committee has offered dialogue to any of the Al-Qaeda leading figures.

"We are ready to have dialogue with any Al-Qaeda leader," said Al-Hitar told. "We can have dialogue to talk about the foundations of Islam, even with Osama bin Laden if he is willing."

Several weeks ago, Abu Hamza Al-Masri, head of the London-based Ansar Al-Shari'a organization and wanted by the Yemeni government as allegedly having links with terrorist operatives in Yemen, contacted Al-Hitar through a journalist as an intermediary.

He showed an interest in opening a dialogue with Al-Hitar.

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Anti-violence & arms march in Dhamar

Under the auspices of the Mayor of Dhamar, the social organization House of Peace and the Supreme Council for Spreading Tolerance and Combating Revenge organized a peaceful march. More than 50 thousand turned out calling for peace and the combating of violence and the carrying of arms in the governorate. The march was launched as part of the organization's third campaign, under the slogan, "Together for a society free from revenge and the misuse of

weapons, no to weapons, no to revenge."

In a statement to Yemen Times, the Dean of the Corporation, Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Marwany, said that the march came within the fame of the third national campaign of the organization, started on March 29, 2004 in al-Beidha Governorate. He pointed out that his organization since 1997 has worked with tribesmen, aiming to change their mentality and to persuade them of the negative impact of

revenge and carrying weapons, which weaken society, hinder the social and economic development and undermine the stability of society and society's relation with neighboring countries.

Monitors considered this march in terms of quality, size and goals to be of great importance and an important step towards ending these phenomena. The size of the march reflects the size of the organization at the level of tribal society.



A massive student demonstration in Dhamar City against vengeance, weapons and war. This is considered the largest demonstration of its kind in the Republic, and the House of Peace has committed itself to organize similar demonstrations throughout the country.

Yemen advances in war on terror: Iryani

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It has been nearly two-and-a-half years since Yemen joined the fight against terrorism, and the Yemeni government is now willing to claim numerous victories in the war on terror.

According to Abdul Karim Al-Iryani, former Yemeni Prime Minister and advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, security forces have been able to uproot and dismantle nearly all of the Al-Qaeda cells in Yemen since the country joined the fight against terror.

"I believe that it is up to 90% of Al-Qaeda cells that have been dismantled,"

said Al-Iryani. "I think the capture of so many of them and the repentance of many in jail shows how much we have eliminated Al-Qaeda operations. I believe that Yemen has been the most successful country in the Middle East fighting terrorism."

Along with rounding up hundreds of militants, Yemeni forces have captured a number of top Al-Qaeda members. One was Mohammed Hamdi Al-Ahdal, believed to have dealt with the terror group's finances, weapons smuggling and operational planning, who was captured last year. Abdul Raouf Naseeb, who is believed to have survived the 2002 drone attack that killed Al-Qaeda's chief agent in Yemen, Qaed Salim Sinan Al-Harethi, was caught last month. Also last month, security forces captured 11 suspects allegedly involved in the bombing of USS Cole and Limburg.

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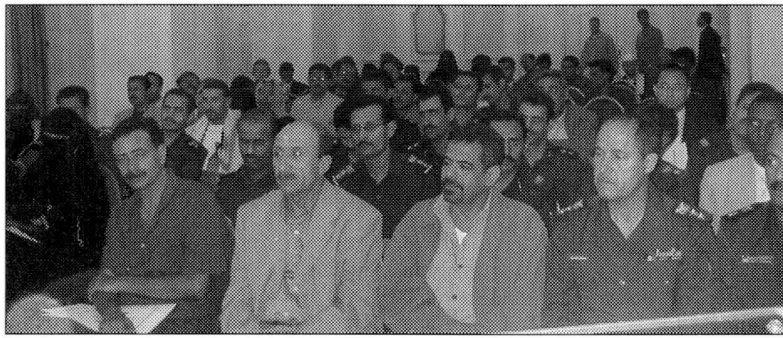
Integrating human rights into Yemeni law

Wednesday, 21 April 2004- The Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation (CDF) concluded a workshop on human rights recently held under the slogan, "Human rights... security and freedoms."

The workshop was organized by the foundation in coordination with the Ministries of the Interior and Human Rights and in cooperation with the UN Fund for Women (UNFW).

The workshop aimed at achieving mechanisms to assist the integration of human rights into the application of Yemeni law especially in connection with the judiciary and security, and to increase awareness among the staff of the judicial apparatus.

The workshop, attended by some members of Parliament, dealt also with



a number of issues, including casting some light on the principles of human rights in the related international conventions and in the Yemen constitution, along with a study of how to work and abide by the implementation and application of political or civil rights and other rights, which must be pro-

ected and respected by the security apparatus.

The experiment of the human rights committee of the Parliament was also reviewed during the workshop, where the audience called for coordination between this committee and the various related organizations.



Saleh resumes efforts for reconciliation among Marib's tribes

Reliable sources confirmed to Yemen Times that President Saleh conducted meetings last Monday and Tuesday regarding a conciliation agreement among the tribes of Marib, after some tribes rejected a general conciliation agreement for a period of five years, as suggested by the President.

The President, along with other dignitaries, seeks the signing of a conciliation agreement among the tribes for a period of two and a half years.

Sources have stated that some tribes remain reluctant to sign the conciliation while at the same time some efforts are still being exerted to achieve that objective.

President Saleh personally supervises efforts to reach a conciliation agreement among the tribes, in particular among the tribes of Jahm, Abeidah, Al-Ashraf and Jeda'an, following the successful achievement of a truce between the tribes of Abeidah and Murad.

Citizens in Aden urge President's help

A group of ten citizens of Aden governorate sent a 'Call-for-Help-letter' to President Saleh, urging him to stop the oppression put on them by secret service officials.

The letter was titled "Mr. President, they're using their positions as personal power", was sent by Mr. Naser Ahmed Al-Hemyari on behalf of group. It stated their confidence that the President's involvement will put an end to their sufferings as it "did before."

The letter laid the group's problem as being tenants who were not able to own homes due the extortion of land by "some officials." Fearing homelessness, as their economic situation wors-

ened, the group occupied three unfinished houses, which they finished and settled down in with their families.

It also stressed that the group was allowed to live in building by a Presidential Order on 23/8/1998, as a result of their complaint to the Governor, after they were forced out of the buildings by police.

Mr. Al-Hemyari asserted his shock when he was sent to prison by order from the Director of Political Security (Al-Amm As-Siyasi). Urging the president's immediate action, he signified the unbearable situation he, and the others as well, live in because of their continuous fear of those "officials."

Yemen confirms arrest of al-Helah in Afghanistan

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abo Bakr Al-Qirbi, in a statement to the press last week confirmed that the Yemeni businessman Abdulsalaam al-Helah, who disappeared mysteriously last year from Egypt, appears to be imprisoned in Afghanistan.

The Minister confirmed that the Yemeni Embassy in Pakistan has received a letter from al-Helah stating

that he is being held in a prison in Afghanistan. The Minister pointed out that the Ministry is currently making enquiries regarding his situation.

The letter states also that al-Helah was transferred from Egypt to Afghanistan by an anonymous authority and that it was only after four months that he realized he was being held in Afghanistan.

YJS files suits PSO

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate is undertaking preparations to file a lawsuit against the Political Security Apparatus, considering it to be the authority violating press rights through its illegal actions.

The lawsuit will include all judicial cases Yemeni journalists have currently and previously encountered at the hands of PSA, since Yemeni laws do not discard cases due to the passage of time.

This reaction of the syndicate comes following the case of the First Under-Secretary of the syndicate, Mr. Saeed Thabit. A judicial verdict was issued against him last Tuesday, banning him from practicing his profession, journal-

ism, for a period of six months for publishing an article about the alleged assassination attempt against President's eldest son Colonel Ahmed Ali.

In response to these preparations, the Prime Minister has promised, in coordination with the Minister of the Interior, to find radical solutions and to put an end to the practices of the Political Security Apparatus (directly linked to the President).

This is considered the first reaction of its kind carried out by the syndicate board, elected in February of this year, which is now representing all political currents, instead of previous leadership affiliated only with the ruling party.

Yemen Female Media Forum rejects US support

The Yemen Female Media Forum, in a letter sent to the Cultural Attaché of the US Embassy in Sana'a, informed the US Embassy of the withdrawal of its previous request for the support of the US for projects affiliated with the forum, unless the US government changes its policy in the region.

The letter explained that the rejection of US support comes in response

to US support for Zionism in Palestine and in protest against the US crimes committed in Iraq. The rejection of US support, according to the letter, is hope to go some way to pacify the guilty conscience and passive reaction of the Yemeni people to then suffering of their brothers in Palestine and Iraq.

The letter also blames the US government for the crimes and slaughters taking place in Palestine and Iraq.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

If he wins the US elections, would J. Kerry be less biased to Israel than Bush?

- Yes, he will be more moderate. 50%
- No, he will be somewhat similar to Bush. 43%
- No, in fact he will be more biased. 7%
- To early to tell

last edition's question:

Do you think that the Israeli assassinations of Hamas leaders are indeed helping stabilize the region?

- Yes, they are indeed helpful. 50%
- No, they will infuriate the situation. 43%
- No, there would be no change whatsoever. 7%

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

In Brief

Girl beaten to death in Taiz

Wednesday, 14 April 2004- Anwar Taher and his brother Ibrahim and Haza Sultan attacked a young girl farmer, 18 years old Mowahib Abdullah. She was beaten severely, receiving several wounds that led to her death.

Even, a bull belonging to the girl's father, was killed by the attackers. The security authorities have arrested the perpetrators who are now being interrogated.

New issuance of WFRT

Teachers and students' guide booklets were issued recently by the Women's Forum for Research and Training (WFRT). The two booklets consist of guidelines on definitions and understandings of civic education and teaching methods by volunteer teachers. The two booklets are the outcome of the workshop recently held by WFRT for a number of schools throughout the Republic.

It is worth mentioning that WFRT has been the representative of the Arab Network for Civic Education in Yemen since its foundation in 2002.

Yemeni astronomer predicts eclipse of the sun

Yemeni astronomer, Ahmed Muhsen Al-Jubi, predicts a partial eclipse of the sun to take place next Monday. The possibility of this occurrence, according to Mr. Al-Jubi, is 72.54% in regions including the Atlantic Ocean and southern Africa. The eclipse would last four hours, ten minutes and 21 seconds.

Mr. Al-Jubi said that the eclipse would begin at exactly 14:29:56 and would end at 18:38:37 Mecca time.

Mr. Al-Jubi confirmed that during the eclipse, 39.5% of the sun will be seen from Cape Town and 29.9% of the eclipsed sun will be seen from Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa.

Upsurge of suicides in Taiz

An increase in the number of suicides committed, probably for different motives, has been recorded in Taiz. On Wednesday 14 April 2004, a student, aged 20, killed himself inside his house by hanging himself while still wearing his school uniform, for undetermined reasons.

Another young man, 24 years old, attempted suicide by swallowing a quantity of insecticide for unknown reasons.

The 32-year old, Saleh Ibrahim Saleh, accused of killing Abdullah Rajeh Saeed, killed himself by hanging himself using his own scarf.

Request for Expression of Interest Investment Climate Assessment Survey Consultancy

The World Bank has received a modest grant from the Danish Government to engage a consultancy firm to undertake a survey of the investment Climate in Yemen. The Investment Climate Assessment is a standard World Bank diagnostic product administered in most countries of the World. This survey is being undertaken in close cooperation with the Ministry of Planning.

Accordingly the Bank is seeking expression of interest from Yemeni consultancy firms to undertake this survey. Upon receipt of the Expression of Interest (EOI) a short list will be developed and an RFP issued. It is expected that the winning consultancy firm will be required to undertake by way of personal interview, surveys of 500 enterprises in five major centers in Yemen. The surveying process will be conducted in Arabic.

The criteria for consultancy selection will be:

- Previous experience in undertaking interview based surveys
- Capacity to undertake the survey
- Familiarity with issues relating to the investment climate and economic development

Interested consultant should submit their EOI by 30 April 2004, together with a brief capability statement addressing the above criteria.

The address for submission of EOI is:

World Bank
Hadda, Street No. 40
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Attention: Susan Hassan Hameed

An email copy of the EOI should be sent to John Speakman at jspeakman@worldbank.org

Any enquiries should be addressed to the task manager John Speakman by email at jspeakman@worldbank.org

Continued from front page

Fighting terror through dialogue

"Al-Masri sent a message that told me that if he is convinced through dialogue traced to the foundations of Islamic law, he will surrender to the Yemeni government," said Al-Hitar.

The Dialogue Committee, which consists of five other religious experts, has drawn interest in the international community regarding its approach to try and persuade extremists to renounce violence. Recently, Al-Hitar traveled to Britain to share his methods of dialogue after receiving an invitation from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Al-Hitar received a second invitation from the UK this month to attend a conference in mid-May organized by

the British Criminal Police. Al-Hitar will also be attending the four-day conference of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs that begins in Cairo on April 28.

"Al-Hitar's success has shown that he is now under great demand in many countries," said Al-Iryani.

Although Al-Hitar heads a successful alternative to fighting terrorism, he has received death threats since he started using dialogue. But he said that the threats will not stop him.

"I am not afraid of conducting dialogue," said Al-Hitar. "No one should be afraid if he believes in Islam because Islam is a religion based on peace and tolerance."

Achievements of the war on terror

Before the war on terror began, foreigners were afraid of being kidnapped by Yemeni tribesmen. But as a result of national security being a priority, the government has ended the phenomenon. It has been over two years since the last kidnapping and foreigners feel safer.

"The Yemeni government has dealt with terrorism in a very serious way," said Sultan Al-Barakani, Chairman of the GPC Caucus. "If we didn't take it seriously, terrorism would have harmed the lives of Yemeni people. Thus, the government has held the war on terror as the first priority."

Yemen and the United States have cooperated closely, as the US government has provided training and funding. And according to Al-Ariani, the Yemeni government has taken important steps and absorbed expenses to increase security.

"We have been able to double the security forces throughout the country," said Al-Ariani. "It's been an expensive effort, but it was necessary to have an impact on the terrorist cells."

The Yemeni government has also been able to convince tribes to cooperate on fighting terror. Part of the cooperation came from paying tribal leaders.

"The tribal leaders have cooperated a lot," said Al-Ariani. "For example, their refusal to accept Ahdal in their areas forced him to come to Sana'a where he was captured. Paying the tribal leaders to cooperate was cheaper than any other way, like doing it in a forceful way. It has been faster, cheaper and easier and has worked very well."

But there is concern that Yemen's fight against terrorism has had an impact on social justice and human rights. According to a recent report from Amnesty International, Yemen ratified important international human rights treaties and amended legislation governing arrest and detention to be consistent with international human rights standards in recent years. But since Yemen joined the war on terror, a number of suspects have been detained. The two-day conference organized by Amnesty International and held in Sana'a earlier this month focused primarily on bringing together lawyers and families of Yemeni detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, but it also addressed the issue of detainees being held in Yemen.

Amat Al-Aleem Alsoswa, Yemeni Minister of Human Rights, told Reuters while she was at a conference in Istanbul this month that Al-Qaeda suspects will receive an open trial whilst the Yemeni government strug-

gles to balance security with civil liberties.

"Most of the detainees have been delivered to the judiciary, so we are not seeing the issue of detainees being kept from the law as much," said Alsoswa. "Those who have already been (charged) will receive a trial open to the public. Yemen does not have martial law or, for that matter, a separate judiciary for security (cases)."

Yemen working with the United States government to fight terror can also create tension. Recently, the US Treasury Department accused Sheikh Abdul Majid Al-Zindani of recruiting Al-Qaeda operatives and being involved in purchasing weapons for Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups. Al-Zindani, once a member of the Presidential Council, founder of Al-Eman University and Chairman of the Shura Council in the Islah (Reform) Party, claims to be innocent. According to Yemeni officials, Yemen has received no demands or evidence from the US government.

According to Al-Ariani, the issue between the US government and Al-Zindani is not as serious as some believe.

"There has been no information or demand given from the US government to the Yemeni government, and it shows that there is no intention of them asking the Yemeni government to investigate Al-Zindani," said Al-Ariani. "I think the accusations have been over-publicized because there have not been direct accusations or a demand to investigate him."

Even though there may have been obstacles, the Yemeni government continues to make headway in fighting terror. It recently established its first coastguard unit, and earlier this month the US government delivered seven gunboats to Yemen to help the coast guard patrol Yemeni shores.

Cooperation between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to tighten security has also been strengthened. Both sides are working together to enhance security on the border between the two countries to reduce smuggling of arms and infiltrators, and in the last few weeks they have swapped prisoners who are wanted criminals.

Cooperation between countries is important in fight terrorism, but according to Al-Ariani, achievements mostly come from within.

"While some think that just the cooperation with the United States has made Yemen successful, it has really been the result of our internal and national efforts," said Al-Ariani.

Proving its credibility once again:

YT distributes prizes

Yemen Times started distributing prizes of the winners of the Sanaa Cultural Millions Competition 2004 that was held in the last quarter of 2003 and early 2004.

The prize winners received their prizes at the headquarters of Yemen Times in Sanaa starting April 18.

The Grand prize winner was Mr. Ahmed Al-Huthaifi, who won the YR 1 million cash prize. He was handed the prize in the form of a check by Yemen Times Editor Walid Al-Saqqaf at the newspaper's main office in Sanaa.

The other winners received gifts ranging from YR 500,000 to YR 5,000 plus several fabulous prizes such as air tickets and TV sets, cookers, stereos, etc..

Winners expressed their sincere gratitude to the newspaper for its accurate handling of the competition and for the overall success that adds to the successes of the earlier competitions held by the newspaper for the last four years.

Undeniable credibility

Grand prize winner Al-Hudhaifi told Yemen Times in a short interview that he was not surprised when he was delivered his prize as he has always been a believer in the honesty and credibility of the newspaper. In fact he also won YR 100,000 cash prize in the 2002-2003 competition.

"When I was told that I won the YR 1 million prize, I couldn't believe it. I thought that my friends were making jokes with me. Then I found my name published on the Yemen Times. I

could have come to see the draw myself at the headquarters, as I knew that it would be carried out in the specific time at the newspaper's building in Sanaa, but I decided to just wait until the results are out. I am truly grateful to the newspaper for its undeniable credibility that we don't find often nowadays," Al-Hudhaifi said.

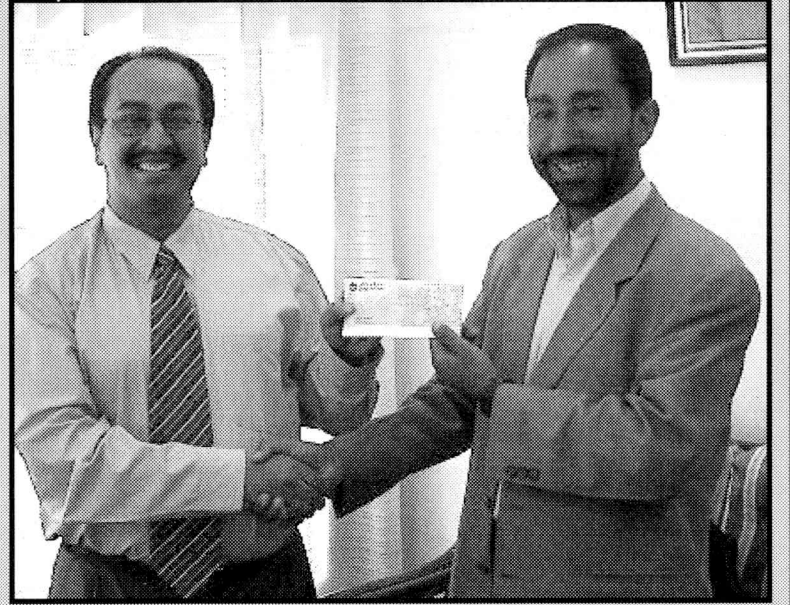
Being one of the regular readers of the newspaper, Al-Hudhaifi asserted that he always believed that the newspaper would not let him down as he has been following its issues ever since it was established.

"Throughout the years since I started reading Yemen Times, it gave me information, hope and inspiration. But now it also gave me a cash prize I never dreamed of. May praise be to Allah and thanks to the newspaper and all its staff members."

Enhanced Popularity

On the occasion of handing the prizes to the winners, the Editor-in-Chief expressed his utmost gratitude and appreciation to all hundreds of thousands of participants in the competition, and emphasized the level of honesty and accuracy of the competition, which has indeed added greater popularity and outreach for the newspaper. In fact, it has reached the furthest areas in the Republic through word of mouth of more than 350 winners who spread the word about the newspaper's accuracy and reliability in holding competitions.

"I was advised by a friend that I should participate in the competition. I initially told him that I didn't believe



Ahmed Al-Huthaifi (R) receiving the YR 1 million check from Editor-in-Chief of Yemen Times. Photo by Hayaf Abdurrahman

in competitions and could not trust any newspaper or party organizing such things because I don't believe that they are honest. But after my friend insisted and said that he participated once and won, I decided to try my luck. I participated, and guest what? I won more than YR 500,000. This competition was true, and the draw was honest and transparent. This is why I committed myself to participate in future competitions too." the winner of the second prize said.

Nor the first, neither the last

The competition will continue, said Editor-in-Chief Walid Al-Saqqaf, "We plan to hold more competitions in the

future, especially as the competitions have proven an opportunity to draw a smile on the faces of hundreds of winners, and to bring exposure and publicity to sponsors, who have gained tremendously out of the competition and will continue to in the future."

"I thank the sponsors of the competition, whose contribution and involvement was essential for the success of the competition. It is indeed a great honor to inform them all that the competition has reached its target and has shown that they have been involved in an event that was carried out transparently, honestly, and accurately." Al-Saqqaf added.

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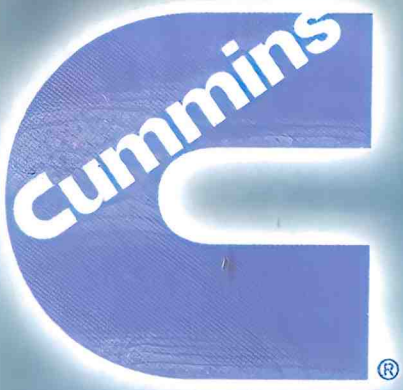
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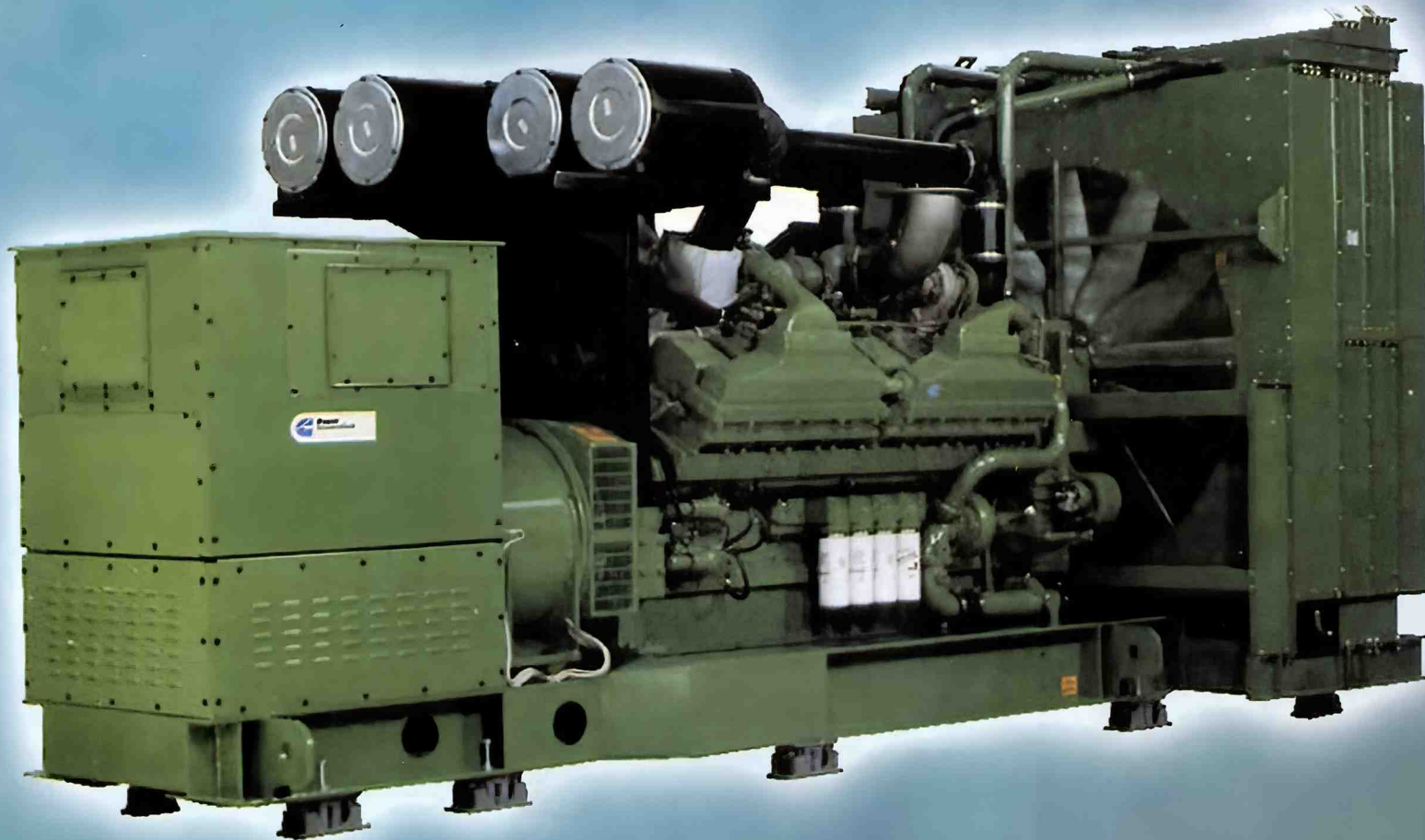


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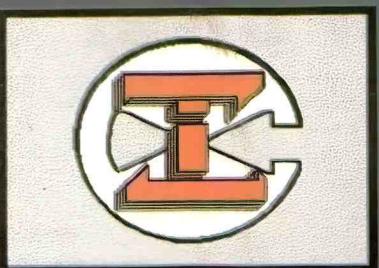
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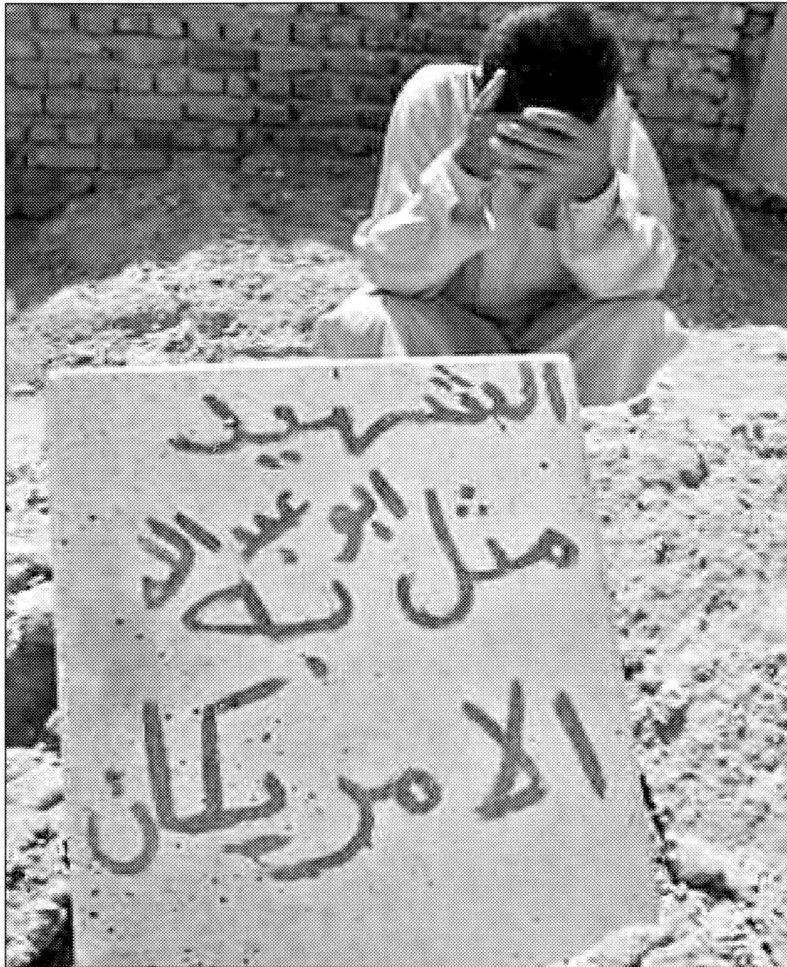


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Mubarak: Arabs hate U.S. more than ever



An Iraqi youth cries near the grave stone of Falluja resident Abu Abdullah, at a makeshift cemetery in the besieged town, April 20. The script in Arabic reads, "Abu Abdullah the martyr, mutilated by Americans." Arabs in the Middle East hate the United States more than ever following the invasion of Iraq and Israel's assassination of two Hamas leaders, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in comments published Tuesday. Mubarak, who visited the U.S. last week, told French newspaper *Le Monde* that Washington's actions had caused despair, frustration and a sense of injustice in the Arab world. **Reuters**

PARIS (Reuters) - Arabs in the Middle East hate the United States more than ever following the invasion of Iraq and Israel's assassination of two Hamas leaders, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in comments published Tuesday.

Mubarak, who visited the United States last week, told French newspaper *Le Monde* that Washington's actions had caused despair, frustration and a sense of injustice in the Arab world.

"Today there is hatred of the Americans like never before in the region," he said in an interview given during a stay in France, where he met President Jacques Chirac Monday.

He blamed the hostility partly on U.S. support for Israel, which assassinated Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi in a missile strike in the Gaza Strip Saturday weeks after killing his predecessor, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

"At the start some considered the Americans were helping them. There was no hatred of the Americans. After what has happened in Iraq, there is

unprecedented hatred and the Americans know it," Mubarak said.

"People have a feeling of injustice. What's more, they see (Israeli Prime Minister Ariel) Sharon acting as he pleases, without the Americans saying anything. He assassinates people who don't have the planes and helicopters that he has."

Israel says such killings are self-defense. But Mubarak said the assassination of Rantissi could have "serious consequences" and that instability in Gaza and Iraq would not serve U.S. or Israeli interests.

"The despair and feeling of injustice are not going to be limited to our region alone. American and Israeli interests will not be safe, not only in our region but anywhere in the world," he said.

Asked about Sharon's plan to pull out of Gaza, Mubarak welcomed any withdrawal that was agreed with the Palestinians and in line with a peace "road map" drawn up by the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia.

Rights group urges U.N. return monitors to Sudan

CAIRO, April 20 (Reuters) - The United Nations must reinstate human rights monitors in Sudan to document abuses in the troubled western Darfur region, the rights group Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday.

Last week U.N. officials said a team of human rights experts sent to investigate charges of ethnic cleansing in Darfur did not get permission to visit the remote region, where rebels took up arms against the Khartoum government in February last year.

Human Rights Watch said Darfur was a critical test of the credibility of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

"With thousands of civilians already killed and hundreds of thousands forcibly displaced, this is exactly the kind of human rights disaster where the commission needs to appoint a monitor," it said in a statement sent to Reuters by email.

The group said it interviewed some of the more than 110,000 Sudanese refugees encamped in neighboring Chad and had recorded "widespread and systematic abuses committed in

Darfur by government forces acting in complicity with the Arab militias known as Janjaweed".

Khartoum says the Janjaweed are outlaws, but rebels and observers accuse the government of arming the marauding militias, who loot and burn African farmers' villages.

A truce between the two rebel groups and Khartoum came into force on April 11, but aid workers say fighting continues in Southern Darfur state, impeding access to those in urgent need.

Human Rights Watch said the U.N. commission was scheduled to vote on a Sudan resolution on Thursday and urged it to reinstate monitors.

The statement said the U.N. commission last year ended a 10-year monitoring mandate in the oil-producing country because it appeared that more than two decades of civil war in the south was approaching resolution.

Talks are taking place in Kenya to end the southern conflict, which pits the Islamist government in the north against the mainly Christian, animist south.

Mortar fire kills 21 Iraqi prisoners near Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - A mortar barrage on a U.S.-run prison in Baghdad killed 21 detainees and wounded more than 100 Tuesday, the U.S. military said.

A military spokesman said initial reports indicated that all the casualties at the Abu Ghraib jail, just west of Baghdad, were prisoners, but he could not say if they were held as suspects for criminal or guerrilla activities.

Insurgents also attacked a U.S. military convoy in the northern city of Mosul and one American soldier died of his wounds. Four others were wounded, a military spokesman said.

Elsewhere, tension eased in two flashpoint cities as a truce held in the Sunni bastion of Falluja and U.S. forces prepared to pull back from a forward base near Najaf, where a rebel Shi'ite cleric has taken refuge.

Witnesses said civilians, who had fled battles between U.S. Marines and Sunni insurgents, trickled back to Falluja on foot but vehicles were turned back at checkpoints.

Some shops reopened and some Iraqi police returned to duty. There was no sign of U.S. forces in central parts of the city.

Thousands of Iraqis had left Falluja, west of Baghdad, to escape fierce clashes in which hundreds of civilians and dozens of Marines were killed earlier this month.

The returnees were venturing back a day after the U.S. military said it would not resume offensive



Displaced Iraqi families from the besieged town of Falluja wait at a nearby U.S. base for permission to return to their home April 20. Civilians who had fled battles between U.S. Marines and Sunni insurgents trickled back into Falluja on Tuesday after a deal to end fighting in the Iraqi city. Witnesses said a few displaced civilians trudged into Falluja, but Marine checkpoints turned back vehicles. **Reuters**

operations in Falluja on condition rebels give up their heavy weapons.

"I am confident that the guerrillas will turn in their heavy weapons as long as the Americans provide the

guarantees they promised," said Fawzi Muthin, a 47-year-old engineer who was a member of Falluja's delegation in the talks.

U.S. Marines launched a crack-

down in Falluja on April 5 after crowds burned and mutilated the corpses of four U.S. private security guards ambushed there on March 31.

Israeli troops kill three Palestinians in Gaza



An Israeli soldier points his gun during clashes with Palestinian stone throwers in the West Bank city of Hebron April 20. Israeli soldiers shot dead three Palestinians in confrontations with hundreds of stone-throwers in the Gaza Strip Tuesday, Palestinian medics said. **Reuters**

GAZA (Reuters) - Israeli soldiers shot dead three Palestinians in confrontations with hundreds of stone-throwers in the Gaza Strip Tuesday, Palestinian medics said.

Youths hurled stones at a force the army said it ordered into northern Gaza after militants fired rockets and mortars at Jewish settlements and an Israeli town to avenge the assassination of Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi.

Tension in Gaza has risen since Israel's killing of Rantissi in a helicopter strike Saturday. Hamas, sworn to destroy Israel, vowed to carry out "100 retaliations."

Medics said three Palestinians were killed by army gunfire. At least 25 other Palestinians were wounded in two separate confronta-

tions at the town of Beit Lahiya.

Israeli military sources could not confirm any death but said troops fired at a Palestinian who climbed onto an armored vehicle and at Palestinians who shot at the troops, threw grenades, petrol bombs and detonated explosives.

Five soldiers were lightly wounded in the confrontations including one from an explosive device, the sources said.

Since Sunday, at least nine Israelis have been wounded in mortar bomb and Qassam rocket attacks on Gaza settlements and the southern Israeli town of Sderot, the army said.

Tension has built in Gaza since Israel killed Rantissi in a missile strike less than a month after

Hamas spiritual leader died in a similar attack.

Palestinians are also fuming at Israel over a unilateral "disengagement" plan, approved by President Bush last week, that would mean a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip but a stronger Israeli hold on big chunks of the West Bank.

Both territories were captured in the 1967 Middle East war and are wanted by Palestinians for a future state. Hamas wants to destroy Israel and is behind suicide bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis.

A grenade was thrown at an army outpost near the southern Gaza refugee camp of Rafah, military sources said. There were no casualties.

Libya welcomes signs of an end of U.S. sanctions

TRIPOLI, Libya (Reuters) - Libya welcomed Tuesday indications that the United States could lift many economic sanctions as early as this week, saying it would spur investment from U.S. and also other international firms.

U.S. officials said Monday that sanctions barring U.S. firms from investing and buying Libyan oil could be ended this week, but they said the date could slip. A Tripoli diplomatic source said the U.S. move could come as early as Thursday.

Ties between Washington and the oil-producing North African state have improved since Libya said in December it was giving up weapons of mass destruction and since Libya agreed last year to compensate victims of the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing.

Asked about the latest U.S. comments on sanctions, Economy Minister Abdel-Qader Omar Belkheir told Reuters: "We welcome this and we expect this to happen because this is why Libya has done all these initiatives and all these efforts."

"So far Libya has done a lot of what we were committed (to), so we think it is time to lift these sanctions and we expect to have one more friend and to have the American (economic interests) as well back in Libya," he said.

Belkheir was speaking on the sidelines of a conference in Tripoli to promote investment in Libya after years of international isolation.

About 400 delegates were attending from a range of countries, including several U.S. oil executives.

The Libyan government has announced wide-ranging measures to open up its highly centralized economy, including a sweeping privatization program, and has said it wants to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Also speaking on the conference sidelines, Libyan Finance Minister Mohammed Ali al-Houeiz told Reuters: "It (lifting sanctions) will be good for the prospect of expanding investment and trade in Libya."

National Cigarettes and Matches Industry Ltd – Aden



NCMI celebrates its anniversary and honors employees

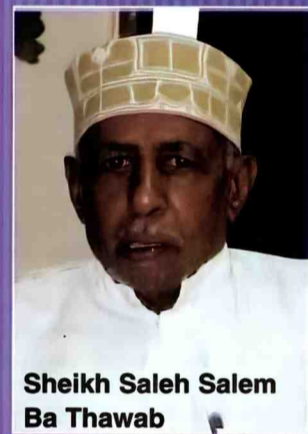
The National Cigarettes & Matches Industry Ltd- Aden held an honoring celebration during which it distributed appreciation certificates for agents at the Republic of Yemen. Mr. Abdulkareem Mutair, Chairman of General Investment Authority and Mr. Salah Mohamed Saeed Al-Attar, Regional Director of International BAT Company, along with a number of social dignitaries in Aden Governorate attended the celebration.

In his speech, Sheikh Saleh Salem Ba Thawab, Executive Chairman expressed the keenness of the company to hold similar annual celebrations to honor those excellent distributing Agents of Radfan and Pall Mall cigarettes and for the noticeable increase of distribution coverage area throughout the Republic. He congratulated the recipients for this year. He pointed out that the company would continue to support and encourage its agents. He added that each success of a company and an investment inside Yemen is an evidence of the support presented from the political leadership presented by H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic and his interests in promotion of investors and businessmen and their big roles. He concluded his speech by thanking the chairman of the General Investment Authority and Regional Director of International B.A.T. Company.

On his part, Deputy and Acting CEO, Mr. Abdulsalaam Ba Thawab, expressed his appreciation to the company's agents in the governorates of the Republic for their contribution in the big success during the year 2003 where this celebration is on honor of that. He pointed out that the company cares about its employees and agents and the celebration is an indication of high quality of cigarettes produced by the company. Furthermore, the chairman of the General Investment Authority, in his address, expressed his joy to be part of this celebration in encouraging the agents and distribution of appreciative certificates and prizes to excellent agents. There is no doubt that any administrative work seeking the encouragement of workers must have positive results in connection to the company's activities and preservation of quality and reputation. Indeed a company specialized in cigarettes and matches must enjoy good reputation for the consumers to lay their trust on it and to buy its products. The General Investment Authority encourages

such attention granted to a company's staff and agents and only hopes for more encouragement to increase skills at all levels, said the chairman. Regarding the new tobacco factory at Al-Mansourah, affiliated with Bathawab Company for investment (B.T.C. LTD), Sheikh Saleh Salem Ba Thawab said, "I imagine that this project will have positive feedback at the level of the Republic to cover the local consumers' need of tobacco. It is the second factory of Arab country and we hope that this factory will cover the local market and expand to nearby markets." After that, Mr. Ahmed Shamsan, the Company's Secretary delivered a speech on behalf of the Executive Chairman of the Company, Sheikh Saleh Salem Ba Thawab explaining this honoring celebration is in recognition by the company's administration of the agents' exerted efforts during the year 2003. He pointed out that the company represented by chairman and vice chairman always seek the continued development of the company as achieved by the growth of the company and the spread of Radfan and Pall Mall cigarettes during the year 2003 as also to the quality of the company's products. He confirmed that the company supports a number of sectors such as sports, social care, handicapped and other charitable activities and support of Aden governorate in its support of the society. Suggestions would be considered. He concluded by saying that Sana'a's branch is also honored today. Then the Director of the Company's branch in Sana'a, Mr. Abdullah Ba Gussair thanked the company's recognition of the Sana'a's branch for the exerted efforts to improve the performance of branch and the expansionism in the marketing of company's products amid the honest competition. He pointed out that Sana'a's branch deserved this honor because it was able to achieve more growth during 2003 than the other branches. And due to the good reputation of the company in dealing with customers and the keenness to offer them high quality products in the Radfan and Pall Mall cigarettes, the contributing factors to success inside Yemen. He added that the close attention and follow up personally by Mr. Abdulsalaam Ba Thawab has played an important role in the success of the company. He concluded that the honoring would motivate them to exert more efforts during the year 2004.

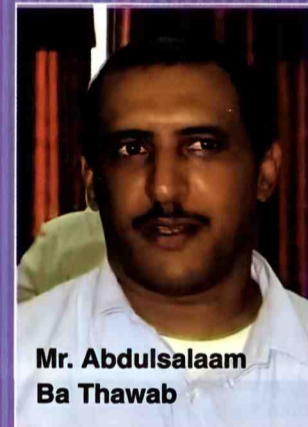
Last but not least, Mr. Mahmoud Hassan Abdulkader, the Company's Marketing Director said that his department has several promotional programs and plans offered to Agents and conduct field visits to all markets in order to benefit of their comments throughout the Republic. This honoring celebration provides an opportunity for Agents to compete and to get acquainted with each other. The handing over of appreciation certificates took place and 20 Agents from the different governorates of the Republic with Mr. Abdullah Ba Gussair receiving the Merit of Excellence. Finally, a documentary film was played showing the phases the Company has gone through during 33 years since its establishment in 1972. It showed the accomplishments of the company and its role in supporting charities and several civil-society sectors and the attention and rehabilitation of its staff. Then consultation meetings took place among agents of and honored individuals and the company's administration.



Sheikh Saleh Salem Ba Thawab



Mr. Abdulkareem Mutair



Mr. Abdulsalaam Ba Thawab



Mr. Ahmed Shamsan



Mr. Abdullah Ba Gussair



Mr. Mahmoud Hassan Abdulkader



Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Wahj al-Haqeeqah
weekly, 17 Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- "Wahj al-Haqeeqa" observes the no.100 issue at the East Secretariat Court
- A citizen killed in front of the gate of Dhamar governorate building
- A committee for the release of retained motorcycles
- A gang breaks through a school in the capital secretariat
- 861 positions allocated for Sa'da governorate
- Yemen tourism international fair activities concluded
Mr Abdah al-Maswari writes saying that reliable sources in the United States have disclosed that the American president is facing big political pressures by his competitors for the presidency belonging to the democratic party especially after he delivery of a classified document to the CIA indicating that the American intelligence was watching movements of al-Qaeda organisations and that Usama bin Laden had sent a warning to the White House of launching an attack inside America and that his organisation would use rocket-propelled grenades and planes but the president ignored the importance of the said document and did not take the threats seriously.

Some analysts say the Zionist entity and its intelligence, planted inside the congress departments, was also knowing about the threats beforehand but intended to create by this incident a large gap between the United States and the Arab regimes close to the American government in addition to the Zionist entity intention to use the events for fighting Islam and Muslims in various Arab and Muslim countries.

Annas weekly 19 Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- FM confirms Al-Heela imprisoned in Afghanistan
- 35 children die of measles in a district in Hajjah governorate, medical sources warn against a humanitarian disaster
- Journalists Syndicate files a lawsuit against the Political Security Organisation
- In the Sciences University, a symposium on modern technology and its use in education

Main headlines

- The Independent: GCHQ spies on Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Yemen
- In their demonstration condemning the American aggression, The political parties and organisations express indignation against the ruling party policy
- Arab regime, the other side of the Zionist-American faces in besieging the resistance and accusation of terror
- Security campaign on prostitution networks in major cities
- Youth slaughters his mother in Taiz
- Collapse danger threatens the Mareb Dam after rise I water level
- Under directives from president Saleh, Ali Muhsin al-Ahmer succeeds in containing the Waela-Dahm tribes conflict
- Security apparatus arrests a number of citizens, closes down 6 government schools in Sa'da

On one day, a teacher attacked and beaten for three times
- As they annoyed him, a man fires gunshots at children injuring one of them
- Lawyers concluded their conference and elected Al-Baser their chairman

On the lessons derived from Falluja city in Iraq battles, columnist Dr Hosni al-Jawshaie says hat a small city like Falluja has halted the biggest power in the world for a week and could not force enter it despite of the use of all types of weapons and this has led to break the barrier of fear among the Iraqis, and we hope it would break the far barrier among the rest of Arab countries. On the other hand it has been proved that the governing council is useless and just a decoration to beautify the ugly face of occupation. The least description of its members is that they are not patriotic for as they describe what is happening in Falluja as a group of terrorists and that sheikh Muqtada al-Sadr as an outlaw it is surely this council is an American industry. The Americans as people began to feel the volume of the tragedy in which

their president has involved them in and that he has lied to them when he said he was to fight Iraq because of its possession of weapons of mass destruction. The nightmare of Vietnam has popped its head again before the American people and their human losses began to increase fearfully.

The uprising was not confined to the town of Falluja but went beyond it to Ramadi, Baqouba, Mosul, Kerbala, Najaf, Basra, Kut, Nassyria and Baghdad.

The last lesson to be learnt from Falluja events is the shameful stand of the Arab countries where not a single voice was raised from them denouncing the massacre of Falluja against the civilians.

Al-Wahdawi weekly,
organ of the Nasserite
Unionist Organisation,
20 Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- Naserite Organisation condemns the assassination of Dr Rantissi
- Yemen in need of a salvage program where all national forces participate

SKETCHED OPINION



- Yemen freezes assets of 16 organizations and 62 persons in local banks
- MPs accuse the oil ministry of prevarication, minister confirms legality of sale
- Saudi Arabia continue pressuring reformists
- Ministers and governors behind manipulation of government posts
- Education for all week, inaugurated
- Leadership for lawyers elected
- Eight citizens kidnapped in Dhalie

The political editor says in his article that what happens in the Palestinian territories of massacres against the Palestinians people and killing of resistance leaders and the destruction of all means of living and life do not want a stop for pondering and review in quest of reasons and justifications of all that. It has become clear that the Palestinian cause has been liquidated at the Arab level in favour of the American Zionist scheme that is reconsidering the situation of the entire area.

It has not happened in the history of the Arab Zionist conflict such destructive humiliation to which the Palestinian issue is exposed to under the nose of the Arab rulers. The whole matter is no longer of interest and care of anyone of them while then are at the top of the nation's pyramid trampling on her shoulders and destinies and sur-

rendering her existence and rights to her enemies. What we witness of denunciation and condemnation here and there as well as some movements is but a kind deceiving the peoples thinking that with the passage of time, cutting heads in Palestine, and practicing oppression and terror against those peoples, would deter them from their role in defending themselves and rights and existence and land. Those rulers think that these peoples would accept and surrender and accept the fait accompli of Zionism in Palestine and the American occupation in Iraq and the plans against the entire Arab homeland. These rulers would lose their betting and their thrones and seats and all the schemes of the American aggression that they depend on and Zionism would not be able to take Palestine and America would not be able to take Iraq. The Arab deluge of change is coming.

Al-Shumou weekly 17
Apr. 2004.

Main headlines

- Due to behaviour of Mareb governor, finance director announces reclusion and information center director referred to prosecution

- Health units closed, YR 159 million went in smoke
- A bank imports employees from abroad, pays in hard currency
- Traffic week for journalists

The newspaper's political editor The time of our nation seems as a one grinded by and living in successive coercion. A nation digging her grave by herself and cannot save herself from herself as if she has been addicted to suffering and coercion and loss, forgetting her past when she had a great presence. This is how the status of the nation appears at a time she is inactive and not interactive. America is the one that defines and determines the compass of politics and sovereignty of the Arab regimes that are competing for winning the consent of the White House master. All proofs indicate that those regimes have relinquished their peoples and the identity and civilization in return for appeasing the cowboy. For the first time it happens in Iraq and the nation when the ruler is obedient and subservient of the occupier and his making, keeping silent towards the harm and killing and destruction inflicted upon his people and holds the resistance responsible for what goes on so that the governing council in occupied Iraq to be an example of the rest of Arab regimes.



By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

Waiting for Godot or waiting for Jehovah (2-2)

Backstone's petition draws its significance from the fact that it was prepared by Christians and preceded the Baale conference by six years. It designed the policy to be undertaken by future US presidents towards Jews. The American President Wilson was one of the most fanatical American presidents in favor of Zionism, due to his evangelical upbringing. He sought to fulfill the desire of Jehovah in returning the holy land to its Jewish people. He was an adamant supporter of the notorious Balfour Declaration. In 1922 the American administration and Congress ratified the Balfour Declaration. Christian Zionists formed organizations and societies aiming at exerting pressure on the US government in order to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. Hence President Harry Truman in his famous speech on 4 October 1946 declared his approval of the UN partition plan for Palestine. At the beginning, American Jews justified their calls for Congress to

support Israel due to humanitarian, moral and ideological considerations. Later they promoted the concept that Israel is a front line reliable source of information and Israel was portrayed in the American media as an entity presenting the USA with precious and much needed military and strategic services. It is also to be noted that American Jews always participate effectively in American elections. In fact, 90 percent of them participate actively, compared to 50% of the normal American citizenry, who are unconcerned with the elections. The Jews also finance election campaigns through PACS which are offshoot committees of AIPAC (i.e. An extremist American lobby group working in favor of Israel), which is not allowed to finance the elections openly. The effectiveness of the Jewish vote and Jewish financing lies on its being based on a previously programmed scheme. In other words, they take the first initiative when it comes to voting or assisting any given candidate so the candidate feels grateful later, particu-

larly if he is a new unknown personality. So despite their modest number and modest finances, the way they employ their means achieves considerable effects in their favor.

In states where there are no Jews, Jewish moneys are being utilized in order to either support or punish any given candidate. American Jews concentrate on the elections of congressmen, for through Congress they later guarantee support for assistance to Israel. A few months ago Colin Powell attended an AIPAC ceremony and despite the fact that I am a foreigner, I could not resist the feeling of being so ashamed to notice how humble and docile he seemed to be in the presence of a gathering which is standing behind the daily Israeli savagery towards non-armed helpless Palestinians, who out of utter despair have no other means except to sacrifice themselves as a last resort. Colin Powell declared subserviently the American administration's resolute will and determination to extend infinite support for Israel. How ignomin-

ious? Jews in America also control the media, CNN, New York Times, Time Magazine, Newsweek etc. and thus they do not hesitate to intimidate any American figure if he or she dares not to succumb to their demands. Many observers believe that the failure of George Bush senior in the 1992 elections was simply due to his decision to freeze loan guarantees for Israel and that this is an instance of the strength of the Jewish Lobby. Another crucial aspect for the American support of Israel is that most Americans feel obliged to help the Jewish state due to their cultural composition and American ideology, for Israel is part and parcel of western cultural heritage.

Christian Zionism in the USA has played a significant role in deepening support for Israel and has made that a constant policy of the administration and American society. Israel on its part has formulated a plan in 1978 in which it called for the encouragement of radical Christian churches and such a plan has proven its success by the ulti-

mate formation of a Christian Zionist lobby named the "National Unity Coalition for Israel" which was inaugurated by Benjamin Netanyahu prior to his assumption of the premiership. (before I forget, Netanyahu in Arabic means "See how rotten he is"!?). Having read the above, let us see how much it costs American taxpayers to support Israel.

An American economist declared that up to 2003 the USA has given Israel three trillion United States Dollars. That is three thousand billions (i.e. US\$3000,000,000,000.00) Simply three followed by twelve zeros. Others still think that this amount is yet less than the real presumed figure. Furthermore, Jewish Americans have always been at the forefront of the White House, e.g. the Clinton administration was brimful with Jewish figures such as Madeline Albright, Robert Rubin, William Cohen, Dan Glickmann, George Tenet, Samuel Berger, Stuart Eisenstadt, Evelyne Liebermann, Charlene Barschvski, Susan Thomas,

Joel Klein, Jean Sperling, Ira Magaziner, Peter Narnov, Alice Riveline, Janet Yeline, Ram Emanuel, Doug Sosnic, Jim Steinberg, Guy Fotlic, Robert Nash, Jane Scherborne, Mark Penn, Sandy Christoph, Robert Borstein etc. While Bush junior has got lots of Jews in his administration, to mention but a few: Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz, Douglas Feith, I. Lewis Libby, Dov Zakheim, Henry Kissinger, Kenneth Adelman, Edward Luttwak, Robert Zoellick, David Frum, Robert Satloff, Elliot Abrams, Marc Grossman, Richard Haas, Ari Fleischer, Chabad Lubavitch Hasidim, James Schlesinger, Joshua Bolten, John Bolton and David Wurmser, whose wife Meyrav works for the Israeli Colonel Yigal Carmon in an institute known as MEMRI.

See you in the third part of this article which will clarify some of the aspects of Zionist American entente cordiale so that we can at least grasp a bit of the Mid-East crisis. To be continued.

Maradona improving in intensive care

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Diego Maradona remains in intensive care, two days after falling ill with heart and breathing problems, but while improving he still needs help with breathing, his doctors say.

A clutch of fans continued a vigil by posters and soccer strips pasted to the walls of the Buenos Aires clinic where Maradona, one of the most gifted players in soccer history, was rushed on Sunday.

"He continues to be assisted in breathing," his doctors said in a statement on Tuesday, but did not say if he was still on an artificial respirator. They were reducing his dosages of medication, but had also found bacteria likely due to a secondary infection.

Family doctor Alfredo Cahe has denied reports that Maradona's illness was due to cocaine, saying he had not been taking the drug lately and that the tests he had seen were negative.

Maradona has been fighting drug addiction for years.

Cahe told reporters late on Monday the 43-year-old former star was relaxed and an artificial respirator had been turned down to the minimum level, although he cautioned the Argentine national hero was not out of the woods yet.

Similar score

After a similar scare in early 2000,



Maradona (R)

Maradona's entourage initially denied cocaine was involved but his cardiologist later told fans to change their placards from 'Hang in there Diego' to 'Damned cocaine'.

Maradona arrived at the clinic in a serious, feverish condition with breathing difficulties and a swollen heart after watching a game at his former club Boca Juniors' stadium where he made his name.

Maradona's official website www.diegomaradona.com said the former Argentina captain, who was taken ill on Sunday while eating a traditional barbecue after the Boca game, was progressing favourably.

"I just want him to recover," said 20-year-old law student Agustin Pellegrini, wearing a blue and yellow Boca tracksuit top. "He is the only person who has brought any happiness to the Argentine people in recent years. That's why I love him."

Maradona, the fifth of eight children of a factory worker, was given his first football as an infant and slept with it under his arm.

Rising to stardom from a Buenos Aires slum to lead Argentina to World Cup victory, Maradona's is the ultimate rags-to-riches story in this soccer-mad country and he has gained the status of the likes of Che Guevara -- whose image is tattooed on his arm -- or Evita Peron.

At the peak of his form, he led Argentina to a 3-2 triumph over West Germany in the 1986 World Cup final. In 1991 he failed a dope test for cocaine and was banned for 15 months.

He played in his fourth World Cup in the United States in 1994 but tested positive for a cocktail of drugs the day before he was due to make a record 22nd appearance.



Soccer fans wait outside the Suizo-Argentina private clinic, where former Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona remains under intensive care since after being admitted two days ago with heart and breathing problems, in Buenos Aires April 20, 2004. A clutch of fans continued a vigil by posters and soccer strips pasted to the walls of the posh clinic where Maradona, one of the most gifted players in soccer history, was rushed on Sunday. REUTERS

Afghans disband national team after asylum bid

KABUL, April 20 (Reuters) - Afghanistan has disbanded its national soccer team after nine players disappeared from a training camp in Italy last week, an official said on Tuesday.

Six of the players have been arrested in Germany, where they sought asylum, and Italy has promised to hand them over to Afghan authorities soon, the official said, adding they would be punished for "damaging Afghans' honour".

"We have scrapped the team and plan to bring in new players instead after their shameful act," Halim Kohistani, head of Afghanistan's football federation, told Reuters.

"Italy has promised to hand over to us six of them who were arrested in Germany and we will punish them 100 percent when they return, after consulting the police and the court."

A series of games planned in Italy, the Afghan team's first appearance in Europe for 20 years, was aimed at rais-



Afghan national football team training in Kabul.

ing money for Afghan orphans, Kohistani said.

Football is a popular sport among Afghans.

Although nearly 25 years of war and occupation ended with the collapse of the Taliban in 2001, the country

remains impoverished and racked by violence from militants and warlords.

The last time an Afghan athlete sought asylum was in 1996 during the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Boxer Mohammed Jawid Aman was granted asylum.

Euro 2004 not affected by bribe probe, says government

LISBON, April 20 - The Portuguese government minister in charge of Euro 2004 said on Tuesday that the championship would not be affected by a police probe into allegations of the bribery of referees in domestic fixtures.

Minister without portfolio Jose Luis Arnaut, who is overseeing government coordination of the June 12-July 4 tournament, said organisation was going

forward normally.

"Every day that passes makes more certain that this event will be a great soccer festival and an affirmation for Portugal," the Lusa news agency quoted him as saying.

Sixteen people were detained on Tuesday in a probe into "falsification of documents, sporting corruption and influence trafficking" involving refer-

ees, a police statement said. Those detained include the head of the Portuguese soccer league.

In a study of the economic impact of Euro 2004, the DTZ consultancy said the tournament would generate 800 million euros (\$953.4 million) for Portugal from investments in construction as well as from increased tourism and publicity for the Iberian country.

Manchester Utd tightens stadium security

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United says it will tighten security at its Old Trafford stadium after reports that 10 arrested terrorism suspects had tickets to a game this weekend.

Newspapers said the 10 detained under anti-terrorism laws on Monday in Manchester had tickets for seats scattered throughout the stadium for Saturday's match against Liverpool, and were planning to blow up the 67,000-seat venue.

"The plot involved several individual bombers in separate parts of the stadium," said the Sun.

Police have not commented on the reports and the club played them down, but issued a statement on Tuesday saying it was tightening security and calling for fans to be vigilant.

"In light of today's media reports...the club has consulted Greater Manchester Police. They have advised that Saturday's game and tonight's fixture against Charlton should proceed as planned.

"However, the club has decided that extra security checks will be made before kick-off which will inevitably lead to delays in getting into the stadium."

It asked fans not to bring bags and to stay vigilant.

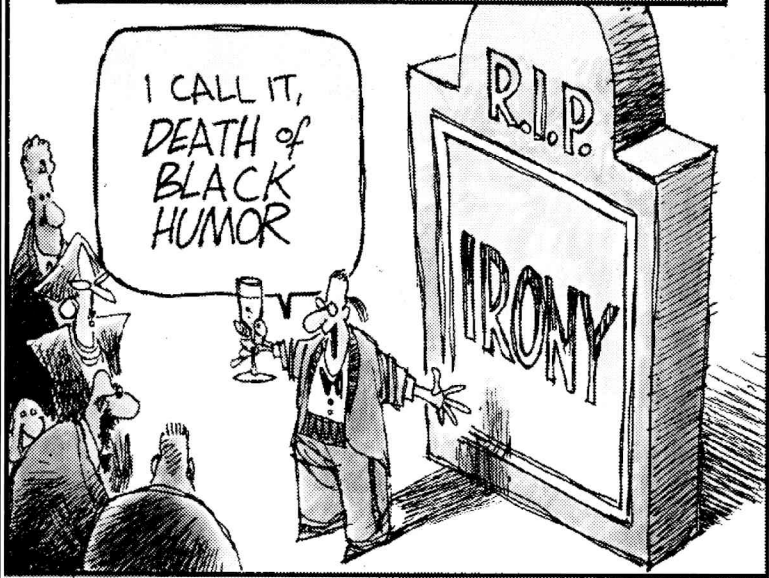
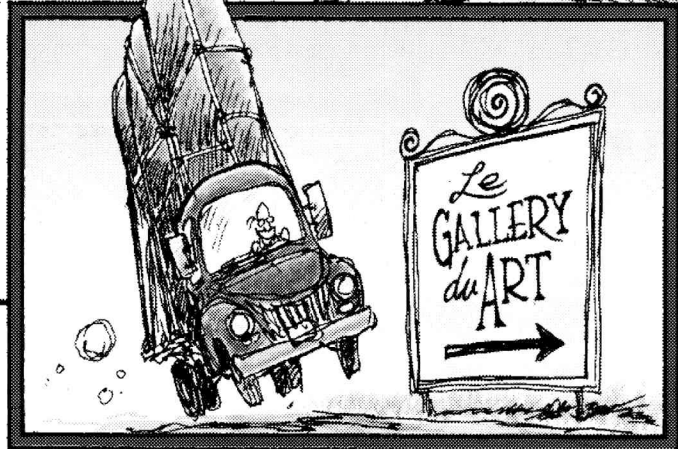
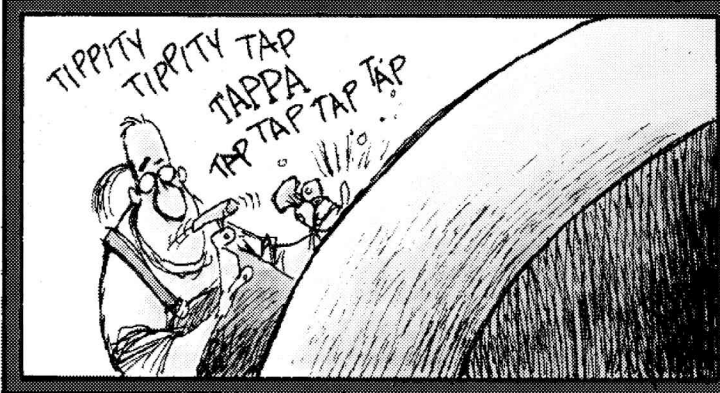
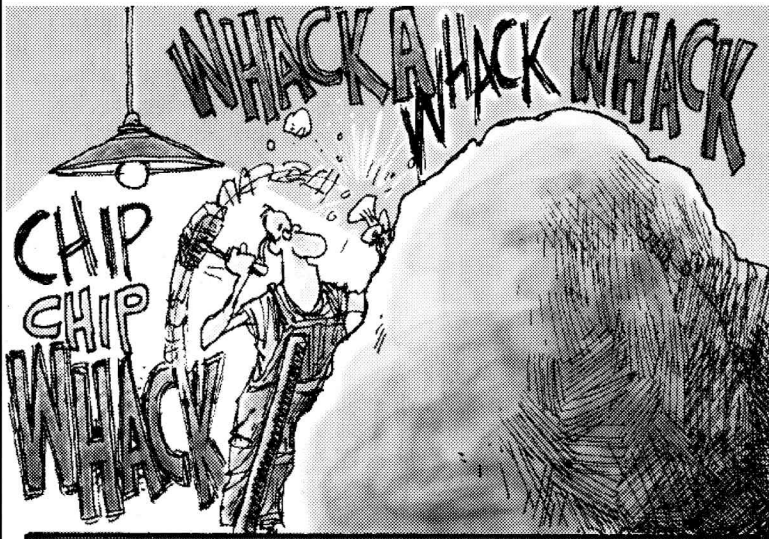
Ten people, said by local media to be of North African and Iraqi Kurdish origin, were held in a series of raids involving 400 police across northern England on Monday.

مبروك الدكتوراه
أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهديا
للدكتور عبد القادر سلطان مغلس
الأستاذ في كلية الآداب بجامعة تعز قسم اللغة الإنجليزية
لحصوله على درجة الدكتوراه في فلسفة اللغويات وبتقدير امتياز
من دولة الهند عن الأطروحة الموسومة بـ لغة الصحافة
والتي تتضمن دراسة لمشاكل الترجمة في الصحافة اليمنية الناطقة
باللغة الإنجليزية وفي كيفية إيجاد الوسائل الممكنة لتجاوزها
يمن تايمز
تهنئ المغلس وتتمنى له المزيد من النجاح

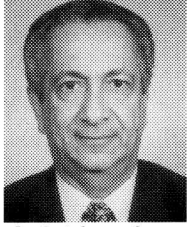
مبروك المولود البكر
أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نهديا للأستاذ
أكرم عبد الرحمن السقاف
بمناسبة إتيان مولودته البكره التي أسماها
ريام
جعلها الله قره عين والديها وأنبتها نباتاً حسناً
المهننون: طاقم يمن تايمز وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

البركة
مياه صحية نقية
أنتى مياه صحية في اليمن
أنتاج الشركة التضامنية اليمنية للمشروبات الغازية (بيكو)
أول شركة يمنية تقوم بنعينة المياه في قارورة صحية من مادة (بي.إي.تي)

**NON SEQUITUR
BY WILEY**

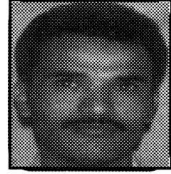


**Separate Contest on
Common Names & Places
Contest (2) مسابقة**



Who is he & what do you know about him?
Al-Farouk presents a gift for the best answer

Ans cont (1)
prof. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf
founder of Yemen Times
Winner
Mohammed Al_Garadi



Contest No. (10) مسابقة رقم

إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

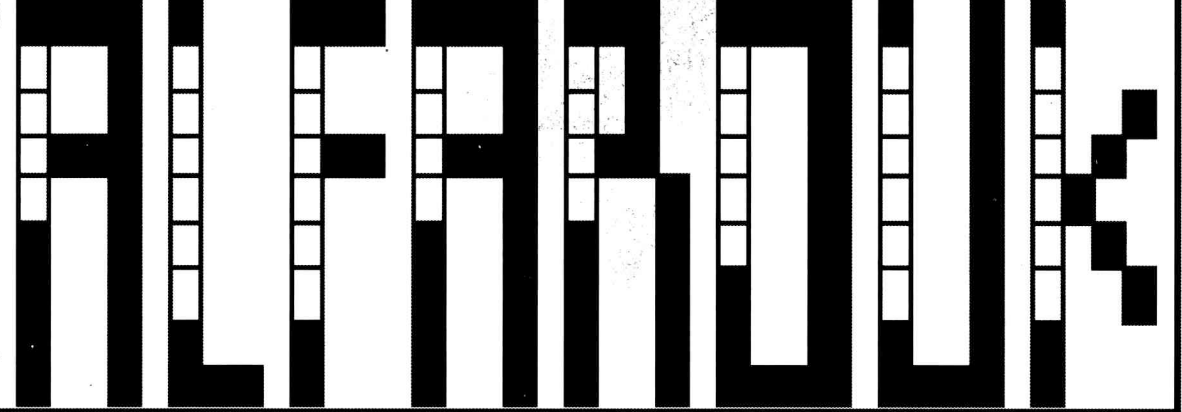
Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer

الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز اكسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا
The Sole Representative of Oxford L.C & ST.Giles Colleges UK&USA

تخفيض ٣٠% في نظام الدبلوم (إنجليزي أو كمبيوتر) مع ضمان الوظيفة للأول
تخفيض ٢٠% للإجابات الصحيحة التي لم توفق بالقرعة



1. swimming place
2. great sadness
3. careless
4. computer information
5. ready for business
6. lift up
7. assistant
8. frightened



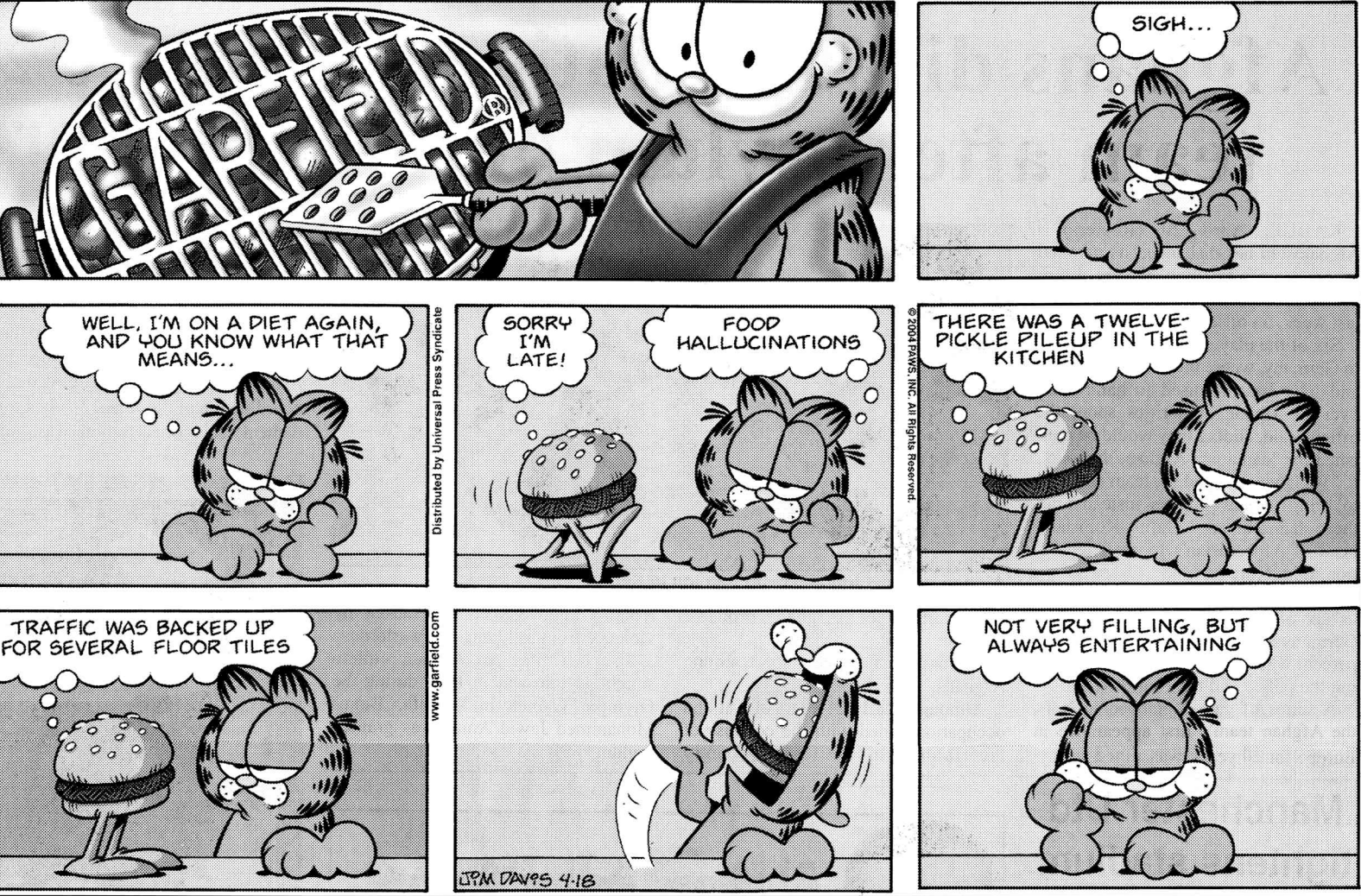
Ans. Cont.9

1. tots
2. cannon
3. slow
4. room
5. above
6. simple
7. employ
8. little



Winner
Hasan
Al-Shahedi Name: _____

جائزة هذه المسابقة دبلوم كمبيوتر مقدم من المعهد بتخفيض ٥٠%
معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر - صنعاء - شارع هائل - مقابل مجوهرات الجابري - تلفاكس: ٢١٣٧١١
Sana'a Hael St. Tel/Fax 213711
Email: alfarouk26@hotmail.com
Website: www.alfaroukinst.netfirms.com



**THE LAST
WORD IN
ASTROLOGY**



BY Eugenia

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**
Your ability to help people going through chaotic times will make you a hero among your friends. Your ability to act fast and efficiently will put you in a position to advance.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**
Someone may try to stand in the way of advancement if you are too gullible. Do your own research, especially if it has to do with how you can earn a living.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**
Your changing heart and mind will confuse others, but will lead you in a direction far better for you. Stop giving in to appease everyone around you.
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**
You may be drawn to an organization with a unique set of standards and beliefs, but you must question if you really want someone else to do the thinking for you. Don't be robbed by someone out to con you.
- Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**
As long as you keep money out of whatever it is you are doing with others, the outcome will be great. You should be able to form a great relationship with someone with lots to offer you in return.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**
Someone you least expect may try to broodsie you with information that will stop you from getting ahead. Question whatever is going on at work and at home. Protect your interests.
- Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**
Get the help you need to follow through with your plans. This is a perfect day to do something to enhance your looks as well as your attitude. Love is in a high cycle.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
Any form of gambling will lead to loss. Keep a close eye on spending as well as being too generous with the ones you love. You may be burdened with added family responsibilities.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
Love and romance will be your adventure and your demise if you aren't upfront about the way you feel and what your intentions are today. Don't take chances or sudden personal changes will take place.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
You may have to do a bit of finagling when it comes to business and dealing with associates today. Nothing will be out in the open or clear, so be patient.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
Children may play an important role in your life today. Love will flourish if you get out and socialize. Your intellectual point of view will attract partners.
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**
Sitting around listening to complaints or being lonely will only add to your upset. Make plans to do something that will take your mind off your worries. You will realize that the changes that have transpired are in your favor.

NOKIA
7200

يلا مس إحساسك



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