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# 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 coast-line.

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.

Continued on page 3

# 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 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 trib-



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.

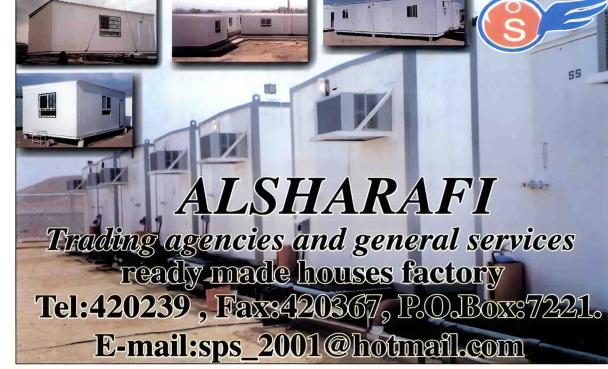
"I believe that it is up to 90% of Al-Qaeda cells that have been dismantled,"

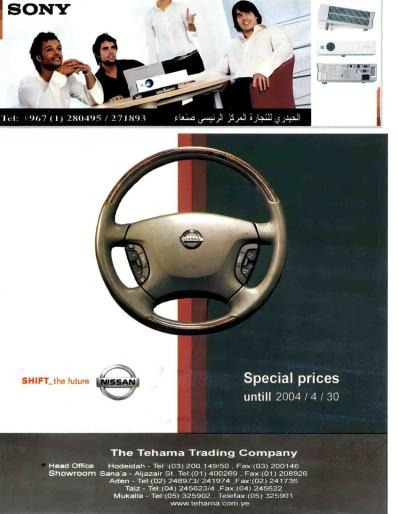
Special Price

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."

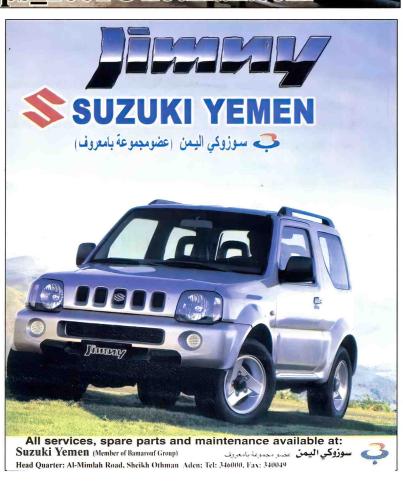
Along with rounding up hundreds of militants, Yemeni forces have captured a number of top Al-Qaeda members. One was Mohammed Hamdi Al-Ahdal, believed to have dealt with the terror group's finances, weapons smuggling and operational planning, who was captured last year. Abdul Raouf Naseeb, who is believed 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-

tected 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.



### **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

### 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 gov- ened, the group occupied three unfinernorate sent a 'Call-for-Help-letter' to President Saleh, urging him to stop the oppression put on them by secret serv-

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 worsished 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-Amn 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.

# Y.JS files sues PS

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

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

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

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

The Yemen Female Media Forum, 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

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

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 moder-No, he will be somewhat similar to Bush.
No, in fact he will be more 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.
- No, they will infuriate the situation
- No, there would be no change whatsoever

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

en 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

Mowahib Abdullah. She was beat-

New issuance of WFRT

are now being interrogated.

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 foun-

### 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 sec-

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

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

### Continued from front page

### Fighting terror through dialogue

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

"Al-Masri sent a message that told 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

> "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 lead-

"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

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-

هاتف: ۷۱۸۷۸۹۱ او ۷۸۸۷۸۸۲

او فاکس ۲۲۸۲۷۱ .

gles to balance security with civil lib-

"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

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,

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

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 initially told him that I didn't believe 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.

### **Sponsors of the YT Sanaa Cultural Competition**



### إعلان هام

على الفائزين في مسابقة الملايين ٢٠٠٤ التابعة ليمن تايمز الذين لم يتسلموا جوائزهم بعد أن يأتوا لمقر الصحيفة الرئيسي في صنعاء أو أياً من فروعها في تعز، عدن، أو الحديدة الاستلام الجوائز في أسرع وقت ممكن



### Vacancies

CARE is looking for 8 Branch Development Investment Officers as part of its project with the Yemen Women's Union. The successful candidates will be able to initiate and lead the start up and running of income generation schemes at YWU offices in Lahej, Aden, Hodeidah, Taiz, Dhamar, Hadramout, Al Mahara, Amran. For a detailed job description of to learn more about the position please contact CARE office in Sana'a. Candidates ate requested to submit a one page covering letter stating which town they ate applying for together with a detailed CV, before 30th April 2004. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Interviews will be held in the first week of May, with an immediate start. CARE, 68 Arwa School St., Sana'a Tel. 298780/298781. Email: ywu@yemen.net.ye

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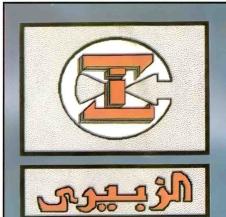
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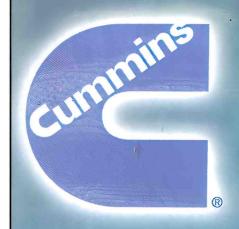
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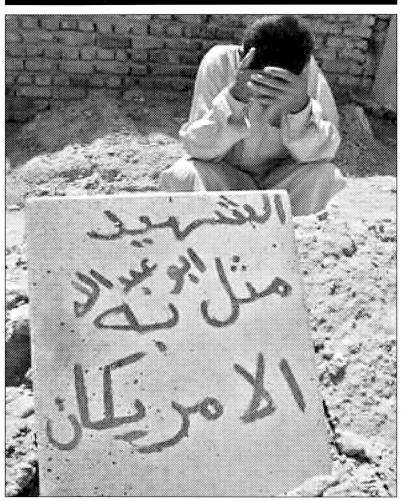
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# Mubarak: Arabs hate U.S. more than ever



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

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.

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

PARIS (Reuters) - Arabs in the 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 selfdefense. 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 drawal that was agreed with the "At the start some considered 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 Darfur by government forces acting in 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

"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 neighouring Chad and had recorded "widespread and systematic abuses committed in south.

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

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 palce in Kenya to end the southern conflict, which pits the Islamist government in the north against the mainly Christian, animist

# 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.

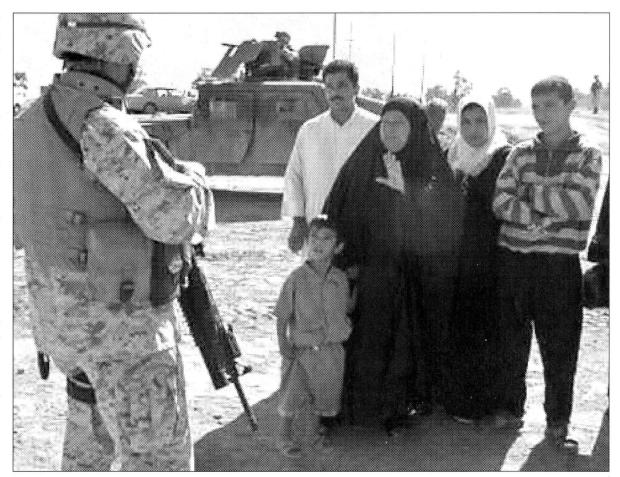
Elsewhere, tension eased in two flashpoint cities as a truce held in the Sunni bastion of Falluja and U.S. forces prepared to pull back from a forward base near Najaf, where a rebel Shi'ite cleric has taken refuge.

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.

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

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

U.S. Marines launched a crack-

guarantees they promised," said down in Falluja on April 5 after crowds burned and mutilated the corpses of four U.S. private security guards ambushed there on March

## 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.

GAZA (Reuters) - Israeli soldiers shot dead three Palestinians in confrontations with hundreds of stonethrowers 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

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

# 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 oilroducing 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 side-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.'

# Afghan leader plans to Pakistan tribes suspend reduce size of cabinet

KABUL, April 20 (Reuters) Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Tuesday he wanted to reduce the size of his cabinet, a move that will be watched closely by factional leaders and commanders who have resisted previous bids to reform government.

Only a handful of the 29 cabinet posts in Karzai's government, installed after the overthrow of the Taliban in late 2001, are run by experienced and educated officials, while the rest are occupied by members of powerful factions.

"We have learned lessons about the strengths and weaknesses of our current administration," Karzai told delegates from foreign donors, who gathered in Kabul for a conference called Afghanistan Development Forum.

"I have come to the conclusion that the size of the cabinet is too large for effective delivery of services."

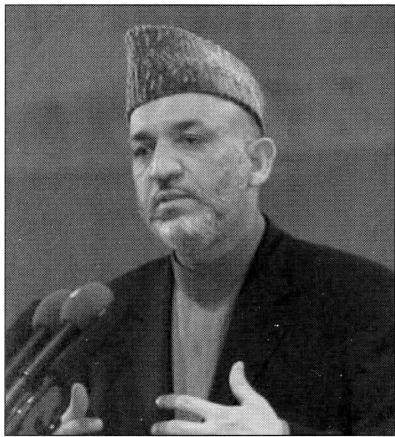
He said he had instructed three cabinet members to draw up a plan for the reforms and clarify the functions of the

Karzai, from the largest Pashtun ethnic group, has sought to reduce the influence of ethnic minority leaders, who, after helping the U.S. military topple the Taliban in 2001 rose to positions of power in local and central gov-

The president has already sought to reform the powerful defence ministry to better reflect the country's ethnic makeup, although Defence Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim, from the minority Tajik group, remains at the

Karzai also outlined how \$4.5 billion in aid pledged for this year by the international community at a recent conference in Berlin would be spent.

Karzai's priorities include the fight against rampant opium production and bolstering an ambitious disarmament



Afghan President Hamid Karza

plan that he hopes will cover 40,000 of the country's estimated 100,000 fighters by June.

Private armies are seen as a major threat to security in Afghanistan, already wracked by an Islamic militant insurgency that has claimed hundreds of lives in the last few months.

Karzai highlighted the National Solidarity Programme enabling villagers to decide on their own reconstruction priorities and health and education services.

"We Afghans must now lead the process of stabilisation of Afghanistan so that we are fully self-sufficient in the shortest time possible," Karzai

"There are pre-conditions for our success. First, removal of the threat of violence presented by armed elements. I am firmly committed to the acceleration of DDR (disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration), for its is...a prerequisite for free and fair elections."

U.N. special envoy for Afghanistan Jean Arnault emphasised the "pressing need" for the international community to provide security for the country ahead of presidential and parliamentary elections in September and

# militant hunt, deal sought

AZAM WARSAK, Pakistan, April 20 (Reuters) - Pakistani tribesmen searching for al Qaeda and Taliban militants and their local allies called off the hunt on Tuesday after some of the men they had targeted asked for time to surrender or flee.

The government meanwhile said it would not insist on Tuesday's deadline to tribal elders to hand over the militants and the local men who are harbouring them.

A militia of around 2.000 of the fiercely independent tribesmen is searching for the militants and their local hosts. Five local men who were being sought asked a tribal council to give them time to give themselves up or leave the area

"We will halt our activities for three days but will not vacate the area," tribal elder Malik Noor Ali told the "jirga" in the remote village of Azam Warsak attended by hundreds of tribesmen, most of them wearing big yellow turbans and carrying weapons.

The tribal fighters, armed with assault rifles and other light weapons, have spread across the semi-autonomous tribal belt near the Afghan border, setting up makeshift camps and pickets.

They want to apprehend tribesmen who are harbouring the militants to avoid allowing the army into the area to do the job.

The government, keen to avoid a repeat of bloody clashes with militants last month in which more than 120 people were killed, said it was ready to give the tribesmen more time, although a deadline to hand over the militants expired on Tuesday.

"We have not set any new deadline," said Rehmatullah Wazir, a senior government official in Wana, the main town in the South Waziristan tribal area 380 km (238 miles) southwest of Islamabad. Azam Warsak is 20 km (13 miles) west of Wana.

"The lashkar (tribal militia) is working in a very positive manner, and because of that there is no need (for a military operation)," he told Reuters. "If it proceeds well and they hand over the men and can control their area, then there is no need for any

Residents in Azam Warsak said five local tribesmen harbouring foreign mili-

tants had asked elders for time to decide a tribal militia and to publicly issue deadwhether to surrender or vacate the area.

"They have asked for some time, but it is now up to the tribe to decide on it," said Rehmatullah Wazir.

In line with a centuries-old custom, the tribal militia has burned down the house of one tribesman suspected of harbouring militants, and has threatened to demolish three

"We are poor people, but we are doing this to satisfy the government that we do not support and provide shelter to the wrong kind of people," said Khanzada Wazir, a resident of Azam Warsak, explaining why tribesmen had turned against their

"We are doing this because we do not want our houses to be demolished."

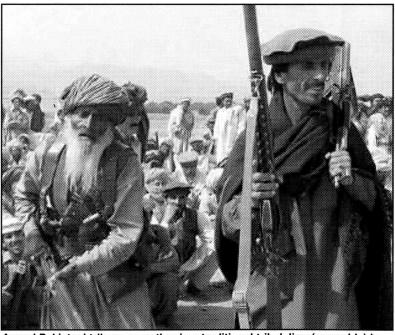
But the government's decision to rely on

lines to the suspects has raised doubts about the seriousness of the latest crackdown.

Tens of thousands of soldiers have been deployed in tribal areas, where 500 to 600 foreign militants are said to be hiding, but there were no signs on Tuesday of any military operation.

Locals say that the foreigners, including Arabs and Central Asians, have been in the area for years, having stayed there after the anti-Soviet campaign in Afghanistan during the 1980s.

But the U.S. military in Afghanistan and the government in Kabul say Taliban and al Qaeda fighters have launched attacks from across the border in Pakistan, undermining security during the buildup to landmark elections in September.



Armed Pakistani tribesmen gather in a traditional tribal Jirga(assembly) in Wana, near the Afghan border April 19. Tribesmen searching for al Qaeda and Taliban militants and their local allies called off the hunt Tuesday after some of the men they had targeted asked for time to surrender or flee. The government meanwhile said it would not insist on Tuesday's deadline to tribal elders to hand over the militants and the local men who are harboring

# China urges Kim to soften stance towards U.S.paper

BEIJING, April 20 (Reuters) - China urged visiting North Korean ruler Kim Jong-il to soften his stance towards the United States to break an impasse over ending secretive Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, South Korean media said on

Kim slipped unannounced into Beijing on Monday for talks with Chinese President and Communist Party chief Hu Jintao, military chief Jiang Zemin and Premier Wen Jiabao on the crisis over the North's nuclear ambitions and its threadbare economy.

Kim repeated his secretive government's standard position, telling Beijing he was ready to scrap his nuclear programmes if the United States changed what he called its hostile attitude. South Korea's Chosun Ilbo newspaper said.

His rare overseas trip, that could last up to four days, comes a week after U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney visited China with new evidence of the North's possession of nuclear arms and warning that time was running out to end the stalemate.

The purpose of Kim's visit was not immediately clear, but the reclusive leader of the world's only communist dynasty may be eager to win Beijing's support for his fledgling market reforms and nuclear

"Jiang Zemin told him the possibility of the United States invading North Korea is very slim, indirectly suggesting he should change North Korea's tough line against the United States," the South's Munhwa Ilbo evening newspaper said.

Kim had voiced doubts in the meeting with Jiang about whether he would win the security guarantees he wants in return for stopping his nuclear weapons programmes, Munhwa Ilbo said.

ECONOMIC ADVICE

Kim also received advice on handling his ailing economy.

"Wen gave polite advice to Kim that if North Korea really wants openness and reform, North Korea needs to benchmark not only the Chinese model but also visit South Korea and directly witness the winds of capitalism," it said of his talks with the Chinese premier.

Ending the nuclear crisis is critical to

unlocking outside aid to the ailing and isolated North Korean economy, including from China, the North's closest friend and host of two rounds of inconclusive sixparty talks aimed at breaking the impasse.

However, Kim may calculate that an arsenal of nuclear weapons is the only way to guarantee the survival of his government, giving him leverage with the United States as he presses for security guarantees to prevent any possible U.S. invasion

Kim was due to meet Hu a second time before leaving Beijing, the South's Yonhap news agency said.

A Chinese source with knowledge of the visit said Kim would leave the Chinese capital on Wednesday. It was not clear where he would go, but South Korean media reports said he might visit the northeastern cities of Shenyang or Dalian.

Asked if the United States had used the opportunity to pass a message to Kim, a U.S. embassy spokeswoman was careful, saying only: "China knows our position well and this was reaffirmed during Vice President Cheney's visit to China."

China had agreed to give the North energy and food aid, South Korean media said. Beijing may be eager to offer rewards to ensure Pyongyang does not declare itself a nuclear state and has long insisted on a peaceful resolution to a crisis that has enraged Washington and triggered

nervousness among neighbours.

The reclusive Kim had confirmed Pyongyang's willingness to settle the nuclear crisis at the next round of six-party talks that include the two Koreas, China, Russia, the United States and Japan, South Korean media said.

In the last round of talks in February, the six agreed to meet again before June and to start working-level talks before that been reported since.

North Korean reporters, with Kim Jong-il pins fastened to their lapels, were seen by Reuters TV cameramen in the halls of Beijing's Great Hall of the People, but it was unclear what event they were

Chinese and North Korean media were silent on the visit, Kim's first to his giant neighbour in three years

For the second night in a row, the top newscast of China Central Television made no mention of the top leader's trip.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan declined to confirm the visit, saying only: "It is very important for the two country's leaders...to maintain communication and maintain contact in various forms, to constantly exchange views on important international issues and issues of mutual concern."



A Chinese man looks at a portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il outside the North Korean Embassy in Beijing April 19. The reclusive North Korean leader arrived unannounced in Beijing on Monday and went straight into talks on his nuclear weapons ambitions after Washington urged Beijing to push to end the crisis. Reuters

## Sri Lanka monks rebuke government over rebel split

COLOMBO, April 20 (Reuters) - A political party formed by Buddhist monks criticised Sri Lanka's government on Tuesday, saying it should have exploited a split in the Tamil Tigers by supporting a breakaway rebel faction.

The Tigers regained control of the region held by an eastern commander known as Karuna earlier this month, but the government was at pains to steer clear of the infighting for fear o disrupting the island's two-year truce. This is a great betrayal of the nation. There was a great opportunity to crush the murderous LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)," Omalpe Sobitha, the deputy leader of the National Heritage Party, told a news conference, speaking in Sinhalese. The monks won nine seats in the 225seat parliament in Sri Lanka's April 2 election after campaigning for the first time as a single political force on a platform to protect the majority Sinhalese, who are mostly Buddhist. They say the foremost place for Sinhalese must be preserved in any peace settlement to end the island's 20-year civil war with the predomi-

nantly Hindu Tigers, who have been fighting for a separate state for the minority Tamil community. Despite the criticism, the monks have said they would support the newly elected United People's Freedom Alliance — which is seven seats short of a majority - on an issue-by-issue basis, but have declined to join the

ruling coalition. Surrounded by fellow saffron-robed parliamentarians and speaking to reporters seated barefoot and crosslegged in keeping with Buddhist practice, Omalpe said the government's failure to intervene was a "missed opportunity"

The Freedom Alliance takes a tougher approach to the Tigers than the government of former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, and when Karuna broke from the Tigers, hardliners pressed for the opportunity to be used to weaken the rebels. But that would almost certainly have invited the wrath of the Tigers and wrecked the ceasefire that is thought to have given the island its best chance to end the war that has killed

The Tigers have installed new leaders in the east since vanquishing the breakaway group in the four-day offensive and said their strength shows the government cannot afford a military solution to the conflict. "The leader has put a stop to the idea that GOSL (the government of Sri Lanka) can suppress and destroy the Tamil people," the rebels' political wing leader S.P. Thamilselvan said on the pro-rebel Tamilnet Web site. "The leader has shown that it is only by talking to the Tamil people... that the GOSL can come to an agreement," he said.

The Tigers' reclusive leader Velupillai Prabhakaran held a rare meeting with parliamentarians from the rebelbacked Tamil National Alliance on Tuesday, underscoring their weight behind the party ahead of the first session on parliament on Thursday. The TNA won 22 seats in the April 2 poll, up from 15 in the last election, running for the first time with the explicit backing of the Tigers.

# Exit polls give BJP early lead in voting

NEW DELHI, April 20 (Reuters) - Congress party and allies who were Television exit polls gave India's ruling Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition a healthy lead in the first phase of voting in a staggered national election on Tuesday.

Sahara TV said the BJP-led coalition was likely to take 82 out of 140 seats contested in the first phase of the threeweek-long election.

The tally was down slightly from the but well ahead of the opposition strong economic growth, governance

seen winning 55 seats, Sahara Television said

A party needs a simple majority of 273 seats out of the 545-member lower house of parliament to rule.

The election takes place in five stages up to May 10. Counting of votes is set for May 13 and results expected the same day.

The BJP-led coalition has camcoalition's 1999 showing of 88 seats paigned on a "feel-good" platform of

and peace with Pakistan.

The main challenger Congress accuses the BJP of a deep-seated bias against the country's 120 million Muslims and says it remains a threat to the country's secular traditions.

Star TV gave the ruling coalition 78 seats out of the 140 seats, and also predicted Congress and allies would win

Some 175 million people were eligible to vote in Tuesday's election.

### Words of Wisdom



I personally feel that female journalists can play an important role in the presence of women in public life. They will be the torch-bearers because they will influence society, and they play role models for other women. We will help them, provided they satisfy the minimum - not optimal condition.

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



### **OUR OPINION**

### Press freedom oppressed in Iraq: Is this what was supposed to be?

he recent ongoing conflicts, violent confrontations, curfews, and house stormings in Iraq have made most Iraqis disbelieve the so-called democracy the US intends to bring to the country. It is obvious that this type of democracy isn't at all what they thought they would get.

But what US forces dead in the last few months resemble are the most outrageous acts, which totally contradict the basic essence of the freedom of expression, which is among the main pillars of democracy.

First of all, the closure of the Al-Hawza newspaper is in my opinion a major blow to the whole democratization process that the occupying alliance tried to defend. What on earth could a newspaper do to damage the security situation in a country? Don't newspapers in the US sometimes publish more aggressive articles and opinions? Or is this action implemented outside of the US only?

On the other hand, the journalists killed in Iraq by coalition forces, including the two reporters of Al-Arabia Satellite channel, was again a serious blow to the claims that the occupying forces respect journalists and the freedom of the press.

But what is even more puzzling for many journalists in the Arab world, and I suppose worldwide, is the mysteriously harsh and obviously too aggressive statements of military generals accusing channels such as Al-Jazeera of 'producing lies', just as was mentioned by Rumsfeld during the early stages of the war in Iraq when snapshots of humanitarian disasters were shown to the public everywhere.

A government believing in the freedom of press should have not made such actions against professional TV networks, whose sole aim is to report the truth as seen on the ground.

In brief, I believe that the US forces in Iraq have a serious challenge in convincing the Iraqi people of their plans to democratize the country

Furthermore, the killing of innocent civilians using sophisticated F17 planes is also another indication of the unjust treatment Iraqis are getting, compared to Americans killed in combat. It is not only the press that was targeted, but also normal civilians who were target-

The double standard policy executed in Iraq does not only contradict the basics of the democracy claims the US government is presenting, but it is bringing more hatred and violence to the US forces and nationals on

It is even more amazing to see how US administration members don't seem to be concerned about their image in the Middle East and Iraq when it comes to democracy as they continue to oppress the free Arab press.

Was it supposed to be like this? I doubt it.

The Editor

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief: Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a



Email: yementimes@yementimes.com Website: http://www.yementimes.com

Branches: Aden Bureau Chief: Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596 Fax: +967 (2) 347-056 Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah Hodeidah Bureau Chief. Tel: +967 (4) 217-156 Telefax: +967 (3) 206-886 P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz Email: yttaiz@y.net.y

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### **My diary in Iraq: Final Day**

### Hope to bring Iraqis together lives...

BY EMMA BOMINO FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

are suddenly woken up by a hissing sound. A missile flies over our camp and crashes, we learn later, into the Sheraton Hotel. A siren warns everyone to go to the shelters. And yet the evening had begun with a series of celebrations, the farewell party for Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Head of the British Forces in Iraq, who is returning to London after six months, and then a party in our honour, offered by the representatives in Baghdad of the Kurdish minority, the first to free itself of Saddam's regime. The party takes place in a hotel in the centre of Baghdad, guarded by dozens of armed men, the famous Peshmerga.

The Kurds welcome us warmly; with them there are many members of the community of diplomats, functionaries and experts of the Coalition and soldiers trying, despite everything, to enjoy moments of normal life. The Kurds tell us of a country whose fate is still in the balance. "Every day," says Baktiar Amin, a member of the Governing Council, "around 10,000 Iranians cross the border claiming to be pilgrims to the holy places of Shiite Islam, and who knows how many of

them will go back. From Syria, too, and probably from Jordan and Saudi Arabia, armed groups are infiltrating the country continually and unchecked. There are two major At the intergovernmental conference in Sana'a, Yemen, organised in January of this year by No Peace Without Justice, Iraqi ministers invited Emma Bonino, Radical Party Member of the European Parliament and member of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, to Baghdad. A delegation of Radical MEPs - Bonino herself, Marco Cappato and Gianfranco Dell'Alba accepted their invitation. On the final day of their visit, the delegation attend a reception with the Peshmerga and a meeting with Rajaa, a symbol of hope for the future of Iraq

branches of international terrorism operating in the country, each with its own galaxy of groups and movements: Sunnite fundamentalism, also linked to groups loyal to Saddam, is close to Al Qaeda and other terrorist organisations, whilst Shiite fundamentalism is funded by the Hezbollah and influenced by Iran. The stakes are high, and after being oppressed for thirty years by Saddam the Kurds, who have taken important decisions in the field of the fundamental rights and freedoms - with regard to women, for example - are clearly not willing to give up their freedom in a State dominated by the mul-

During the day we had visited the burns ward in the hospital run by the Italian Red Cross. They operate in a high-risk zone, and we arrive accompanied by Ambassador de Martino and the highly efficient Carabinieri of the Tuscania division. The premises are clean and tidy - a different world compared to the Saddam Hospital which I Transnational Radical Party.

visited in 1997 - and the highly qualified staff are working miracles, though they are unable to cope completely, with over 100 patients on the waitinglist for the most serious cases. They ask me to convey an appeal to the Italian regions to help out.

At the Embassy I meet painters, sculptors, archaeologists... a society waking up, with all sorts of expectations. They want to promote projects on "art and democracy", above all to help children to express themselves. They are thinking of painting murals to embellish the city. They show us photos of their works and would like to establish contacts with Europe.

I find the possible future of Iraq, multiethnic and tolerant, in the words of Rajaa Kuzai, the women who, as a member of the Governing Council, has shown most determination in defending the draft Constitution from the inclusion of articles inspired by fundamentalism. Her account of whole days spent in the Council to thwart the Islamist boycotts reminded me of the many Radical battles in the Italian parliament. I hope that her plan to establish a cross-ethnic "liberal" group bringing together Shiites, Sunnites and Kurds who oppose fundamentalism will immediately become an objective shared by our Transnational Radical

\* Emma Bonino is a Member of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy. She is also an active member of the

### COMMONSENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

ot that Israel would care the less about

### A license to kill

obtaining any international endorsement for the free operation of its killing machine, as this machinery has unabashedly relied on a systematic program of bringing death to as many Palestinians and other Arabs as an indivisible element of the creation and expansion of the Zionist agenda for the Holy Land. In fact, the modus operandi of the establishment of the Zionist State, as set out by many of Israel's "Founding Fathers" clearly dictate the necessity of using death for two fundamental reasons: to reduce the number of Palestinians or other Arabs remaining in the areas that Israel seeks to absorb in its territorial domain (Eretz Israel - from the Euphrates to the Nile), who have not been driven out yet; and to terrorize those Palestinians and Arabs who resist being uprooted from their indigenous homeland or make it plain to them that their ultimate fate is death, if they persist in the belief that they can arrive to their own independent state, that "will live side by side with their Israeli neighbors". All one has to do is check out the history of this mutant state, from a cultural or historical perspective to see the several intentional massacres that were instigated to bring fear into the indigenous people of Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and the Sinai (Israel had no intention of leaving these areas unless the United States intervened to bring pressure on the Hebrew State to do so as part of a peace agreement it brokered, or when persistent effective resistance - a la Hezbollah - by

the indigenous inhabitants forced them out). Oh sure, the successive Israeli governments from Ben Gurion's onward to Ariel Sharon's misleadingly convey an Israeli desire to live peacefully with their neighbors and a token willingness to accept a "Palestinian State" beside Israel, although this willingness has never really been expressed with any meaningful convincing intent. Surely the gross mist5reatment of the Palestinians in the occupied territories never reflected any substantiation of such willingness. Thanks to well organized and misleading propaganda, most people are not aware that the creation of Israel, simply put is a product of international power intrigues and the forced displacement of the Palestinians. To speed up this effort, the Israelis relied on the available overpowering firepower they had to forcefully remove the Palestinians, with the killing of thousands of mostly unarmed innocent victims over the years to incite the rest to move away from the Israeli war machine (misleadingly called the Israeli Defense Forces) and later the Jewish settlers. One only has to look back at the demographic picture of Palestine eighty years ago and ask, how did this picture went through such a dramatic substantial change? Surely, the Palestinians did not sympathize with the "right of the Jews to a homeland" and abruptly left their homes and farms, without even bothering to pick up their belongings. But that is history. As communications made events in the regions disseminate faster throughout the world, the displacement or replacement drive was undertaken by other less subtle means, disguised under different alibis such as self-defense, etc. until the present "fight against terror". For most of the years, the Palestinians relied on peaceful quests to be repatriated for all the misfortune and misery they had to go through to make room for the establishment of the Hebrew State. This went so far as to give up any claims for the loss, out of which the 1948 State of Israel was embedded in, and to be willing to accept the remaining land as a homeland for them, while hoping that the world will recognize their right to just compensation or the "right of return" for this clearly oppressive and unfair displacement, To date, this has been accepted as standard international legitimacy in any pursuit of a peace settlement of the "conflict". Yet, Israeli settlements were aggressively implanted in illegally occupied territory after 1948, especially after the 1967 Mid-East War, which were nevertheless viewed as illegitimate by the international community, including the United States.

Enter Ariel Sharon as Prime Minister of Israel at the opening of the Millennium, which conveniently, but for sure, not accidentally coincided with the entry of George W. Bush to the White House with the Bushies-Evangelical (Crusading) agenda, pretty much throwing all policy considerations for the region, adhered to by the United States almost for half a century. It is worth mentioning that these more reasonable policy considerations, presented little difficulty in stalling the Zionist agenda from proceeding full throttle (Invasion of Lebanon, aggressive expansion of settlements in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights, suppression of the Palestinians, Lebanese and Syrians in the occupied territories and the vastly disproportionate use of force to quell minor civil disturbances in understandable protest against the occupation). With Mr. Bush completely entrapped in his "anti-terror" complex, the Israelis seemed to be the manifestation of how Mr. Bush has been waging his own anti-terror drives and found great favor in Mr. Bush's heart. In fact Mr. Bush insists the right of Israel to eliminate anyone or anything that stands in the way of Israel's "War on Terror", which is no more than a disguised ethnic cleansing drive whitewashed with all the "anti-terror terminology that raise goose pimples in Mr. Bush's skin. Never mind that the rest of the world is completely awestruck by the affectionate love and coziness displayed by Bush to his ultra Zionist partner in Israel, Ariel Sharon. Even with the illegal assassination, arrest or enclosures of Palestinian leaders, Mr. Bush feels no moral discomfort in actually insisting that this is all within Israel's "right of self-defense" As if the Palestinians should really have no gripes to move the heart of Mr. Bush at all and Palestinian rights never entered any of his proven limited vocabulary. So for all intents and purposes, it is understandable now that Israel will simply continue being Israel, but this time the White House has given it an irrevocable license to do away with any hopes of any genuine rapprochement with the Palestinians or for that matter the entire Arab World. The List of Martyrs will be indefinitely long.

### Letters to the Editor

### Touched by sad reality in Yemen

was touched by the story narrated by Mr. Abdulwahab Alsofi from Hodeida, regarding the poor man who could not treat his son at hospital because he does not have enough

I can understand what is the feeling to be in a situation when your loved kids get sick and you can't help

Our government always says they offer free medication, education etc. Then why can this citizen not get the right treatment?

I think our Yemeni citizens have had enough, and it is time to bring this suffering to an end.

The majority of the citizens are hardworkers and deserve to live a decent life.

The question is how we should start to bring an end to this tragedy in our coun-

The poor Yemenis have had enough humiliation and suffering, and the government are just selling endless

promises. I am wondering what the politicians are doing? Where are the local councils, human rights activities and the community role?

Thousand of question remain unanswered, but the best thing to do is, don't rely on the corrupt government, just play your role.

May Allah relief us from what we are in.

> Mustafa Nagi mustafanaji@yahoo.com

### A request to Thawra Hospital

am very grateful for Yemen. I am a doctor, Iraqi, with Dutch nationality. I have worked in Thawra hospital in Sana'a in the emergency department and in the anatomy department of the medical college from 1992 to 1996. I would like to serve this land. It has given me very much in very difficult times. I am planning to

### come to Yemen in this summer vacation.

I hope with this letter to get a response, especially from al-Thawra emergency department (my file is still in the hospital, I am a surgeon with the Arab board certificate and the primary FRCS from England).

Mowafak Al-Numani mowafaknumani@yahoo.com

### I'm concerned

about US policy am very concerned about ■ my government's policies in the Middle East. I wish to express to those who read Yemen Times that not all Americans support what our government is doing here. actions and who are working to elect someone new during the November elections. I hope that Yemenis realize that it is our government and not necessarily the people who are implementing policies in the Middle East. I implore you not to hate Americans, but rather to use the resources you have available, including this newspaper, to show Americans exactly what is happening. It is through such mediums that I have educated myself and changed my opinion. I use to believe the Middle Easterners were just ignorant of the issues they face. I have definitely learned this is not true. My only fear is for Americans in your area and the tendency to blame individuals who may not have ever supported this government. Please understand that if there are Americans in Yemen, then

most likely they do not have

ill feelings against Middle

Easterners, or they would

not be there! I know that

learned Yemenis would

understand this, however,

just like in the U.S., there are

many uneducated people

who equate government or

group actions as being in

line with the beliefs of

without looking to see the whole story. I thank you for your newspaper and will

continue to read with inter-K. Wentworth kcwentworth@myway.co

### Need your help

am sending this letter as an urgent plea for help. On December 29,2003 Jamal Elsamet left Hamtramack, Michigan, to visit his family in Yemen on March 11, 2004. He called and stated he would be returning to the United States on March 15, 2004, but since March 11, 2004 we There are many groups who have not had any contact stances, i would like to ask are working against such with him. His co-workers the following rhetorical and friends are very concerned and are hoping that the kind citizens of Yemen could help us to locate our dear friend .Any information would be greatly appreciated. If by chance Jamal reads this article please contact

> Lisa Padgett keelisa@aol.com

### Jew of Yemeni-origin dis-

agrees with Sharon n the 1920s both pairs of my grandparents left Yemen, where they were born and grew up, and found there way to the land of their forefathers. They were Jews. Yehudim. Arab Jews, you could call them, 2000 years in Yemen, and their Arab-Jewish heritage is so strong, that almost 100 years later, me, their grandson, 42 years old myself, is still interested in Yemen, Yemenis and Arabs in general, including Arab culture and Arab people: I actually love Arab people. I feel close to them. I really wish that we could relate to each other as 1st cousins, sons of Yitshak, grandsons of Avraham (Ibrahim).

But the truth of the matter is that there's war now. And the war is totally not only the everyone from the place Jews fault. If you think it's

### Letters to the Editor where those people originate only the Jews to blame, you are either totally ignorant, or

totally prejudiced. I'm Jewish, and Israeli, and a proud one. It doesn't mean I agree with all that my government says or does. Usually on the contrary.

Still, reading your commentary about Dr. Rantissy's killing and the Bush-Sharon meeting, I wish to express

some things, as follows: 1. Dr. Rantissi and the Hamas explicitly express their goal: the ruin of the State of Israel.

2. On the everyday level, Dr. Rantissi was a major cause in the terror attacks, including against civilians.

Under these circumauestions:

 What good reason could Israel have for not fighting the Hamas, and Dr. Rantissy?

2. What valid argument is there against building a defensive wall?

3. How should Israel relate to Palestinian demands regarding the right of return - knowing that the return of all refugees to Israel will practically destroy Israel as the Jewish people's state.

These questions and comments come from an honest heart. I do not mean to insult or create more hatred, but really to clarify my opinions and hear the other side.

> El Sabari sabari@netvision.net.il

### Thanks for Banaadiri article

'm Banaadiri of Holland. I would like to thank the Director of Yemen Times. the Editor and the author and researcher of the article : "BANAADIR: The country of Harbors" for the great attention and interest that you gave us, because the interest of our Arab brothers will help us. So will wait from you all the best.

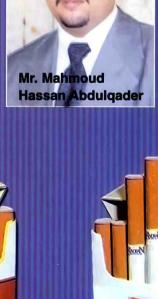
A. M. Abukar abati24@hotmail.com

# National Cigarettes and Matches Industry Ltd - Aden

# NCMI celebrates its anniversary and honors employees



Ba Gussair





Ltd- Aden held an honoring celebration agents and only hopes for more encouragement to

Authority, in his address, expressed his joy to be part of the company in dealing with customers and the of this celebration in encouraging the agents and dis- keenness to offer them high quality products in the tribution of appreciative certificates and prizes to Radfan and Pall Mall cigarettes, the contributing facexcelled agents. There is no doubt that any administors to success inside Yemen. He added that the trative work seeking the encouragement of workers close attention and follow up personally by Mr. must have positive results in connection to the com- Abdulsalaam Ba Thawab has played an important pany's activities and preservation of quality and rep- rule in the success of the company. He concluded utation. Indeed a company specialized in cigarettes that the honoring would motivate them to exert more and matches must enjoy good reputation for the efforts during the year 2004.

consumers to lay their trust on it and to buy its prod- Last but not least, Mr. Mahmoud Hassan Abdulgader, ucts. The General Investment Authority encourages 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

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 to its staff. Then consultation meetings took place among agents of and honored individuals and the company's administration.

































# YTBusiness

The World Bank's report on Yemen updated

# Economic and Policy Developments (2-2)

iscal spending in 2004 is expected to increase by half percentage point of GDP and 12% in nominal terms over 2003 level. Most of the increase will be allocated to capital spending which is projected to increase by 1 percentage point to reach 10.3% in 2004 (22% increase in nominal terms). The 2004 provided for increased allocations in wages and salaries (half a percentage point of GDP) and reduced allocations for subsidies and transfers (0.6% of GDP reduction) due to increases in fixed capital investment and capital transfers (increase in equity participation) and a decline in acquisition of land. Total current spending is projected to increase by 8% in 2004. Within current spending most of the increase were allocated to wages and salaries (15% increase) and good and services (11% increase). Allocations for transfer and subsides were kept at the same levels as in 2003. Total subsidies are projected to decline by 11% mainly due to reduction in diesel subsidy by about 19% (from YR 42.1 billion in 2003 to YR 34.2 billion in 2004). Allocations for maintenance will decline markedly in 2004. Interest payments are also expected to decline by about 0.3 percentage points of GDP due to a 16% reduction in interest payments on foreign debt. Interest payments on domestic debt will remained at about the same level as in 2003 (YR 27.5 billion). Other non-classified current spending will increase from YR 13.2 billion in 2003 to YR 16.8 billion 2004 (Table A3)

Table A3: Fiscal Spending in Yemen, 2003-2004

### What's New?

### Laws, Decrees and Agreements (January-March 2004):

- On January 27<sup>th</sup>, the President of the Republic issued Law 1/2004 for setting up the Civil Service Fund. The Fund will be run by the Minister of Civil Service and Insurance and will aim to tackle the cases of surplus employment.
- On January 4<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Oil and Minerals and Yemen Hunt Oil Company signed an agreement renewing oil production concessions for 18 blocks in Marib and Al-Jawf for additional five years starting November 15, 2005.
   On January 4<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Fish
- Wealth signed an agreement with Iranian Neptune Company for Marine Fishing regarding implementation of MOI signed between Yemen and Iran in 2000.
- On February 17<sup>th</sup>, a cooperation agreement was signed between Yemeni and Syrian Ministries of Oil in the field of gas and mineral resources transportation and storing, and oil marketing.

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.4000	184.6400
Sterling Pound	331.6000	332.0300
Euro	221.2800	221.5700
Saudi Rial	49.1700	49.2300
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.5100	626.3200
UAE Dirhem	50.2000	50.2700
Egyptian Pound	29.8300	29.8700
Bahraini Dinar	489.1300	489.7700
Qatari Rial	50.6500	50.7200
Jordanian Dinar	260.0800	260.4200
Omani Rial	478.9900	479.6200
Swiss Franc	142.4200	142.6100
Swedish Crown	24.0400	24.0700
Japanese Yen	1.7089	1.7111

### Publications:

- The Higher Council prepared a study about poverty's relation to increasing violence against children for Motherhood and Childhood in cooperation with UNICEF and WHO in January 2004.
- The Ministry of Expatriates Affairs finished preparations for issuing an investment directory on expatriates' development projects.
- The National Women's Committee issued a book on "Violence Against Women" by Dr. Adel Al-Sharjabi in January 2004.

### Conferences and Workshops:

- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor organized a training course on "Care for Juveniles and Street Children" in cooperation with UNICEF and Sana'a University during January 1-22.
- The Women's Economic Empowerment Association organized a seminar on "Savings and Credits" on January 6.
- The Sisters' Arabic Forum in cooperation with International Federation organized the National Roundtable on "Ratification and Implementation of the International Criminal Court" for Human Rights during January 7-8.
- The Inter-Governmental Conference on Democracy, Human Rights and the Role of the International Criminal Court was organized by the Government of Yemen in cooperation with the European Union and No Peace Without Justice of Italy during January 10-12. The conference gathered 820 participants from 52 countries and issued Sana'a Declaration summarizing the results of the conference
- A Workshop on "Project for Development of the Private Sector" was organized by the Ministry of Trade and Industry during January 13-
- The "Human Rights Skills Development Program" was launched by the Girls World Communications Center on January 15.
- A workshop on "Preparation of a Biodiversity Safety National Program" was organized by the Environment Protection Authority on January 20.
- 4th Yemeni-Italian Public Health Conference took place on January 18-20.
- A workshop on the "Rome Statute of International Criminal Court" organized by the constitutional committee of the Parliament in cooperation with the International Committee for the Red Cross was organized during January 18-20.
- A symposium on "The Role of the General Federation of Workers Trade Unions of Yemen in Poverty Alleviation" was organized by GFW-TUY in cooperation with International Confederation of Free Trade during January 20-23.
- A training course for a commission to review draft Refugees Law was organized by the Ministry of Human Rights during February 8-11.
- A symposium "Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations" was organized by Yemeni Center for Studies and Research in cooperation with UNESCO during February 10-11
- The First Scientific and Legal Conference titled "The Role of Law in Achieving the Ultimate Benefit of Industrial and Technological Development with the Least Damage to Environment and Protection from its Risks" was held during February 22-23.
- The workshop on "Financial Bill of Administrative Units presented by the Technical Committee for Local Fees in accordance with Cabinet Decree number 185/2002" was organized by

the Ministry of Local Administration during February 23-25.

• The Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies held a roundtable on Yemen's official policies on regional groupings on February 25.

### **Donor Activities:**

- The Embassy of Japan granted in-kind aid to the Tetanus Control Program including vaccines and medical accessories at the cost of US\$280,000.
- A loan agreement between the Government of Yemen and Arab Fund for Development for the amount of 15 million Dinars for road construction was signed on January 1.
- A cultural Grant Agreement between the Government of Yemen and Japanese Embassy for the amount of ¥ 42,400,000 equivalent to US\$ 396,261 to supply Sana'a Cultural Center with audio-visual equipment was signed on January 8.
- A loan Agreement between the Government of Yemen and the World Bank for funding of the Ground Water and Soil Conservation Project was signed on January 9 in Cairo.
- The Saudi government agreed to finance the operation of the Aden Public Hospital at a cost of SR 50 million.
- The General Authority for Investment signed an agreement with Hungarian government on protection and promotion of investment on January 18.
- The International Financial Corporation held talks with Yemeni government during January 19-21 about areas of cooperation between IFC and Yemen and opening permanent IFC office in the country.
- An agreement was signed between the Yemeni Government and UNDP for Phase II of "Labor Market Information System" with UNDP contribution of US\$ 450,000 and Yemeni contribution of US\$ 200,000.
- An agreement was signed between Yemeni and French governments regarding a grant of \_2.5 million to establish a livestock development project in Taiz.
- The Netherlands government provided a contribution of US\$ 300,000 to the second phase of UNDP-funded National Landmine Program in
- Yemen through a UNDP Trust Fund.

   The government of Japan has decided to extend a grant of US\$ 64,557 to Al-Razi Public Hospital in Abyan to procure medical equipment in the framework of "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects".
- A loan agreement was signed between the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for the amount of 12 million Kuwaiti Dinars to finance water and sanitation project in Sana'a City.
- The Taiz local administration and Italian Shemns Organization signed an agreement for material and technical support of health sector in Taiz governorate, including establishing and equipping several health centers and units and training medical staff.
- The USA increased its financial and developmental aid to Yemen to US\$ 44 million in 2004 from US\$ 35 million in 2003.
- The office of German Bank for Reconstruction (KfW) was inaugurated in Sana'a on February 25. The Bank contributes 60% of total development aid provided by Germany, which amounts to \_ 36 million per annum.
- The Board of Directors approved IDA credit of US\$40 million for Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project. Total cost of the project is US\$53 million with the rest of the amount to be contributed by the government and beneficiaries.

### Economic/Financial News:

- Total nongovernmental deposits recorded a 14% increase in the commercial banks in the end of the third quarter of 2003 compared to the same period of 2002 reaching to YR 442.2 billion. Integrated deposits at CBY recorded a 16% increase during the same period reaching 387.4 billion, with the government share of 47%, 21% bank share, 12.5% from social security funds, 11% from public organizations and 8.4% from deposit bills.
- On January 15, the Central Bank of Yemen sold three-month treasury bills for YR 10 billion, six-month treasury bills for YR 2 billion and 12-month treasury bills for YR 1 billion, with interest rates of 13.86%, 13.88% and 13.95% respectively.
- Yemeni agricultural production reached 2.3 million tons worth YR 202.8 billion in 2003, including corn production of 131,000 tons worth YR 5.4 billion, other crops production of 488,500 tons worth 25.9 billion, vegetable production of 818,900 tons worth 39.4 billion, fruit production of 719,700 tons worth YR 58.5 billion, Qat production 103,900 tons worth 63.7 billion, and livestock production worth YR 48.5 billion.
- Investment expense by the Public Electricity Corporation rose to YR 14.45 billion compared to YR 11 billion in 2003 and 9 billion in 2002.
- On January 25, the Ministry of Finance announced new employment budget for central and local authorities. Budget includes YR 90 million for 2,233 vacancies for central authorities and 10,000 vacancies in the local authorities.
- Capital Intelligence, the international emerging markets rating agency, raised Yemen's long-term and shortterm foreign currency ratings from C to B which reflects Yemen's strong improvement in external solvency, international liquidity and government debts ratios.
- Total deposits with the General Authority for Posts and Postal Savings reached YR 3.6 billion in 2003, which is 49% higher than last year.
- The value of foreign funding for 2004 investment budget reached YR 133.4 billion, 39% of the total investment program of YR 344.3 billion. The volume of government funding is YR 165.5 billion (48%), self-funding YR 38.9 billion (12%), and local loans YR 6.2 billion (1%)
- Σ A cooperation agreement was signed between Yemeni and Syrian Ministries of Oil in the field of gas and mineral resources transportation and storing, and oil marketing.
- Domestic banks activity constituted 66.5% of total bank activity in Yemen in 2003, while foreign banks performed 33.5% of the total. Domestic banks grew by 28.8% versus 10.6% for the foreign banks in 2003.

World Bank Operations in Yemen Ongoing World Bank Operations in Yemen on 4 March 2004

World Bank Missions to Yemen (September–December)

### Country Unit:

- To work on the preparation of Yemen Country Innovation Day, Roberto Matus, Consultant, visited Yemen during January 3-8.
- To meet with government officials and Yemeni businessmen, Sami Haddad, Director, and Tarek Allouba, Country Coordinator, (IFC) visited Yemen during January 17-22.
- To conduct WBI client survey, Heidi Shahrazad Zia, visited Yemen during February 11-17.
- To facilitate Yemen field visit for international experts in the framework

- of Scaling Up Poverty Reduction Global Learning Process (preparation for Shanghai Poverty Conference in May 2004), Mohini Malhotra, WBI Adviser, visited Yemen during February 27-March 2.
- A group of international experts and government officials participated in Social Fund for Development field visit in the framework of Scaling Up Poverty Reduction Global Learning Process during February 27 March 2.
- To participate in the field visits of the Social Fund for Development and conduct negotiations with government officials, Mahdy Aljazzaf, Executive Director, Tariq Alhaimus, Sr. Advisor to Executive Director, and Mahmood Ayub, Country Director, visited Yemen during February 27-March 3.

### Human Resources Development Sector:

- To participate in supervision of Health Reform Support Project and to initiate TA work on population, Sameh El-Saharty, Sr. Health Specialist, visited Yemen during January 5-16.
- To participate in supervision of Health Reform Support Project, Mira Hong, Operations Analyst, visited Yemen during January 3-15.
   To prepare Concept Note for Children
- and work on Youth Strategy, Iqbal Kaur, Social Protection Specialist, visited Yemen during January 11-24.
  To finalize Health Portfolio
- Supervision Mission, Sameh El-Saharty, Sr. Health Specialist, visited Yemen during February 9-13.
  To participate in Vocational Training
- To participate in Vocational Training Project ICR mission, Mira Hong, Operations Analyst, visited Yemen during February 18-26.
- To participate in Basic Education Extension Project pre-appraisal mission, Ayesha Vawda, Education Specialist, visited Yemen during February 13-27.
- To participate in preparation of Vocational Training Project II and provide technical support to Vocational Training Strategy, J. Roger Pearson, Consultant, visited Yemen during February 18 – March 1.

### Natural Resources Sector:

 To participate in supervision mission of Port Cities Development Project and to launch study on Women in Economic Development, Meskerem Brhane, Social Development Specialist, and Helen Lackner, Consultant, visited Yemen during

- January 10-15.
- To supervise GEF component of Protected Areas Management and Coastal Zones Management, Stefanie Brackmann, Consultant, visited Yemen during January 15-25.
- To work on Decentralization and Local Development Project and Country Water Strategy, Mr. Jean-Francois Barres, Consultant, visited Yemen during January 16 February 19.
- To work on Fisheries Resource Management Project, Gert Van Santen, Consultant, visited Yemen during January 16 – February 10.
- To participate in supervision of Port Cities Development Project and to supervise local activities of the Red Sea Regional Development Project, John Bryant Collier, Operations Officer, visited Yemen during February 2-26.
- To lead Water Strategy Team and Sana'a Water Basin Management Project supervision mission, Maher Abu-Taleb, Sr. Water Resources Management Specialist, visited Yemen during February 16-28.

### Infrastructure Sector:

- To work on Legal and Judicial Reform and financial sector developments, Elizabeth Sherwood, Financial Sector Specialist, visited Yemen during February 3-17.
- To participate in supervision of Port Cities Development Project and Taiz Municipal Development Project, Stephen George Karam, Sr. Urban Economist, visited Yemen during February 9-27.
- To supervise financial aspects of Cities Development Project and Taiz Municipal Development Project, and Josephine Masanque, Sr. Financial Analyst, visited Yemen during February 9-17.
- To work on Yemen Investment, John Speakman, Senior Private Sector Development specialist, visited Yemen during February 17-21.
- To hold meetings with Yemeni authorities, Zoubida Allaoua, Sector Manager, visited Yemen during February 17-21.

### Social and Economic Development Sector:

To work on Civil Service Modernization Project, and Public Expenditure Management, Catherine Laurent, Sr. Public Sector Management Specialist, visited Yemen during January 12-23.

Constituti, visited Temen during Temen during variatily 12 25.								
TABLE A3: FISCAL SPENDING IN YEMEN, 2003-2004								
(Billions of YR)								
	2003 Estimate	2004 Budget	Nominal increase in 2004 (%)					
Total Fiscal Expenditures	649,205	726,330	11.9%					
Current Expenditures	464,322	500,733	7.8%					
Wages and Salaries	199,188	228,987	15.0%					
Goods and Services	69,821	77,448	10.9%					
Transfers and Subsides	129,107	129,481	0.3%					
Subsidies	59,381	52,908	-10.9%					
Oil (Diesel) subsidy	42,106	34,155	-18.9%					
Electricity subsidy	6,000	6,000	0.0%					
Other subsidies	11,275	12,753	13.1%					
Transfers	69,726	76,573	9.8%					
Foreign transfer	707	800	13.2%					
Transfers to non-profit organizations	107	127	18.7%					
Transfers to families and Individuals (scholarships, medicals, pension contributions)	60,616	66,301	9.4%					
Other non-classified transfers	8,296	9,345	12.6%					
Maintenance	12,708	9,872	-22.3%					
Interest payments	40,227	38,188	-5.1%					
Interest Payment on domestic debt	27,500	27,500	0.0%					
Interest Payment on foreign debt	12,727	10,688	-16.0%					
Other non-classified Current spending	13,271	16,757	26.3%					
Capital Expenditures	184,883	225,597	22.0%					
Investment Spending	154,373	189,428	22.7%					
Fixed Capital Assets	137,895	161,906	17.4%					
Acquisition of land	4,686	3,917	-16.4%					
Net Lending and Equity Participation	30,510	36,169	18.5					

Source: Ministry of Finance, January 2004.

### President of Aden University to Yemen Times

# Aden university surmounts centralization

BY RADHWAN AL-SAQQAF YEMEN TIMES STAFF

resident Saleh's Decree No.7, 2002, ratified the loan agreement between the Government of Yemen and Islamic Bank for Development to finance the establishment of a Faculty of Engineering at Aden University, in addition to erecting buildings for a Hospital for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Faculty Sciences, the

Q: Since your appointment in September 2003, what have been your first steps at the university?

A: First off all, I welcome Yemen Times. I began to get acquainted with 18 different faculties and 12 science centers affiliated with the university, 1500 members of the teaching board and 2200 administrative staff. I have visited 17 of the faculties and next week I will visit the 18<sup>th</sup> faculty in

The University Presidium has laid a strategic working plan starting with decentralization and devolving authority to the faculties' and divisions' councils, since they are the core of the university. All previous decisions in the past were centralized.

Q: What about the current development and modernization process which as we hear received the approval of the teaching board and students of Aden University alike?

**A:** That is true, we have laid down a strategy to reform Aden University education with regards to academic and higher studies for scientific research. Concerning students' affairs and the general secretariats for financial and administrative affairs, each sector is carrying out their mission perfectly.

Measures to reform academic affairs, educational technique and modernization and the evaluation of curricula were in place, and had been updated, since these curricula had been taught for 30 years. We are currently conducting a workshop at the Faculty of Medicine to change the curricula of the

Pharmaceutics, the Faculty of Administrative Sciences and a university dormitory for female students. this comes as a dream come true for the citizens of Aden.

In the light of this construction and the development achieved by Aden University, Yemen Times, represented by Radhwan Al-Saggaf, Director of Yemen Times Office in Aden, visited the President of Aden University, Dr. Prof. Abdulkareem Rassa, and conducted the following interview.

Pharmaceutical, Dentistry Medicine Divisions of the faculty.

Q: What about higher studies in the university and foreign relations?

A: The higher studies at Aden University are distinguished from all other Yemeni universities in terms of higher studies programs and bachelor and doctorate studies, as well as in terms of the organization of internal and external scholarships. The University has opened channels with Arab universities in Qatar, Sudan, Syria and United Arab Emirates. As far as students are concerned, we have a plan to install a network to facilitate exam programs. These are in the frame of correcting the deficiency of control programs, which must be preserved for confidentiality and justice among students. We began developing and updating the curricula of the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Literature and the Faculty of Administrative sciences and now are preparing and changing curricula. There are direct channels to enable teachers to become professors.

Q: In the beginning, you expressed your joy at the decree of President Saleh to establish a Faculty of Engineering. Could you elaborate on this educational structure?

A: Following the endorsement of President Saleh, approved by Parliament in its latest meeting, of a 9.790,000 USD loan from the Islamic Bank for Development, a consultation company has been selected and the rest of the companies will be published.



President of Aden University, Dr. Prof. Abdulkareem Rassa

The construction of the project will last three years.

In the light of the close attention shown by President Saleh, the preliminary studies have been prepared following the directives of President Saleh to the Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, six months ago, to establish an educational hospital for the faculty of medicine in an area of 5500 square meters, consisting of 400 beds, on the premises of the university at Al-Shab City. There are also directives of the President of the Republic to build a pharmaceutical faculty and dormitory for female students.

The Faculty of Engineering, with a capacity of 4000 students, will reduce the number of students dispatched

abroad and consequently reduce government expenditure by millions of

Work is proceeding to complete the literature faculties at Loder and Zenjubar, in Abyan and Shabwah Governorates respectively.

Q: What attention is being paid to academic woman?

A: I am very much interested in the improvement of the situation of academic woman at Aden University. We have a female chairman for a division in the Faculty of Economics, at the Faculty of Medicine an undersecretary for hospital affairs and a woman is on her way to becoming a dean during the next period. The woman now competes strongly in academic work and sometimes excels in many scientific

Q: What about the culture at the University?

A: Many cultural activities have been carried out at the university through hosting major Arab poets such as Sulaiman Al-Aisae, who was honored by the university, and Arab novelists Abdulrahman Al-Rabeae and Leila Al-Othman.

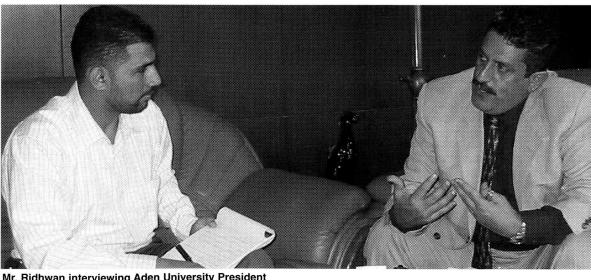
We also have a plan to host a number of pioneering Arab writers, poets and intellects. We have opened contact channels with Western European countries. Aden University has received and invitation from a network program at a French university to visit France. There is German and French support for cooperation with the university and an agreement has been reached with Britain to grant four scholarships in economics and political science. Some teachers have visited America, as well as opening of contact channels with Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon. These are some of paths for international rela-

Q: What are difficulties and obstacles facing you?

A: Of course, there is no work or success without having to be confronted by some difficulties. Thank God, we have overcome major obstacles due to the attention and care exerted by President Saleh and the Prime Minister.

Q: do you have a final statement to conclude this interview?

A: We have put an end to centralization inside the university, and through your esteemed newspaper, I would like to point out that appointments do not take place through the President of the university. Job opportunities are rather, whenever available, through specific divisions and are regularly announced in newspapers.



Mr. Ridhwan interviewing Aden University President

# Ubeid's fate shrouded with mystery

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

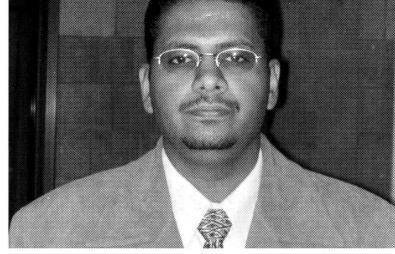
ecurity dossier between Yemen and Egypt was closed after latest visit by the president to Cairo. Following the visit news reports mentioned about exchange of persons wanted by the two countries.

Accordingly, Egypt received a number of persons charged terror However, it has not been revealed what number of the wanted have been handed over to Yemen. Mr. Ahmed Salem Ubeid, a Yemeni citizen living in Egypt since 1994, has disappeared in Egypt a few days after the Yemeni president visit to Cairo, and news indicated he was among those included in the wanted extradition process.

The case of Salem Ubeid disappearance has not receiv ed due official concern by Yemen, and in an attempt to get some information about the fate of Mr. Ubeid, we met his son Nashwan in Sana'a and conducted with this interview, perhaps some of the mystery of his father's disappearance could become known.

Q: Could shed some light on what you know about the disappearance of your father from his place of residence in Egypt?. And what is the authority you believe is behind his disappearance?

A: My father disappeared on 18 February 2004 from one of the streets of Cairo during heading the Yemeni Club located on "Mosadeq" Street. On the same day, my father called home and said that he was a friend who had encountered a diabetic attack and said that he would be late. It was noticed that the telephone number was shown



Nashwan Ahmed Salem Obeid

on the telephone set.

I then called other friends who confirmed that my father did not show up at the club on that day. I informed the Egyptian related authorities and the Yemeni Embassy in Cairo. Four days later, my father called back asking for medical names of medicine he is taking. When asked about his where about, he replied by saying he was with "good friends". Once again the telephone number was not shown on our telephone set.

There is one note I would like to point out. A week prior to the disappearance of my father, two claimed to be representatives of Population Census visited our house and were asking questions, which had nothing to do with their job. After they left our house, we asked the neighbors in the building we live in who confirmed that no other house was visited by the two.

As far as the authority I believe is behind the disappearance of my father.

According to reports by some media organizations about a security exchange between Yemen and Egypt during which six of Egyptian terrorists were rendered to Egypt, I suppose my father was rendered to the Yemeni Authority in the return. But till now, there is no official statement issued by either the Egyptian or Yemeni authorities confirming or denying this.

### Q: Could you tell us about the political directions of your father?

A: My father had occupied several posts in the former Republic in South Yemen. He was a minister of information, deputy minister of defense and an ambassador to Ethiopia. He was the commission's official working on coordinating the Yemeni unification. He was the official on the merging of the two military corporations following the unification of the country. He was the advisor of Minister of Defense until 1994. My father was a member of the

Yemeni Socialist Party until 1986. After the war of 1994, my father joined the opposition party (MOJ). During his stay in Egypt, my father did not practice any political activity, which would lead to tension between relations between Yemen and Egypt. His activities was limited to social aspect

Q: What are conditions leading your father to reside in Egypt in spite of his good relation with Yemeni authority?

A: My father was among the leaders moved to Cairo after the war of 1994 in Yemen. He chose Egypt because he went to high school and university there. He loves Egypt as second home country. I have to mention here that there are no accusation against my father and he is not wanted by any country, on the contrary he was a friend

Q: Does your father own an apartment in Egypt and where? A: Yes, my father owns an apartment

in Al-Mohandseen region, Egypt.

Q; Why do you believe your father has been rendered to the Yemeni Authority? What is your evidence? Could it not be possible that your father has a problem with the Egyptian authority or any other authority?

A: There are some indications to believe that my father has been rendered to Yemen. There is no reaction from the Yemeni authority in Yemen or in Egypt in spite of our call. There is just no official reply from them. The Yemeni Authority does not also deny the report about the security exchange between Yemen and Egypt. Our efforts to convey a letter to Egyptian Consulate in Aden have been hindered.

And as I stated previously, my father

has no political agenda, which could lead to being threatened.

Q: Where is your father receive his monthly allowance. Was the Yemeni **Government supporting him?** 

A: My father, just like other opposiion available in Egypt was receiving support from Saudi. This support was suspended about two years ago. My father does not receive any financial support from the Yemeni Government.

Q: What are the authorities you believe are benefiting from disappearance of your father

A: As I previously stated, my father has no enemies in any part of the world, nor any judicial sentences against him.

Following this interview, the wife of Brig. Ahmed Salem Obeid also spoke out, and stated that she holds the governments of both Yemen and Egypt responsible for the disappearance of her husband. In a statement to the press broadcast by a number of news agencies, the wife said that the Egyptian government is responsible because he disappeared on its soil and should have been protected. The Government of Yemen is also responsible since he is a Yemen citizen and the government should be concerned to search for him. Furthermore, she reaffirms that her husband has not engaged in any political activities between his departure from Yemen and his disappearance

The Egyptian judiciary has announced that it will look into the case filed by an Egyptian Human Rights Association concerned with prisoners against the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior and the Yemeni Embassy in Cairo on May 11, 2004, in connection with the disappearance of Mr.

## CHANGE She Wrote

### What documentaries do not reveal

BY SADAF SHAH **М**SADAFSHAH@YAHOO.CA FOR THE YEAMEN TIMES

here have been a few documentaries on Al-Jazeera network about the use of 'qat' in Yemeni culture. The latest one, I believe, was a couple of months ago about the women of Yemen and 'qat'.

The documentary basically explored and showed women gathering together for an evening of 'qat' as a social event. What was not revealed was the fact that not all women in Yemen chew 'gat'. Basically, women from the northern parts of Yemen are more or less involved with such a social custom.

I know for a fact that on most weekends, women get together with friends to have a tea and 'qat' party. And this social event of the week does not occur in the rural or poorer areas of Yemen. Most very rich families in Sana'a and Taiz are devoted to this party like some kind of sacred duty.

The 'sheesha', which is some kind of a smoking device, is also available at these parties. Again, women from the northern parts of Yemen only are actively involved in chewing 'qat'. And this was the flaw with that Al-Jazeera documentary which failed to impart this very small, yet very critical piece of information. Most of my Yemeni women friends were outraged at the news agency for generalizing and categorizing all women in this country as avid 'qat'

The truth is...

If you are a foreigner living in this country, and if you really would like to get an unbiased perspective of the people of this country, then by all means make some Yemeni friends! Get to know your neighbors and visit them in their homes.

The first thing I noticed when I first visited some women in Shabwah was the simplicity in their lifestyles and thoughts. There were no furnishings or elaborate decorations in the layout of their

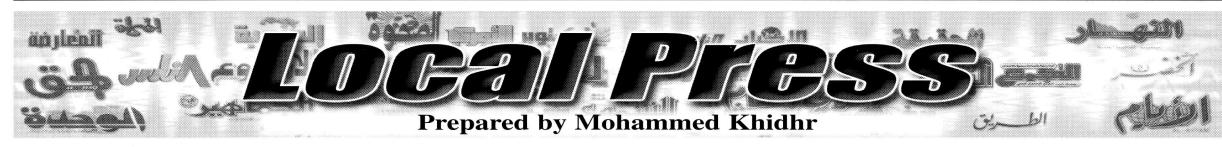
Of course it's different in Sana'a, but in other cities of Yemen, their lifestyle is so focused on just the basics of every day life. Their hospitality is second to none.

They treat you, the foreigner in their homes, like some kind of special guest from God. It is really embarrassing the lengths they go to to provide for your comfort and happiness.

Furthermore, you do not even have to make prior appointments or dates to visit these people. In Canada, the U.S or most European countries, you would have to make plans ahead of at least a week to visit someone or just to get together to go out somewhere.

I remember in university opening my day-timer to see if I was available on a certain date to have lunch with my best friend! Over here, you can call your friend and tell them you will be visiting the next day and they will have prepared for you an elaborate feast. Well, maybe not a feast, but some very exquisite homemade baked goods for sure.

When you talk to them with an open mind, your own open mind, you will find them to be almost the same as yourself; hopes, aspirations and dreams of a better future for the people of this planet. That is how 'normal' they are and that is exactly the vital piece of information that most documentaries conveniently ignore. Pity.



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Abdel-Aziz

al-Rantissi



al-Haqeeqah weekly, 17 Apr 2004.

- "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

### 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 sympo-

### **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

sium on modern technology and its use in education

- In 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

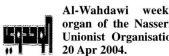
On the lessons derived from Falluja city in Iraq battles, columnist Dr Hosni al-Jawshaie says hat a small city like Falluja has halted the biggest power in the world for a week and could not force enter it despite of the use of all types of weapons and this has led to break the barrier of fear among 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 loss-

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

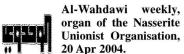
The last lesson to be learnt from Falluja events is the shameful stand of the Arab countries where not a single voice was raised from them denouncing the massacre of Falluja against the



- Naserite Organisation condemns the assassination of Dr Rantissi

es began to increase fearfully.

Baghdad.



Yemen in need of a salvage program where all national forces participate

Yemen freezes assets of 16 organizarendering her existence and rights to tions and 62 persons in local banks her enemies. What we witness of MPs accuse the oil ministry of predenunciation and condemnation here varication, minister confirms legality and there as well as some movements is but a kind deceiving the peoples think-Saudi Arabia continue pressuring ing that with the passage of time, cutting heads in Palestine, and practicing Ministers and governors behind oppression and terror against those peoples, would deter them from their role manipulation of government posts Education for all week, inaugurated in defending themselves and rights and Leadership for lawyers elected existence and land. Those rulers think Eight citizens kidnapped in Dhalie that these peoples would accept and The political editor says in his article surrender and accept the fait accompli that what happens in the Palestinian terof Zionism in Palestine and the ritories of massacres against the American occupation in Iraq and the Palestinians people and killing of plans against the entire Arab homeland. resistance leaders and the destruction of These rulers would lose their betting all means of living and life do not want and their thrones and seats and all the a stop for pondering and review in schemes of the American aggression quest of reasons and justifications of all that they depend on and Zionism would that. It has become clear that the not be able to take Palestine and Palestinian cause has been liquidated at America would not be able to take Iraq.

Palestinian

Resistance



The Arab deluge of change is coming.

### 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

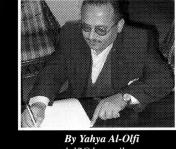
Ahmed

Yassin

- 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.



the Arab level in favour of the

American Zionist scheme that is recon-

sidering the situation of the entire area.

the Arab Zionist conflict such destruc-

tive 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-

It has not happened in the history of

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

lackstone'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 Powel 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 Powel declared subserviently the American administration's resolute will and determination to extend infinite support for Israel. How ignominious? 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 her-

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-

lobby named the "National Unity Coalition for Israel" which was inaugurated by Benjamin Netenyahu prior to his assumption of the premiership. (before I forget, Netenyahu 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 U\$\$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 Robin, William Cohen, Dan Glickmann, George Tenet, Samuel Berger, Stuart Eisenstadt, Evelyne Liebermann, Charlene Barschvski, Susan Thomas,

mate formation of a Christian Zionist Joel Klein, Jean Sperling, Ira Magaziner, Peter Narnov, Alice Riveline Janet Veline, 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 Adelmann, Edward Luttwak, Robert Zoellick, David Frum, Robert Satloff, Elliot Abrams, Marc Grossman, Richard Haas, Ari Fleischer, Chabad Lubavitch Hasidim. 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 con-

# 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.

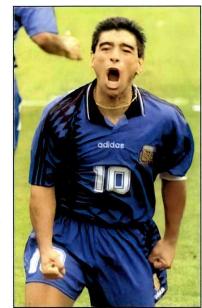
Family doctor Alfredo Cahe has denied reports that Maradona's illness was due to cocaine, saying he had not been taking the drug lately and that the tests he had seen were negative.

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 scare

After a similar scare in early 2000, he made his name.



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

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

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.

### **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 stadi-

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.





## 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.







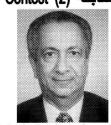








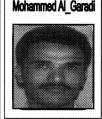
Separate Contest on Common Names & Places مسابقة (2) مسابقة



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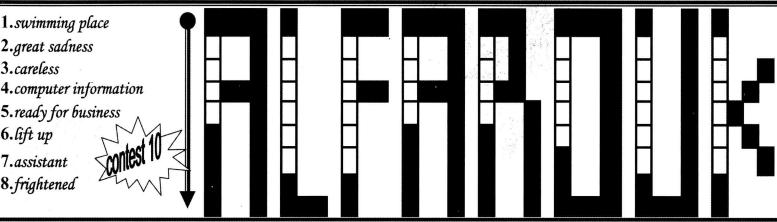
prof.Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf founder of Yemen Times Mohammed Al Garadi



Ans cont (1)

Contest No. 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

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Ans. Cont.9

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4.room

8. little



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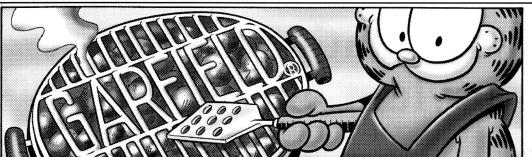
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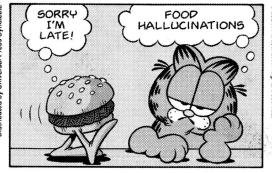
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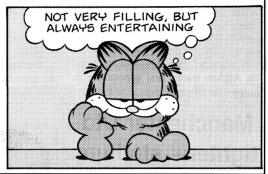


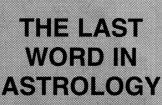














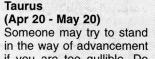
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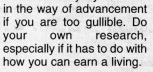


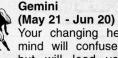


Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Your ability to help people

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.







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 broadside you with information that will stop you from getting ahead. Question whatever is going on at work and at Protect home. 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.



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ت: ۱۱۰۸۰3-۸۹۸۸۰۲

ت: ۸۰۰۲۰۰۸ ت:

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ت: ۸ / ۲۰۲۰ – ۲۰۲۱ ت

ت: ۱۰۹۰۰ع

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مدارس

ت: ۲۱۸۰۱۱/۱۹۸۲

ت:٥/٤/٣/٤/٥:ت

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صنعاء ت: ۲۰۸۱۲۹/۸/۱۲

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المكلاءت: ٢٠٩٧٤٤

عدن ت: ۲۰۵۱۸۸

عدن ت: ۲٤٤٢٨٠

تعزت: ۲٥٨٨٨١

عدن ت: ۲٤٧٦١٧

تعز ت: ٢٥٠٣٤٥

ت: ٩/٨٥٢٨٤٤

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تعزت: ۲۲۰۹۲۷/۲۶

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تعزت: ٢٦٠٧٤٤

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ت: ۲۱۸۱۲

ت: ۵۱۸۰۰۰

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بكامرة مستخدم نظيف، ٢)جهازinfra-red مع

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للتواصل: ٧٣٧٤٠٧٧١ د.قائد السماوي.

للتواصل: صنعاء / ٧٣٦٨٧٨١٢ جمال.

للتواصل: عبد الله أحمد :٥١١٧٦٤٥٥.

لون ابيض ، بسعر ٢٧٠٠٠ دولار.

وبسعر ۱،٦٠٠،٠٠٠ ريال.

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للتواصل: ٧٢٥٧٣٤٦٩ ، ٧١٧٣٩٧٦٨ عبد الله.

■ للبيع:رؤوس قواطر فولفو مختلفه الموديلات ٩٧-

■ للبيع: ماركتو موديل ٩٠بحاله جيده جدا وبسعر

مجمرك ، بسعر ٦٥٠٠،٠٠٠ ريال قابل للتفاوض.

■ للبيع: تويوتا صالون موديل ٨٢ ، ٨٤ بحاله ممتازه

■ مطلوب شراء : باص فار أو سيارة برادو ديزل بسعر

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للتواصل: عبد الله أحمد ٧١٧٢٩٧٦٨. (١٨/٣)

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■ للبيع ؛ طابعات ليزر HP ۱۰۰۰ بحالة ممتازة جدا.

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للتواصل: أحمد التُميمي ٧١١٦٢١٨٨. ومري

للتواصل: ٨٥٦٥١٦، ١٥٢٥٨ ع. ١٨٠١

للتواصل: ٧٣٢٠٠٩٥٩. ١٨١١

الإدارية والصناعية المحدودة.

للتواصل: إبراهيم العمري ٧٣٨١٣٢٨٨.

■ للبيع: تلفون نوكيا موديل ٧٦٥٠ المزود بكامره ،

الأستخدام. للتواصل: ٧٢٥٢٨١٩٦، ٧٢٥٢٨١٩٦.

للتواصل: عبد الله أحمد ٧١٧٣٩٧٦٨. (١٨)

■ للبيع: سيارة صالون موديل ٢٠٠٠ خصوصي فقط ونظيفه جدا.

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> للتواصل: هايل راجح: ٧١٩١٦٢٦٥. ■ للبيع : فيلا دورين وبدروم وملحق وحديقة بالحي ميكانيكي متكامل).

السياسي بجوار السفارة التركية ، مساحة ١٧ لبنة ، للتواصل: ٧٣٨٥٢٢٣٤.

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للتواصل:۷۱۲۹۹،۱۷۲، ۲۱۲۹۹۰۱.

المبيعات ، يرغب العمل في تعز.

جيد جدا في اللغه الأنجليزيه. ١٨٠١

عن عمل في مجاله.

للتواصل: ٧٣٤٠٦٦٣٦.

للتواصل: ٧٣٦٩٨٩٨١. (١/١)

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ناكس، ٢٥٣٩ - الصيانة، ٢٠٢١ ٥٠

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■ مطلوب : مهندسين (أتصالات ، أالكترونيات، مدني سنوات ، يبحث عن عمل في تعز. ١٨٠١) كهرباء ضغط عالي)، محاسبين ، مدير ورشه صيانه ، للتواصل : ٧٠٨٢ ٧٣٤ عبر عارف الجناد مدير مصنع طوب حراري ، صيادله ، أخصائي 🔳 مختار القدسي، خبرة في مجال كهرباء السيارات

للتواصل: ٢٠٨٢٢١ محمد عبد الله ١٢٦١ ٧١٦٤. ■ مطلوب : طبيبات أسنان يمنيات للعمل في سلطنه ■ عبد الله الصائخ، بكالوريوس لغه عربيه، دبلوم

■ مطلوب : سكرتيره تجيد اللغه الانكليزيه للتواصل: ٧١٩٦٥٤٨٢ بواسطة الأخ يحيى والعربيه ، مسوق أعلانات (من كلا 🔳 حسين على ، يتحدث الأنجليزيه بطلاقه ، لديه

■ مطلوب :مدسین لغة إنجلیزیه، مزسین للتواصل: ۷۲۸۰۳۰۹۱ صنعاء كمبيوتر ، مدرسين صيانه الجوال ﴿ التلفون ■ محمد عبد السلام ، ثانويه عامه قسم علمي ، يبح

للتواصل:۲۶۹۲۹۶ ، ۲۸۸۱۰. ■ مطلوب : مهندسین (مدنی، معماری ،

شركة عالم الهندسة والتجارة. (١٨١١) Ĺ للتواصل: ٧٣٨٩٢٢٥١.

■ مطلوب :مدرس لغة فرنسية لدية خبرة للتواصل: ٧١١٠٣٠٦٦ رشدي البعداني. ومؤهلات . (8/4) للتواصل: هائل راجع: ٧١٩١٦٢٦٥

اللغه الأنكليزية وذو خبرة ولديهم رخصة للتواصل: ٦٠٢٤٩٢، ٧٣٨٢٢٦٠٠٢ رامي

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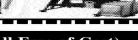












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الإستعلامات ١١٨، حوادث (المرور) ١٩٤، الشنون الخارجيه ٢٠٢٥٤٤/٧، الشنون الداخليه ٢٥٢٧٠١/٧، الهجرة ٢٥٠٧٦١/٣، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٢٥٢٢٢٠٧، الإذاعة ٢٨٢٠٦١، التلفزيون ٢/٢٠٠١، مؤسسة الباصات للتنقل داخل المدن ٢٦٢١١١/٢، وزارة المواصلات ٢/١/٢/٢ ، السياحه ٢٥٤٠٣، الصليب الاحمر ٢٠٣١٢١/٢، تليمن ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

البنوك

فاکس:۲٦٠٨٢٤ ت: ۲٦٠٨٢٢–٩٦٧ البنك اليمن والخليج TVETV 1/1777 TVYA. T/1/T. :=

ش. الزبيري ض. القصر ش. عدن المعلاء ت: ٤/٣/٢ . ٤٧٤٢/٢ J. 17/190.7/7. ت: ۱۰/۹/۸۲۰۰۱۸. ش. المجمع تعز سي المكلاء ت: . ۲۰۲۰۱۰ ۲۰۲۰۱۷ ت

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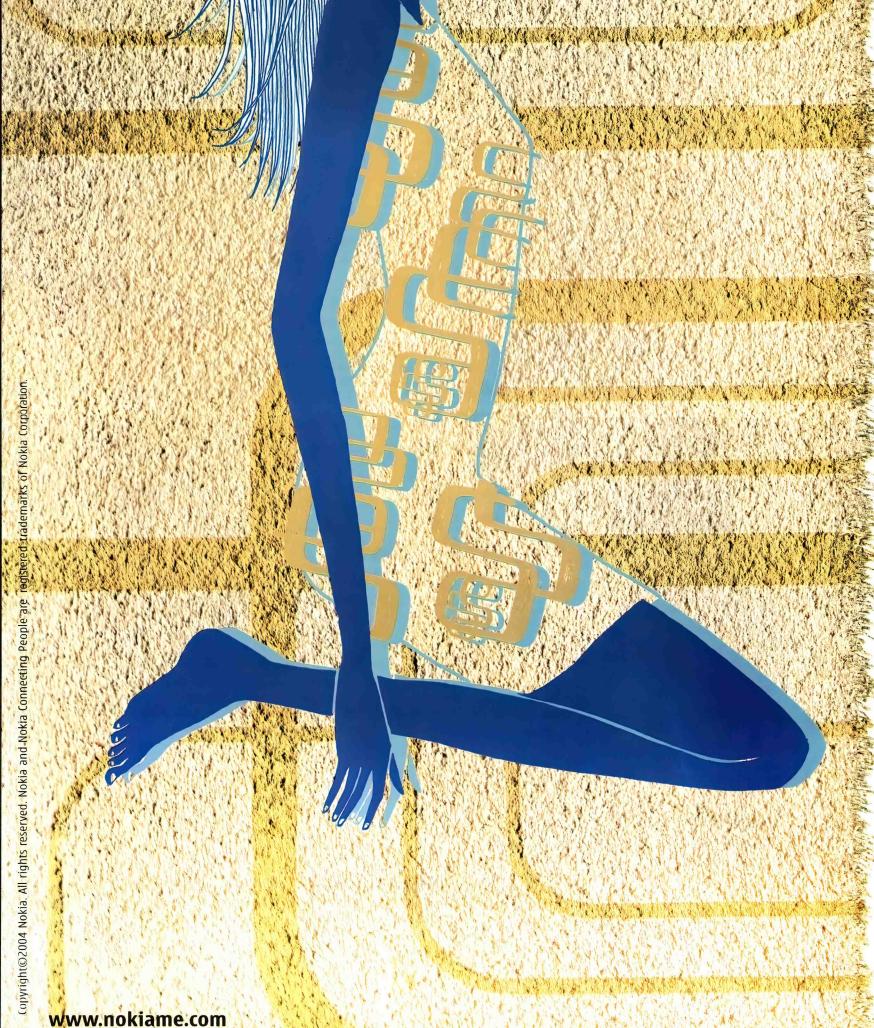


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