

Trial of terrorist suspects to kick off this week

Police Hunt for Three al-Qaeda Suspects

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YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni police are hunting for three al-Qaeda members suspected of having links to the attack on the USS Cole and French oil tanker Limburg, a security official said.

The source said that security men are hunting for three al-Qaeda suspects in Abyan governorate, south Yemen. They are: Mohammed al-Ahdal, Yasser al-Mansoor and Ali Salem al-Madari. The first two are among the USS Cole bombing suspects, who escaped from the jail of the intelli-

gence in April 2003. They are the last two in the group as the security authorities announced the arrest of some of them during its operation in Lawdar. Abyan last month including the mastermind of the attack, Jamal al-Badwi. Al-Madari has been reported to have been involved in the terrorist attack against Limburg near Mukala port in 2002. The other three suspects of the Cole attack surrendered to police last week. Among them is Saleh Man'eh al-Najar.

Yemeni authorities announced on Thursday that the tribunal of some terrorist suspects would begin this week. The 26 September Weekly issued by the Ministry of Defense quoted a security official saying that the trial of the terrorist suspects on charges of being involved in the Cole and Limburg terrorist attacks and other terrorist operations Yemen went through during the last few years. The authorities had already said that the trial will include six suspects of the Cole and five of the

Limburg attacks. The trial hearings will be conducted at the Specialized Penal Court in Sana'a. The suspects will be divided into groups and each group will have separate trial session. President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued last week a verdict meant to add a new article to the Penal Court Law of 1999, making one of the court's tasks to tackle serious crimes that have targeted state's security and other serious crimes that have devastating social and economic impacts.

Two coalition crew killed in Basra attack - US Navy



File photograph dated December 15, 1996 shows the al-Bakr oil terminal offshore in the Gulf near the Iraqi city of Basra. At least one boat attacked the main oil terminal on April 24, a British military spokesman said. REUTERS

DUBAI, April 24 (Reuters) - Two crew members of the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq were killed on Saturday in a suicide boat attack on Iraq's vital oil platform in Basra, a spokes-

woman for the U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet said

She said five crew were also wounded, but a Fifth Fleet statement put the number of wounded at four.

"The coalition boarding team were killed and wounded as a result of three concurrent waterborne attacks in the Arabian Gulf," the statement said. *Continued on page 3*

Continued on page 3

Parliament thwarts government's oil agreement

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Parliament succeeded last week in thwarting a dubious government agreement to sell 60% of its share from an oil field in a way that breaks the law. The Ministry of Oil

signed an agreement with one of the Saudi investors in which it sold 60% of the oil in bloc No. 53 for \$13 million per year, whilst its annual revenue reached \$20 million. It denied that the bargain was against the law and was in favor of Yemen. *Continued on page 3*

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Conclusion of first seminar on difficulties & obstacles facing judiciary

Sana'a, Thursday 22 April 2004- The First Discussion Ring on the Difficulties and Obstacles to the Progress of the Commercial Judiciary concluded following a two days of discussions. It was organized by the Ministry of Justice with the participation of a number of related authorities, banks, private sector organisations, the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate, the

Federation of Chamber of Commerce, Yemeni businessmen and a number of specialist academics in this field. The discussion ring discussed a number of working papers related to difficulties and obstacles hindering the progress of the commercial judiciary and the suggested solutions, in addition to how to activate the role of the commercial judiciary and improve its performance and

the reasons for the shortfalls in the performance of the commercial judiciary in commercial and banking cases.

The ring came up with a number of recommendations aiming to treat those difficulties headed by the importance of activating the recommendations of the judicial conference previously held in Sana'a. It also called for the preparation of a law to govern electronic trade.

Human Rights Information & Training Center and consultation status

The Human Rights Information & Training Center (HRITC) has obtained the International Consultation Status of the United Nations, making the center the first regional organization in the Arab Peninsula and the Gulf to obtain such status.

The Organizations Commission, a non-governmental organization at the United Nations in New York, had approved the request of HRITC early of this year before it transferred the request to the meeting of the Social and Economic Council, which in turn granted HRITC, whose main headquarters are in Yemen, special consultation status.

The letter from the UN in New York confirmed the role of HRITC and requested that it assume its new role and to name its permanent representatives to the missions of the UN in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

Consultation status allows the center to attend meetings related to the scope of its activities as well as the meetings of the Social and Economic Council, to presents its suggestions in connection with draft projects and to present its opinions of concern to UN specialized commissions.

The press release issued by HRITC points out that this step is considered a big success for all civil society organ-

izations in Yemen and in countries of the Arab Peninsula and the Gulf, in particular those working in the field of human rights.

Mr. Azzadeen al-Asbahi, Chairman of the center, said that this new membership would make of the center an open forum for all voices of freedom and human rights. He praised the roles of Yemeni and Arab non-governmental organizations that work with HRITC.

The center values the role of the Yemeni Mission to the UN for its positive stance and support as well as the supportive stances of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights.

Conclusion of International Parliamentary Union Conference

The Republic of Yemen, during the 110th Conference of the International Parliamentary Union, which concluded on Friday 23 April in the Mexican capital, called on the international community to put an end to the assassinations of the Palestinian people and to enable them to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as their capital.

The speech of Yemen, delivered by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Abdulwahab Mahmoud, head of the Yemeni delegation to the conference,

called for the return of sovereignty to Iraq and the departure of foreign occupation forces from its lands. It also confirmed the importance of holding an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism, to determine the means to combat it and to eliminate its causes. It also called for the adoption of the principle of dialogue between cultures as the means to settle all disputes and political and ethnic conflicts.

The speech of Yemen reviewed the transformations and developments tak-

ing place in Yemen in the various economic and political aspects, in addition to the successes in development and comprehensive reforms. It called for the contribution of advanced countries to enhancing emerging democracy and in support of development in poor countries through the exemption of these countries from accumulated debts, and to encourage and support the political and economic reforms in several countries of the Middle East without interfering in their internal affairs.

Conclusion of a seminar on the use of modern x-ray equipment

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

Thursday, 22 April 2004- A scientific seminar on the use of modern medical x-rays diagnosis equipment, organized by Al-Saeed Hospital in Taiz, concluded today.

The seminar, held at Softail Hotel with the participation of 75 doctors representing the heads of x-ray divi-

sions of public and private hospitals, presented to the participants knowledge and scientific techniques regarding the use of magnetic resonance equipment.

Furthermore, the participants received lectures related to the use and applications of x-ray equipment under the supervision of Dr. Waheed Dandaway, Professor of X-Rays at the Egyptian Ain Shams University,

and other experts from Al-Saeed Hospital and the manufacturing company.

On the fringe of the seminar, a press conference was held reviewing the scientific significance, in the medical field, of the two modern x-ray devices available at the Military and Al-Thowra Hospitals in Sana'a and the distinguished service provided by the two apparatuses.



Arrest of USS Cole bombing suspect

September 26 newspaper reported that the Security Forces arrested an armed man implicated in the bombing of USS Cole in 2000, which led to the death of 17 US Marines on board.

Local sources confirmed to Yemen Times that the suspect is named "Al-Najar", had rendered himself voluntarily to the security authorities surrounding his home early this month in Laoder region, Abyan Governorate, 250km southeast of Sana'a.

Al-Najar is one of the prisoners who fled Aden Jail last year and he is one of 14 suspects accused of being behind the bombing of USS Cole, including Jamal Al-Badwe, Fahed al-Qasa and

Abdulraheem al-Nashery.

The authorities have announced earlier this month that it would begin the trial proceeding of suspects on charges of bombing the USS Cole and the French oil tanker, Limburg, but the Prosecution remains preparing their files before transferring them for trial.

Official newspapers have reported that the Government will officially begin open dialogue sessions with Al-Qaeda members and returnees from Afghanistan believed to be extremists. Judge Hamoud al-Hitar, Chairman of the Dialogue Commission, said that interested bodies and media organizations would be allowed to attend the sessions.

Fight between PGC and Islah members of parliament

Wednesday 21 April 2004- Sources stated to Yemen Times that a fist-fight took place between Mr. Mohamed Bin Najy Al-Shaif, from PGC and Mr. Foad Dahabab, from Islah Party.

Eyewitnesses said that following a verbal quarrel between the two

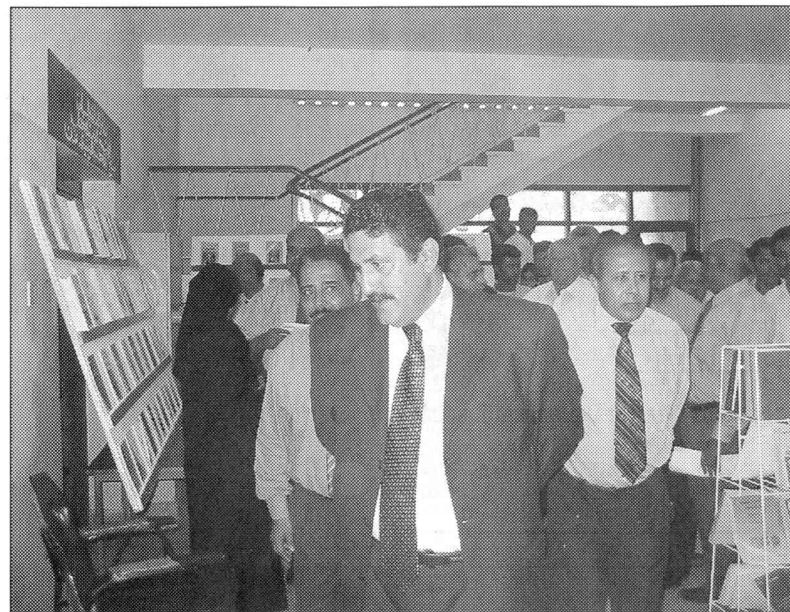
deputies, Mr. Al-Shaif headed to the other deputy, apparently for a side talk. However, the talk ended with the twisting of the arm of the Islah deputy before the chairman of the session, Mr. Yahya Al-Ra'ae, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, intervened to contain the fight before it escalated.

The 15th University Student's Week at Aden University

Saturday, 24 April 2004- Activities of 15th University Student's Week began at the Faculty of Education in Aden. Dr. Yahya Rassa, President of the University, said that the week would be held under the slogan, "Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004", as a continuation of previous participation of the university within the framework of the celebration on the occasion of Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004.

The President explained that the activities would continue until 30 April in a variety of cultural, scientific, sports and artistic activities, which would reflect the creativity of the university students. The President expressed his hope that the related authorities, inside and outside the university, would cooperate towards the success of the week's activities. He also expressed his thanks to Students Affairs Union, the deans of the faculties of the university and all students for their exerted efforts.

It is worth mentioning that the first



activity of the week will coincide with the opening of the book exhibition, followed by a "Solidarity with the Palestinian People" carnival and at 4:00Pm the Faculty of Medicine will

hold a basketball match. In addition, more cultural, artistic and scientific activities will be carried out by the other faculties during the rest of the week.

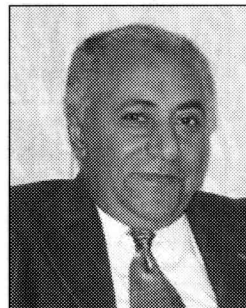
Increase of World grading of Yemeni National Bank

National Bank of Yemen issued a 68-page book regarding the annual report of 2003 consisting of several sections. It contains the Financial and Statistical Highlights, the Board of Directors Report, the Auditors Report, the Statement of Income & Profit Appropriation, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Equity Owners and Notes to the Financial Statements.

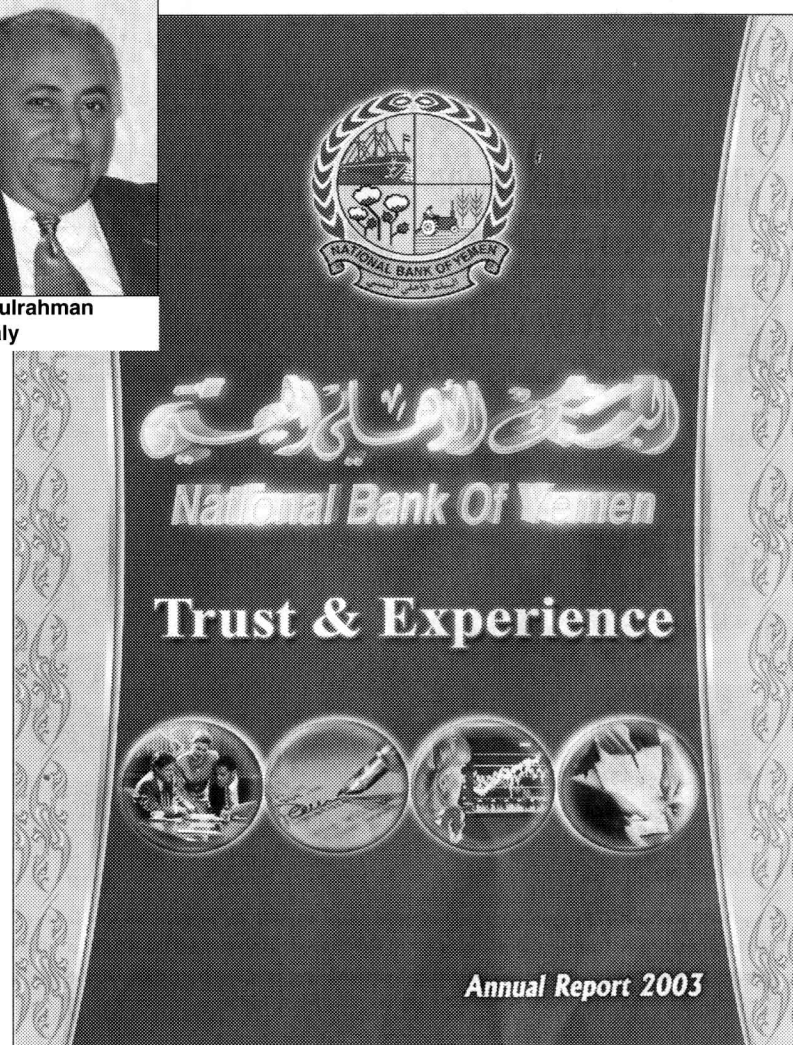
In a statement to Yemen Times, Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Kuhaly, Chief Executive Officer and Director-General of Yemen National Bank, said, "The Yemeni National Bank during 2003 achieved noticeable growth in its financial indicators in spite of the dominant stances facing the banking world and intensity of competition among banks."

He added that due to the durability of bank assets and its relations with clients and correspondents, the bank monitoring agency, Capital Intelligence, increased rank of the foreign currency long-term and short-term dealings of the National Bank from category C to B and the strong financial position of the bank from B to BB.

Mr. Al-Kuhaly concluded his statement by thanking the staff and employees at Yemen National Bank for their efforts exerted to achieve these successes.



Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Kuhaly



Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Would trial and indictment of those suspected to be involved in attacks on Cole and Limburg help curb terrorism in Yemen?

- Yes, I think so
- No, I don't think it would completely
- I doubt that

last edition's question:

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

- No, he will be somewhat similar to Bush 42%
- Yes, he will be more moderate 28%
- Too early to tell 19%
- No, in fact he will be more biased 11%

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Workshop on the elimination of illiteracy

Thursday, 24 April- Sana'a- The National Workshop for Women Working in the Field of Eliminating Illiteracy among Adults has concluded. The workshop aimed at pointing out the role of Islam in environmental problems and the merging of their definitions with programs to remove illiteracy and improve the education of adults, in addition to presenting the role of woman in preserving the environment.

The workshop, organized by the Islamic Organization for Education, Culture and Science, in cooperation with the National Organization on Education, Culture and Science came out with a number of recommendations and suggestions. They call for giving more attention to the abilities of civil society leaders and to encourage coordination and integration among authorities concerned with education, information and civil society in the field of environmental awareness and development from an Islamic perspective. This is in order to create effective networks between non-governmental organizations in the targeted development and environment awareness fields.

Deputy Governor meets with CINS

YEMEN TIMES-TAIZ

The Deputy Governor of Taiz met, last week, Ms. Francisca, the President of CINS, to discuss the completion of the organization's development project.

Mr. Mohamed El-Haj, General Secretary of the Local Council, and Dr. Abd An-Nasir Al-Kabab, the General Manager of the Health and Population Office attended the meeting, which took place in the province's divan.

Ms. Jolenda, Project Manager and CINS' Representative in Yemen, was also presented during the discussing of the agricultural and health support of the European Union-financed project.

The elimination of poverty in Athabab, Jabal Sabir County, is one of the main missions of the project, where they are trying to increase family income, create jobs, increase agricultural production, water purification and improve the living standards of citizens.

Renewable energy can reduce poverty: Trittin

In a press briefing on Wednesday, April 21 in Sanaa, German Environment Minister, Mr Jurgen Trittin, said that poverty and economic hardships can be reduced if renewable energy sources are used more widely. He said that with less expensive means to generate power to households and companies, less will be spent on electricity, causing an overall decrease in prices. "This in turn, will help poor families lead a better life", Mr. Trittin said.

Being one of the poorest countries in the world, Mr. Trittin mentioned that Yemen can benefit tremendously from renewable energy sources, especially by installing such facilities in rural areas to produce better infrastructure and higher living standards, which would in turn reduce migration to cities and hence help reduce burdens on electricity generators for the major Yemeni cities.

Besides poverty, Mr. Trittin pointed out that pollution and the use of natural resources will also be reduced if proper alternative energy sources are developed and used.



Mr Jurgen Trittin

Renewable energy for Yemen

Mr. Trittin also said during the briefing that Yemen is now looking into bids by German companies to build a thermal gas station that could produce up to 300 Megawatts of power. He added that smaller-scale projects using solar energy are also being developed throughout the country.

The German Ambassador to Yemen said that German-produced solar energy solutions have already been installed in Yemen and have proven quite successful. Among them is a whole school in Ibb that uses solar energy instruments installed by Germans to produce electricity for all the school's needs. "Happily I can say that the school has been using this electricity supply since

1999 without a glitch," he said.

Mr. Trittin also added that Euro 500 million has been allocated to countries that need decentralized energy supplies. Yemen will gain a portion of this amount upon completing a strategy for reforming energy in rural areas. This strategy will now be carried out with support from the German government with a budget of Euro 1 million.

Solar water heating system at the embassy

Meanwhile, the German Minister along with Yemeni Minister of Water and Environment, Mr. Mohamed AL-Iryani, inaugurated the German embassy's own solar water heating system at the embassy in Sanaa. The

Minister expressed delight that the embassy took this step to demonstrate that alternative energy sources can indeed be practical and can be useful for regular citizens as well as others.

Successful visit concluded

The German Minister also disclosed to the Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqadir Ba Jammal that he would push for the inclusion of water and the environment in the agenda of the next annual bilateral meeting as issues of top concern.

The Prime Minister spoke highly of Germany's support to Yemen in the field of water and sanitation, a move that mitigated substantial environmental problems in Yemen.

Projects for protection of marine environment

The Republic of Yemen has requested the UNEP to work towards finding pioneering projects in the field of environmental protection, in collaboration with all countries situated on the Red Sea.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Ba Jamal, during a meeting with Mr. Klaus Toefer,

Executive Director of UNEP, confirmed the importance of coordination among the countries located on the Red Sea in order to protect fisheries and the marine environment.

Mr. Ba Jamal considers the priority of the projects to be established under the

supervision of the UNEP economic operation of the Red Sea in the fields of tourism and transport.

The official promised that these suggestions would get the attention of UNEP during the upcoming period, especially since the UNEP is intensifying its efforts to preserve the marine environment in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Parliament thwarts government's oil agreement

Over 120 MPs threatened that they would withdraw their confidence from the government if it does not abolish the agreement. The Minister of Oil, Dr. Rashad Barabai, was summoned before the Parliament last Wednesday to reply to their questions and discuss with them the report conducted by a parliamentary committee that uncovered the unlawfulness of the bargain. In a heated debate, some MPs accused the Ministry of Oil of being corrupt. Sakhar al-Wajih MP of the GPC caucus demanded that the Minister apologize for saying the Parliament's report was inaccurate and that there was an ill intention behind it.

The Parliament decided on Wednesday that the oil agreement should be stopped and authorized the Oil and the Constitutional Committees to discuss the comments of the ministry on the parliamentary report that was behind the disagreement and confrontation between Parliament and the government and report its finding within 2 weeks. MPs described the bargain as the "biggest corruption issue in the field of oil ever discovered in the country" and that it would have caused Yemen to lose \$7million per year. Ali Ashal MP, member of the Oil Committee described the decision ever as "a demonstration that it stands against corruption regardless of the political tendencies of its members". However, the Ministry of Oil defended its decision and said that it is consistent with the law.

The boat attacks followed a series of suicide car bombings in the city of Basra itself this week that killed 73 people. U.S. President George W. Bush and Iraqi officials blamed those attacks on Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda.

Yemen is holding 11 suspects over al Qaeda-linked attacks on two Western ships on the Gulf Arab state's coast, including the U.S. destroyer Cole in the port of Aden in 2000 in which 17 U.S. servicemen were killed.

"All workers were evacuated. We are concerned about the possibility of more attacks," an official stationed in the Faw Peninsula said.

Iraq's mainly Shi'ite Muslim south was relatively peaceful until rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr led a revolt this month by his militia and supporters.

Earlier this month, Iraqi Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum said a planned mid-April major international oil and gas conference in Basra had been postponed indefinitely due to security reasons.

Northern oil installations, especially the export pipeline to Turkey and the Mediterranean coast, have come under attack since the war to oust Saddam Hussein a year ago, although less frequently in the past few months, oil officials say.

Suicide boat raids target Iraq oil, terminal shut

BASRA, Iraq, April 24 (Reuters) - Suicide bombers launched three boat attacks on Iraq's vital southern Basra offshore oil export terminal on Saturday, but there was no damage and no immediate reports of casualties.

"A boat exploded next to (the terminal). But there was no damage to the oil terminal or the boat alongside it," said a British Defence Ministry spokeswoman in London. "As far as I know there were no British casualties."

Two of the attacking boats exploded alongside a ship tied up at the terminal, some 10 km (six miles) offshore, British military spokesmen and Iraqi officials said.

A third boat was intercepted by a U.S.-led coalition ship as it approached an exclusion zone around the terminal and there was an explosion soon after it was boarded, they said.

Officials at Iraq's Southern Oil Company said the Basra terminal had been shut down.

Iraq is almost completely dependent on the terminal — which is in Britain's sector of responsibility in the country — to export around 1.9 million barrels per day, providing badly needed funding for a country battered by war and violence.

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HOOD and Amnesty International Appeal to President over execution

Amnesty International delivered an appeal to President Saleh, and also the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Human Rights, calling for urgent intervention in the case of Foad Ali Muhsen Al-Shehary, who has been imprisoned in Taiz for more than 8 years on charges of killing a Political Security officer, Mohamed al-Amry, and has a death sentence has been issued against him. The prisoner claims that he did not shoot al-Amry.

Furthermore, Yemeni HOOD organization has appealed to President Saleh,

Chief of the Supreme Judicial Council, to cancel the decision of the Supreme Court which designated the commercial circle to look into the case and for the Chairman of the Supreme Court not to violate the law. The appeal calls for the return of the case to the Supreme Court, criminal division, for reconsideration of the case and verdict.

The prisoner, Al-Shehary, in a letter addressed to President Saleh, affirmed that he is innocent of the charges filed against him and that the shots that killed al-Amry were not from his pistol.

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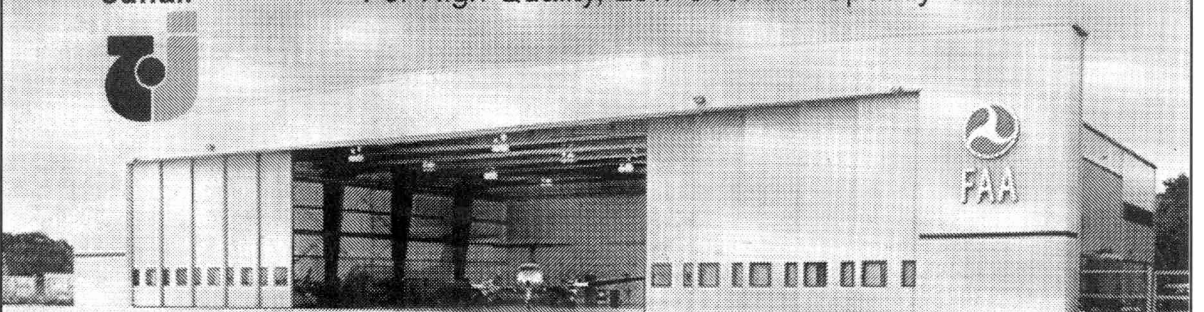
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Child employment: the most painful phenomenon



By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Child employment is a phenomenon that many countries suffer from, particularly third world countries in which this phenomenon is widespread.

The phenomenon is generally linked usually to the decline of the economic and social situations. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has disclosed that the number of working children, in different work fields, is more than 250 million in the world today.

Indeed, childhood issues are the most painful to the international conscience, and have become the most important indication of the future.

In developing countries, the magnitude of the phenomenon has reached a very disturbing extent, because the societies of such countries, particularly the ones that are undergoing transformation into civilized societies, are suffering from social and economical crises.

The exploitation of children, due to their poverty, has evoked the concern of many researchers, who have looked into the causes of the phenomenon and the life-circumstances of working children.

According to 1990 statistics, there are 3 million children in the work force in the Arab world, of which 750 thousand are girls. These children are forced to do different kinds of work like vending, car washing and working in restaurants or shops.

As of the early nineties, this phenomenon started spreading vastly, along with many new political and economical developments. In Yemen,



Child labor: an increasing phenomenon

where the situation is not much different from the rest of the Arab countries, the phenomenon became very obvious and started casting its shadow over the job market. It provided the market with an unskilled and unqualified workforce. As indicated by official statistics, there are about 250 thousand Yemeni boys and girls among the work force in Yemen.

Many of them are concentrated in big cities, particularly Sana'a, Amran, Ibb, and Taiz, whilst small percentages scattered in the rest of governorates.

The main reason behind this phenomenon in Yemen was the sharp economic transformation that accompanied the economic reforms, the opening of the local market, and the decline of living standards along with the decline of individual incomes.

The phenomenon sharpens at times of school holidays. A few of those children go to work in workshops that can still endanger their lives. Most of the time, they are underpaid by merchants, who tempt them with a little money to sell their merchandise in the

streets. Few of those children get lucky enough to establish a relation of mutual financial benefit.

The phenomenon becomes a real danger without a doubt when it involves girls. That is due the tremendous magnitude of the exploitation that these girls undergo, especially the ones that work on the street.

An academic study has indicated the difficulty of stopping the child employment phenomenon in Yemen. Nonetheless, it has emphasized the possibility of decreasing its dangers.

The study, which was conducted by doctors from the Division of Social Medicine in the Medical School of the University of Sana'a, has showed that the declining economic situation in the country will leave many families with no choice but to force their children to go to work. It has also indicated that many of those working children are subjected to physical and emotional abuse, and that the majority of them don't get vacations or breaks during work, not mentioning that they don't work under contracts and, therefore,

work injuries can seriously affect them physically.

It has also been disclosed that many of those children, particularly those who come to work in big cities, sleep in their workplaces, usually stores. This frequently places them in danger. In addition to that, they are open to harsh treatment from their bosses and live in fear of salary deductions.

The study has stressed that child employment is a direct result of both poverty and the large size of the Yemeni family, which forces children to look for jobs in order to help their families and relatives.

Child employment will continue to be a problem, and the harsh economic situation will also continue to force children out onto the job market. Nonetheless, the responsibility towards these children will always be a problem, which everyone must do something about.

A university study on early marriages

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dr. Najat Al-Sayem, the sociology professor at Sana'a University warned in a study concerning early marriage in Yemen of serious health, social and economic consequences of the continuation of the phenomenon of early marriage.

The study confirms early marriage is a primary factor behind expansion of illiteracy and poverty in society in general and among women in particular. It is also a contributing factor in the high growth rate of the population and the increase in the fatality rate among children under the age of 5 and mothers at delivery.

The study indicates the percentage of married people of both genders at

ten years of age reaches 46% of the total population. 48% of women get married at an early age, comparable with 44% for men. The study confirmed that 24.6% of women got married between the ages of 15 and 19 years old. The study pointed out that the problem does not stem solely from early marriage itself, but also from the childbearing rates of young mothers.

The study confirms also that early marriage is more common in rural areas than in cities. The phenomenon of early marriage in Yemeni society is considered to be a rooted phenomenon as the Yemeni family is keen to get their young children married as soon as they reach puberty, and is neglecting responsibility for the consequences of such marriages.

U.S. soldiers killed in attack on Iraq base

BAGHDAD, April 24 (Reuters) - At least 13 Iraqis were killed when rockets slammed into a Baghdad market on Saturday and insurgents killed five soldiers north of the city in the bloodiest month for U.S. troops since deposing Saddam Hussein.

An apparent suicide car bomb exploded in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit north of Baghdad, killing three Iraqi police and wounding 16 other people — 12 of them police.

Officials said at least six other Iraqis were killed on Saturday in violence in Baghdad's Sadr City area and in Kerbala, south of the capital.

It was not clear who fired rockets into the chicken market in the Ourfalli neighbourhood of Sadr City, powerbase of fiery Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, wanted by U.S.-led forces.

Abdul-Jabbar al-Zubeidi, director of nearby hospital, said several of 30 people wounded were in critical condition.

Reuters Television footage showed blood in the street, human remains, a dead donkey and vehicles and houses riddled with shrapnel.

"We were standing talking when two rockets landed," Bassam Abdul Rahim said. "The second hit a gas canister and the explosion was huge. There was blood and bodies everywhere."

One Iraqi was killed and three sisters badly burned earlier when U.S. troops opened fire in Sadr City, sparking a fire which gutted several cars and nearby homes, residents and doctors said.

North of Baghdad, guerrillas fired two rockets into a U.S. base near Taji, killing five soldiers and critically wounding three. Three others were in serious condition, a U.S. military spokesman said.

U.S. helicopter gunships destroyed the truck from which the rockets were launched, but there was no word of casualties among the insurgents.

The car bomb explosion near a Tikrit shopping centre appeared to be a suicide attack, as the car was moving at the time, the U.S. military said. No U.S. troops were wounded.

Suicide car bombings killed 73 people in the southern city of Basra on Wednesday.

In the holy city of Kerbala south of Baghdad, Polish soldiers killed five Iraqi gunmen who opened fire at their patrol, the Polish-led multinational division said.

April's surge of violence has unnerved several U.S. allies in the country and Washington is trying to persuade others to keep troops there past their July deadline for withdrawal.

U.N. PLEA

Sadr, the firebrand Shi'ite cleric, threatened on Friday to unleash suicide bombers if U.S. forces attacked Najaf, the city where he is holed up which is home to the holiest Shi'ite shrines.

U.S. forces are poised just outside the city and have vowed to kill or capture Sadr and destroy his Mehdi Army militia, but have allowed time for talks to defuse the standoff.

U.S. Marines are poised to resume an offensive in the Sunni town of Falluja unless guerrillas turn over heavy weapons.

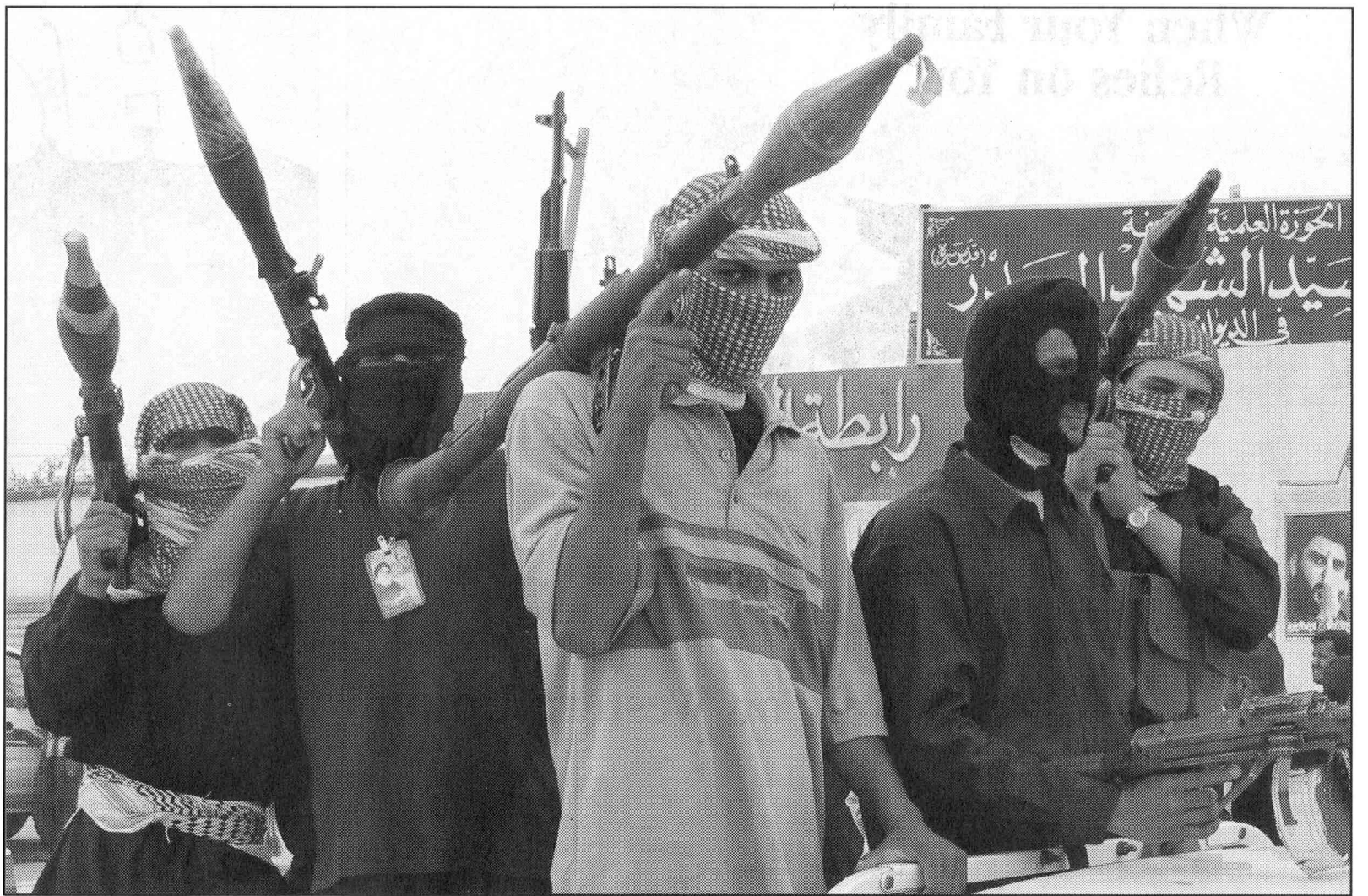
Lakhdar Brahimi, the United Nations special envoy to Iraq who is trying to put together an interim Iraqi government to take over when the U.S.-led coalition hands over sovereignty on June 30, urged the U.S. forces to hold off.

"I think that there is always a better solution than shooting your way into anywhere," Brahimi said.

A few families who had fled fierce fighting in Falluja earlier this month walked back into the battle-scarred city on Saturday, hours after Iraq's U.S. administrator said "major hostilities could resume at short notice".

Paul Bremer said "armed bands" in Falluja must give up their weapons and "submit to national authority" if a shaky ceasefire negotiated with civic leaders were to last.

Brahimi said he wanted the U.S.-backed Governing Council dissolved on June 30 and the politicians who dominate it to be excluded from the caretaker government of technocrats he thinks should see Iraq through to elections in January 2005.



Iraqi Shi'ite militiamen of radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi army ride in a pickup truck while on patrol in the southern city of Diwaniya April 23, 2004. Picture taken April 23.

REUTERS

through to elections in January 2005.

In an interview with U.S. TV network ABC to be broadcast on Sunday, Brahimi dismissed the idea of expanding the existing 25-member council.

"The fear is that, you know, as somebody put it, perhaps a bit too unkindly, they will clone themselves. And why do you want to have that?" said the former

Algerian foreign minister.

U.S. President George W. Bush acknowledged that "tough work" lay ahead, saying the "enemies of freedom" would kill anyone in their way to try to drive U.S. forces from Iraq.

"But the stakes are too high for us to leave," he said on Friday at a fund-raiser in Florida for his campaign to be re-elected in

November.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Friday he hoped Norway, the Netherlands and El Salvador, who have almost 2,000 troops in Iraq between them, would stay longer than planned.

Norway rejected the appeal, saying its 180 troops would leave around the June 30 handover. Spain, Honduras and the

Dominican Republic said this month they were pulling out.

Britain said it might send more troops to replace the Spanish, but several other nations are committed to staying only until the end-June transfer of sovereignty.

Few relish the prospect of getting mired deeper in a conflict far bloodier than any of them anticipated.

Arafat defiant in face of Sharon death threats



Palestinian president Yasser Arafat

REUTERS

RAMALLAH, West Bank, April 24 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Yasser Arafat responded defiantly on Saturday to new threats against his life by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, telling a crowd of supporters he would embrace "martyrdom".

"All of us are martyrs-in-the-waiting," Arafat said in the compound of his Muqata headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah, where some 4,000 people chanted they would sacrifice their "blood and souls" for the veteran leader.

But flashing a V-for-Victory sign, he vowed to continue to lead his people, declaring: "I want to tell Sharon and his gang that the mountain cannot be shaken by the wind."

In fresh violence, Israeli forces killed three Palestinians, at least two of them militants, in the West Bank city of Jenin. Sharon, in comments that could rally support in his right-wing Likud party before its May 2 vote on his Gaza pullout plan, said on Friday he no longer felt

bound by a pledge he made three years ago to U.S. President George W. Bush not to harm Arafat.

"I release myself from this commitment regarding Arafat," Sharon told Israel's Channel Two television in his strongest verbal threat yet against his long-time adversary.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Washington expected Sharon to keep his promise to Bush. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice phoned Sharon's chief of staff to voice opposition to any move against Arafat, a U.S. official said.

PALESTINIAN PM LASHES OUT AT U.S.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie issued a statement blaming "flagrant" U.S. bias towards Israel for emboldening Sharon to threaten Arafat.

Bush enraged Palestinians and the Arab world last week when he broke with decades of U.S. policy by endorsing

Sharon's bid to hold onto some large Jewish settlement blocs on West Bank land captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

He also backed Sharon's denial of a right of return for Palestinians dispossessed in the 1948 war of Israel's creation, and millions of their descendants. The Jewish state says a refugee influx would mean demographic suicide.

Qurie, in a statement issued by his office, said harming Arafat would end any hope of Israeli-Palestinian peace and open a new chapter in more than three years of violence.

Israel accuses the Palestinian president of fomenting bloodshed, an allegation he denies.

Sharon said he had informed Bush of his decision about Arafat during a meeting at the White House last week in which the president voiced support for his plan to evacuate all Jewish settlements in Gaza and four of the 120 in the West Bank.

But Powell told ABC's "Nightline" late on Friday: "The president made it clear that he would oppose any such attempts against Mr Arafat."

In Jenin, Palestinian security sources said undercover troops shot at a car carrying two militants, killing them and a 16-year-old youth walking home from school.

An Israeli military source, giving a different account, said soldiers surrounded a house where militants planning a suicide bombing were holed up and killed two wanted men and their teenage "accomplice" in an exchange of fire.

One of the militants belonged to al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of Arafat's Fatah faction, and the other to the Islamic Jihad group, the Palestinian security sources said.

"The Palestinian government strongly condemns the continued practice of state terror against our people by the Israeli occupation forces," Qurie's office said in a statement.

At least 30 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since Israeli assassinated Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, Gaza leader of the militant Hamas group a week ago.

New Morocco-Spain relations as Zapatero visits

CASABLANCA, Morocco, April 24 (Reuters) - Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero paid his first visit abroad on Saturday to Morocco to mark a symbolic start to a new period of relations and boost cooperation against terrorism.

The brief visit came as 15 Moroccans were under arrest in Spain on suspicion of taking part in the commuter train bombings that killed 191 people in Madrid on March 11.

Zapatero, who took office a week ago, received a red carpet welcome as his Moroccan counterpart Driss Jettou greeted him.

Spain's heads of government have traditionally paid their first official visits to Morocco. Zapatero said the day after his Socialist Party won last month's general election that the Muslim North African country was a foreign policy priority.

During talks with King Mohammed VI and Jettou, Zapatero was expected to discuss ways to increase cooperation against terrorism, in particular sharing intelligence, and immigration, Spanish government sources said.

Both countries have suffered from the same kind of "jihadist (holy war) terrorism", the sources said, pointing to the ideological links between the Madrid bombings and suicide attacks by radical Islamists in Casablanca last May.

The coordinated attacks against five targets, including a Spanish restaurant, were carried out by 12 suicide bombers. Another 33 people were killed, including four Spaniards.

The previous Spanish government named the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group as a prime suspect in the Madrid attacks. The group is believed to have ties to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda.

THE SPAIN WE LOVE

Moroccan and Spanish investigators have been cooperating in the probe into

the Madrid killings. Experts say the common security agenda may help the countries improve their relations, which have often been strained in recent years.

Spain and Morocco narrowly avoided a military clash in July 2002 over an uninhabited islet, just off Morocco's Mediterranean coast. Fishing rights for Morocco's Atlantic coast and heavy flows of illegal immigrants into Spain from Morocco have also been longstanding sources of discord.

But Zapatero's victory opened a new phase of warmer ties.

For Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega, the visit is "a reunion of two countries which, although they are separated by just a few miles of water, have been too far apart recently because of reproaches and unnecessary tensions".

The two countries on either side of the Strait of Gibraltar share a historically complex relationship and have a

strategic interest in each other, she told reporters on Friday.

"Morocco and Spain are showing with this meeting that there are not two opposing civilisations, the Arab civilisation and the Western civilisation, but there is a single civilisation which confronts the barbarism of terrorism firmly," she said.

In Rabat, newspaper editorials and politicians saw in Zapatero's visit a fresh start after eight years of bilateral tension under the rule of his predecessor, Jose Maria Aznar.

Media commentators had not enough words of praise to laud Zapatero's "sincerity, openness" comparing it with the "conceit, arrogance and contempt" showed by Aznar, perceived as a hardliner on all issues affecting Morocco.

"The man who hates Morocco is replaced by the one who embodies the Spain that we love," wrote Aujourd'hui Le Maroc.



Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero disembarks from his plane on arrival in Casablanca, Morocco, on his first official state visit, April 24. Zapatero is in Morocco to mark a symbolic start to a new period of relations and boost cooperation against terrorism.

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ALFA

Apocalyptic scenes in N.Korea, death toll at 154

SEOUL/DANDONG, China, April 24 (Reuters) - The Red Cross described apocalyptic scenes around the site of a train explosion in North Korea but said on Saturday the death toll stood at 154 — far lower than first feared.

North Korea blamed carelessness for Thursday's blast in the town of Ryongchon near the Chinese border, which sent debris flying for miles and caused damage four km (2.4 miles) away.

South Korean media, quoting witnesses and Chinese sources, had initially reported up to 3,000 people killed or injured.

"It looks as though a fireball has swept through," John Sparrow, a spokesman for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said on Saturday.

There was total destruction for several hundred metres (yards) around Ryongchon's railway station, he added.

Sparrow, talking to reporters after speaking to colleagues who visited the crash site at Ryongchon, said more than 1,300 people had been injured.

"It sounds like that number of 154 people could be the final toll," he said, adding that his impression was that the rescue efforts appeared complete and had been handled quite well.

"A school has been totally destroyed," Sparrow said, adding that 129 public buildings including hospitals had been damaged or destroyed. Some 30,000 people had been "affected", he said.

76 CHILDREN KILLED
China's Xinhua news agency quoted Korean official Jang Song-gun, in charge of rescue efforts, as also saying 154 people had been confirmed dead, including 76 primary schoolchildren. "The blasts occurred... due to a short circuit when an electrical pole nearby was knocked down after an oil tanker collided with two carriages loaded with ammonium nitrate fertiliser during the shunting of wagons," Jang added.

"The rail tracks were seriously damaged in the blast, which produced two huge pits with eight to 10 metres (yards) in depth. Broken, twisted rails were lying here and

there, and smashed pieces of carriages were scattered on the ground."

A brief North Korean state news agency report said the blast had occurred during the shunting of a train carrying chemical fertiliser and tank wagons. It gave no casualty toll but described the damage as "very serious".

International relief teams descended on the site and offers of aid flowed in response to an unprecedented appeal from the fiercely independent and secretive North Korean state.

At the Chinese border town of Dandong on Saturday, relatives of tourists on a group trip to North Korea waited anxiously for their return.

One tour guide with China's Ministry of Railway International Travel Agency said he and his colleagues had been sitting waiting to board the train at Sinuiju, about 15 km (10 miles) from the blast site, when he heard an explosion.

"We were playing poker at the time. We didn't think anything of it," he told Reuters. "We thought they were dynamiting a mountain or something."

South Korean Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun announced immediate emergency aid of \$1 million and said Seoul relief officials would meet North Korean counterparts on Monday at Panmunjom, the truce village set in the



Rescuers sift through rubble after a catastrophic explosion at the railway station in Ryongchon, North Korea, April 24. At least 154 people, including 76 students, were killed and more than 1,300 people had been injured in the blast at the railway station in the town of Ryongchon near the Chinese border on April 22, China's Xinhua news agency said, quoting a senior rescue official. REUTERS

Demilitarised Zone between the two rival states.

For its part, China — the North's giant neighbour and closest ally — offered \$1.2 million in emergency relief and President Hu Jintao telephoned North Korean leader Kim Jong-il to offer his condolences.

"The Chinese government decided to provide emergency aid materials to the DPRK (North Korea)," Xinhua said. "China's relevant authorities have made preparations for rescuing and treating the injured and providing other assistance."

This assistance, to include medicine, medical equipment and tents, would be sent in a few days, the agency said. The Korean People's Army had also joined rescue efforts.

U.S. OFFERS HELP

The blast occurred just hours after a train carrying Kim Jong-il home from

Beijing passed through Ryongchon. Kim had been talking with Chinese leaders about the protracted nuclear weapons crisis which has focused world attention on Pyongyang.

U.N. agencies and the Red Cross had begun forwarding aid as early as Thursday, he added.

Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency said the government appreciated the "willingness expressed by the governments of various countries and international bodies and organisations to render humanitarian assistance".

Pyongyang rarely reports on accidents and only belatedly sought outside aid after floods and a famine in the 1990s.

The world's worst rail disaster to date was in India in 1981, when at least 800 people died after a crowded train was blown off the track during a cyclone.

UN says Rwanda troops in Congo stop peacekeepers

KINSHASA, April 24 (Reuters) - Rwandan soldiers surrounded U.N. troops patrolling in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo this week and forced them to return to their base, the United Nations said on Saturday.

"MONUC noted on April 21 the presence of Rwandan troops ... in the Bunagana area, on DRC territory, where a Rwandan officer demanded a MONUC patrol withdraw," the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo (MONUC) said in a statement.

A U.N. official said some 400 soldiers wearing Rwandan army uniforms had encircled a patrol by South African peacekeepers at a village called Runyoni while a U.N. helicopter surveillance team estimated there were many hundreds more nearby.

Rwanda denied on Saturday its army had crossed into Congo, but defended its right to seek out its enemies.

"It is ridiculous that people get concerned about Rwandan troops allegedly in the DRC and do not question the intentions of the Interahamwe that are gathering there," Rwandan army spokesman Col Patrick Karegeya said on Saturday.

Rwanda has long complained that neither U.N. troops nor the Congolese army are doing enough to root out the Hutu rebels who fled to Congo after participating in the 1994 genocide.

Separately on Saturday, Burundi — Rwanda's neighbour to the north — said Rwandan troops had entered its territory briefly this week to hunt down Congo-based Interahamwe rebels infiltrating through northern Burundi to attack Rwanda's southern provinces.

Rwanda officially withdrew troops from Congo in 2002 under a regional peace deal to end a five-year war in the former Zaire, which began in 1998 when Rwanda and Uganda invaded and sucked in the armies of half a dozen neighbours.

However the resource-rich east of Congo remains volatile, despite the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers, with a clutch of rebel groups and militias still roaming the bush.

"MONUC reiterates that the presence of foreign troops on Democratic Republic of Congo's territory is illegal... MONUC denounces the restrictions imposed on the free movement of its troops throughout DRC," the statement said.

Tension has been rising along the border between Congo and Rwanda this month, amid reports of clashes with rebel groups and troop movements by the armies on both sides of the frontier.

The rebuffed U.N. team was investigating allegations by Rwanda that it had been attacked from Congo by a group of 200 Hutu rebels earlier this month.

Zimbabwe finmin arrested for corruption-police

HARARE, April 24 (Reuters) - Zimbabwe's finance minister was arrested on Saturday on charges of dealing in foreign currency, police said, the first senior official in President Robert Mugabe's government to be detained in a corruption crackdown.

Police spokesman Assistant Commissioner Wayne Bvudzijena said Chris Kuruneri had been picked up early on Saturday and would be charged with corruption, after accusations that he had illegally dealt in foreign currency worth over six billion Zimbabwe dollars (\$1.38 million).

Bvudzijena gave no further details. State television said the police probe against Kuruneri, a member of the central committee of Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party, began after a South African newspaper reported that he was building a mansion in the holiday resort of Cape Town.

The government in January launched an anti-corruption drive, which Mugabe blames, alongside with sabotage by its opponents, for the country's economic woes — characterised by fuel, food and foreign exchange shortages.

Football star victim of rise in Afghan ambushes

KABUL, April 24 (Reuters) - Former U.S. football star Pat Tillman, who gave up a \$3.6 million sports contract to join the military, was killed in a sustained firefight involving 15-20 insurgents in Afghanistan, the U.S. military said on Saturday.

As details emerged of the bloody ambush involving the 27-year-old former professional football player, an Afghan official said nine Taliban guerrillas were killed by Tillman's elite Army Ranger unit in the Thursday evening clash.

"They were ambushed. They dismounted. They moved towards the ambush, the firefight ensued and that is when specialist Tillman was killed," U.S. Lieutenant-Colonel Matt Beevers told reporters.

Tillman's unit was hunting al Qaeda and Taliban guerrillas in near the eastern city of Khost along the Pakistan border. Beevers said there had been a pick-up in hit-and-run attacks on soft targets by suspected Taliban south of Khost in Kandahar province.

Tillman, who quit his National Football League career in May of 2002, eight months after the September 11 attacks on America, was the most prominent American public figure killed in fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His death brought to four the number of U.S. soldiers reported killed in operation "Mountain Storm", which began on March 7 and involves troops from the 15,500-strong U.S.-led force backed by air support.

Two U.S. soldiers were wounded in the fighting near the village of Sperah, southwest of Khost.

NINE TALIBAN KILLED
One Afghan National Army soldier also died while nine Taliban militants were killed, said Khial Baz Shirzai, commander of the 25th Division of the Afghan National Army in Khost.

Paktia province, where the ambush took place, is one of several remote southeastern Afghan provinces at the heart of an insurgency led by remnants of the hardline Islamic Taliban, which U.S.-led forces drove from power in late 2001.

Enlisting with his brother, Kevin, in the



Former Arizona Cardinals safety Pat Tillman, photographed in Puyallup, Washington in this June 2003 file photograph was killed in Afghanistan on April 22 U.S. officials said April 23. Tillman, 27, was serving with the U.S. Army Rangers. REUTERS

wake of the 2001 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center. Tillman turned down the \$3.6 million contract from the Arizona Cardinals to become an Army Ranger for an annual salary of \$18,000.

Tillman played for four seasons with the Cardinals, from 1998 to 2001.

When asked how many militants were involved in Thursday's attack, Beevers said: "They way I have seen it characterised is as a sustained firefight, so I would say 15-20 at least."

"The enemy did break contact and we evacuated our casualties," he said.

Attacks on soft targets such as politi-

cians and Afghan forces around Kandahar province had picked up in recent weeks, possibly to disrupt Afghanistan first-ever presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for September, said Beevers.

"I characterise it as an uptick that has occurred probably over the last couple of weeks," Beevers said. "I think what we are seeing ultimately is... desperate moves by the Taliban to influence the political situation here in Afghanistan."

President Hamid Karzai flew to Kandahar on Saturday for a two-day visit to meet tribal leaders amid heavy security.

Tribal allies of al Qaeda submit to Pakistan army

SHAKAI, Pakistan, April 24 (Reuters) - Five tribesmen accused of sheltering al Qaeda militants surrendered to the Pakistan army at a tribal council on Saturday, after being hunted for a week in mountains on the border with Afghanistan.

The five fugitives were expected to hand in a list of foreign militants living with them in South Waziristan, a desolate region where al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri have been pursued in the past.

Thousands of turbanned Pashtun tribesmen looked on as the five men from the Zali Kheil tribe turned themselves in before a "jirga", or tribal council, and pledged loyalty to Pakistan in return for clemency.

In Shakai, a remote village around 400 km (250 miles) southeast of Islamabad, the surrendering men gave traditional peace offerings of turbans, pistols and swords to the army officers.

"We give amnesty to these people in return for their pledge of brotherhood and loyalty," said Lieutenant-General Safdar Hussain, the regional army commander, who arrived at the jirga to chants of "Allahu Akbar", or "God is Greatest".

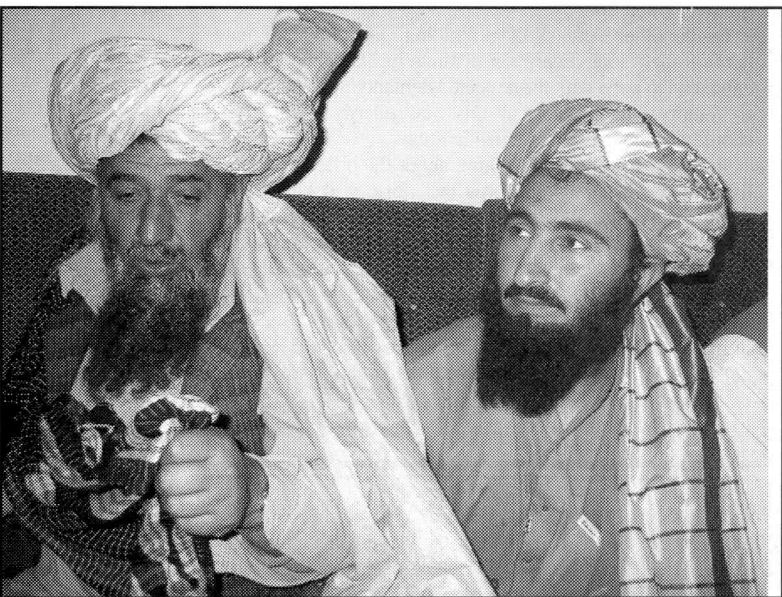
The commander said the foreign militants had until April 30 to surrender or he would send troops after them.

Amid loud applause from tribesmen famous for their independence from state authority, the leader of the five declared his allegiance.

"Pakistan is our home. We want peace here. The Pakistani forces are our brothers," Nek Mohammad said. "We regret for what has been done on the basis of misunderstanding."

Under terms brokered by local Islamist parliamentarians, Nek Mohammad's band faced a choice of surrendering or expulsion from their homeland in the semi-autonomous region of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province.

A week ago, tribal elders formed a 2,000-strong force to hunt down their kinsmen and head off a fresh offensive by Pakistani regular forces on their territory.



Two of the five tribesmen who surrendered to the Pakistan army Noorul Islam (L) and Molvi Abbas wait for the start of meeting in Shakai, a remote village around 400 kilometers (249 miles) southeast of Islamabad April 24. Five tribesmen accused of sheltering al Qaeda militants surrender to the Pakistan army at a tribal council on Saturday, ending a week long hunt for the renegades in the mountain ranges on the border with Afghanistan. REUTERS

The tribes were stung into action after 120 people died in fighting between government forces and militants near South Waziristan's main town of Wana in March.

President Pervez Musharraf provoked militants' wrath by siding with Washington in a war on terror after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and blamed two assassination attempts in December on groups linked to al Qaeda.

U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan are banking on a "hammer and anvil" strategy with Pakistan's army to trap al Qaeda and Taliban remnants hiding out in the badlands along the border.

But there are frequent complaints from the U.S. side that Pakistan could do more.

Pakistan has 25 senior al Qaeda and Taliban suspects on its wanted list. But it has offered to let other foreign

mujahideen, or Islamic warriors, who have made homes with the tribes during the past two decades, stay on so long as they register their presence.

Many Arab and Central Asian veterans of the war against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, who later backed the Taliban, married into families of tribesmen they had fought alongside.

U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Matt Beevers told a news briefing in Kabul he welcomed the negotiated settlement in Shakai but military action was still likely to be needed.

"At the end of the day, I think we expect some Pakistani action there. They've done it in the past and I think they will continue to do it," Beevers said.

"They've been fighting in there... they have been dying in there, and that speak volumes."

Words of Wisdom



The real meaning and purpose of the democratic transformation and the economic reform is to remove traditional master-client relations in Yemen's power structure, as well as market distortions in economy. Thus, the success of the nation's evolution will be measured exactly in those terms. Unfortunately, our political leadership does not understand the meaning of intended change.

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

OUR
OPINIONRenewable
energy requires
renewable vision

The recent visit of the German Environment Minister, Mr Jurgen Trittin, to Yemen has shed light on a reality that we all need to look into and begin analyzing carefully. World countries, including Yemen, are on the brink of an energy crisis if renewable energy sources are not exploited and used.

In the visit, which was part of preparatory stages for the upcoming International Conference for Renewable Energies to be held in Bonn in June 2004, Trittin said that most countries of the world are focusing less than desired and needed on alternative means of energy production and supply, which in turn is a serious lag behind the necessities of humans everywhere.

By 2050, according to Trittin, countries must take at least 50% of their energy from renewable energy sources just to be able to cope with the demand. This in turn brings greater concern about countries like Yemen, which suffer from extremely poor energy supply compared to the region and the world.

In a meeting with Mr. Trittin, I tried to inquire about what this conference could bring to Yemen, and how we, as Yemenis, can use it to minimize the increasing electricity shortages and lack of sources in rural areas.

His answer was straight-forward and convincing. We must first of all, as a country and people, formulate a strategy for reforming energy in rural areas. This could be the first step that would lead us to the appropriate way in which we can proceed. Launching and carrying out this strategy will now be carried out with support from the German government with a budget of Euro 1 million.

However, before we can even think of starting our own reforms, we must bring about a revolution in awareness and renew our vision so we can begin seeing the future not only in terms of a year or two, but the next 50 or 100 years.

I was quite impressed to know that current Minister of Water and Environment, Mr. Mohamed Al-Iryani, has indeed installed a new solar energy system for heating water. This is a vision worth admiring and respecting.

However, there is yet a very long way to go before we can have electricity reservation measures applied in a similar fashion. Realizing that electrical water heaters are among the most inefficient electrical appliances, the Ministry should be supported by government and private sector bodies to spread awareness of the use of such solar systems to replace traditional heaters.

Jordan is a good example of how a government with vision and a public with awareness can indeed make use of alternative energies. Most houses in Amman, for instance depend on solar energy to heat water. We in Yemen are quite behind Jordan in this respect. Nevertheless, there is always an opportunity to catch up.

On the other hand, skills in building, installing and maintaining such solar energy providing mechanisms must be enhanced to cope with the expected demand in the near future if Yemeni citizens shift to this new energy source. That should also be taken into consideration.

Just as Mr. Trittin was talking about the different alternative energy resources and how the world will have to use them in the future, it came to my mind that we in Yemen, and also in the developing world, must also have renewable vision, which could help us reevaluate the situation and look into the future in a more imaginative manner.

If we are suffering now from tremendous energy shortages in major cities, then with population growth of 3.7%, I cannot imagine how we will cope with the situation in 10 years or so without a vision that can see the future and work for it today.

The Editor



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Inexcusable American genocide slaughters defenseless Iraqis:

Hallelujah!
In Fallujah

BY JOHN KAMINSKI
SKYLAX@COMCAST.NET

Happy Easter, 2004, everybody! Praise the Lord! And as you sit in your proper pew this Sunday morning, blubbering out your favorite version of "He is risen", contemplate this.

Americans, just like the Israelis, are now known for killing innocent people as they worship their God in church. Raise your eyes to the heavens you prize so highly. And imagine an American B-52 dropping a 500-pound bomb right on your head, splattering you and your beloved family all over your sacred altar. Your finely dressed friends, your fire-breathing pastor, all those beautiful children in their frilly Easter finery, reduced to bloody bits of still-twitching protoplasm dripping from the flaming pages of the Book of Revelation.

See your murmurs of worship become screams of pain. Praise the Lord. Praise Yahweh. He said that's how it should be done. Right in the pages of the Old Testament. And that's how America is doing it today, this very day, Easter Sunday, in Iraq.

Imagine that you're not killed instantly, but your arms have been blown off. Imagine that your daughter's head has been blown off and her body reduced to spasming jelly. You can see her head, eyes wide but sightless, a few feet away. That's how it is today ... in Fallujah, where flies feast on bodies littering the streets.

Do you think this is too graphic? It's nothing compared to what is happening today ... in Fallujah, where American troops prevent medics from tending to the wounded and media from reporting the carnage.

And the reason? There is no reason. You know that the reasons for our war against the Iraqi people have been exposed as shallow lies. No weapons of mass destruction. No connection to the terrorists. The dictator is deposed. Yet the killing is rampant, as Iraqis fight for their freedom against the American and Israeli terror-mongers.

In the pitch dark that is the satanic American future, we continue to kill. In the name of democracy. In the name of Jesus. Our President talks to Jesus. He is risen today. Our President says he talks to God every day. God told him to bomb Afghanistan, he told us.

Jesus told him to blast innocent women and children in Fallujah today, and to pile the dead and dying in the football stadium because he won't let medical personnel get to them. Jesus told him to throw away the lives of American adolescents in uniform. Happy Easter.

Praise the Lord! He is risen.
Hallelujah! In Fallujah!

Imagine if an all-powerful foreign army invaded the United States of America and began killing Americans at random, gunning down average families at arbitrary checkpoints, spreading the sale of drugs and pornography throughout the land, targeting college professors for assassination, stealing our historic artifacts, making totally innocent people disappear forever without telling their relatives what happened to them, torturing teenagers in ways civilized societies have banned for decades, and spreading an ineradicable radioactive poison across the landscape that guaranteed death sentences to all inhabitants from fatal cancers many centuries into the future.

Imagine if the invaders said the reason they came to obliterate our country was because we had an unstable leader who had used weapons of mass destruction against innocent people, and he had to be removed as a menace to the whole world. (Well, at least that

would be an honest assessment of the present situation in the U.S.)

Imagine if this foreign power disregarded everything we held holy and demanded we accept their religion, and declared all the ideas we grew up with to be a terrorist threat. Imagine if they promised us genuine democracy and then refused to let us hold elections and nominate candidates that were not chosen by them. Imagine how you would feel if your entire family was shot to death just for walking down the street to the grocery store.

What would you do? You'd start shooting back, that's what you'd do. You would hate the invaders forever, and spend the rest of your life trying to kill every single one of them. Count on this being a very real part of the darkness of the American future.

This is the situation George W. Bush has produced for the United States, and the situation that John F. Kerry would contentedly continue were he to win the upcoming election. This, my friends, is an even darker part of the American future.

Your vote doesn't count anymore, because of the electronic finagling by fascist corporations.

But worse, both candidates, and every elected representative in Washington, are leading us toward the darkness of the American future, simply by not telling us the truth. And pretending American soldiers are fighting and dying for freedom when they're really throwing their lives away for fatter Halliburton contracts.

America wants war. America has always wanted war. And now we have it. Welcome to the darkness. Imagine your daughter's eyes, gazing sightlessly into the blazing, now-silent dust of that mosque in Fallujah. Hallelujah.

Anybody with a brain and not paid off has to realize that the U.S. invasion of Iraq was not about removing Saddam Hussein. It was about beginning the American invasion of the world, and takeover of all areas deemed to be strategically important in terms of American profits.

U.S. troops have been slaughtering Iraqi civilians for a year, all the while muttering insincere platitudes about democracy and free elections. The aim was to send a message to all in the Arab world that this fate will befall them if they impede U.S. plans to steal everyone's oil in that region.

Put yourself in their place, which all religions urge us to do. Walk a mile in the other fellow's shoes.

What would you do? There is no choice but to conclude America, backed by its behind-the-scenes ideological manipulator Israel, is the real danger to all of humanity. Iraqis know it without a hint of a question; Americans are beginning to learn. But too few. And probably too late.

Fallujah has been a prime target of American abuse, not only since the invasion began a little more than a year ago, but also in the first Gulf War.

Lisa Walsh Thomas recently repeated her report of last year, when the first rounds of killing began, that the people of Fallujah remembered one particularly terrible incident. "Two hundred civilians died in the bombing, with another five hundred injured. A large civilian area of residences was obliterated. Worse, if possible, the coalition (There really was a coalition in the first Gulf War) then polished off the killing by returning to bomb the rescuers who ran to help the injured who had survived the bombings of the market."

Randolph Holhut on the Smirking Chimp estimated that America employs 15,000 highly paid mercenaries in Iraq, many of whom make \$1,000 per day.

Only two days before the high-profile murders of four American hitmen

(yes, paid mercenaries who weren't there to escort an oil convoy, but to kill Iraqis), these same "contractors" and other scumbags just like them had machine-gunned women and children in Fallujah, according to Peter Cockburn's recent report in Counterpunch.

Ghazwan Al-Mukhtar, an Iraqi who was witness to the recent events in Fallujah, told NPR's Democracy Now! the attack on the contractors on Iraq was not unprovoked, but revenge for the massacre of women and children in the city by U.S. mercenary "contractors".

Al-Jazeera reported that two positions being used by its correspondents were bombed by US forces. Al-Jazeera correspondents were targeted and murdered by US troops for accurately portraying the initial war of occupation.

The best line I heard in all the horrible reports about what's happening in Fallujah today was this one from Libertarian Socialist News.

"The U.S. General in charge of propaganda, General Kimmit 'the Toad', accused al-Jazeera today of 'spreading lies' in claiming the U.S. was being defeated, but then, when asked if he meant al-Jazeera was faking the footage, stated that the footage was correct but their 'interpretation' of it — the interpretation that U.S. forces running away and Iraqi resistance fighters dancing on U.S. positions was a U.S. 'defeat' — was 'wrong'.

He implied that often U.S. Marines run away from their positions and throw themselves on enemy munitions as a sign of 'victory.' The LSN report also said: "Yesterday, the United States initiated surrender talks with the rebels to save their surrounded and defeated Marine units, but instead of acting in good faith, the U.S. launched two massive bombing raids against the city and bombarded the Golan neighborhood with artillery and mortar fire. In response to the bombing, Iraqi resistance fighters continued to press the surrounded Marines, killing some and taking more prisoners."

And most important of all — something you will not hear on American TV — is that the U.S. appears to be losing control of Baghdad and all the other major Iraqi cities, and the air campaign of killing innocent civilians is a desperate attempt to reverse the trend. Free people everywhere can only pray that the Iraqis will drive the criminal American forces from their land. Hallelujah. He is risen. Your pastor, your rabbi, your priest has told you to pray for the safety of American troops in Iraq.

The war in Iraq is based on shameful lies. Now that these lies have been exposed and kept being repeated by the soulless sadists who have led American into war, isn't it time your told your pastor, your rabbi and your priest exactly where they can go? And that would be straight to hell.

America is the evil empire. If you're praying to God for an American victory in Iraq, I hate to be the one to tell you that it's not God you're praying to.

It's that other guy, the one George Bush prays to. It could be time you came to grips with the ugly fact that he is the same one in the Old Testament, the one who urges everyone to just keep on killing and stealing other people's valuables.

As far as the other guy who is supposedly risen? Well, you keep on praying, if you like. Just imagine today, Easter Sunday, that you're sitting in a mosque in Fallujah, and you suddenly hear those American planes overhead. Praying would be the right thing to do.

Pray for the soul — that as an American — you have definitely lost.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Israel's nuclear power factor

The real threat
to world peace!

In looking at the ominous threats that Israel not only poses to peace in the region, but to the world at large as well, we are enlightened by the obvious evil aura that surround Israel's coming into being and its continued systematic campaign for greater territorial expansion. Let one not forget that the unorthodox and often unethical abusiveness of power, militarily on the ground and politically in the international theater, present a clear ongoing display of questionable ethical conduct on the part of the International Zionist Movement and the Hebrew State it worked diligently and ruthlessly to set up and seeks to maintain in Palestine. It should always be borne in mind that the Palestinians were literally and forcefully uprooted from their homeland-for-centuries to make room for the "creation of Israel" and the IZM assured the proper international setting that would not present any obstacle to the perpetration of this inexcusable humanitarian crime of immense proportions. Any objective seeker of the truth in the modern history of the region will now easily find a lot of evidence of the evil aura (even provided by Jewish sources) that surrounded the making and characterize the continued upkeep of the mutant state in the region and we shall delve no further into this regrettable tragic deviation in the normal history of the region.

To insure the permanent implanting of this mutant variety of nation building, the state of Israel, with the strong backing of the IZM insisted on maintaining uncontested military superiority in the region, thanks to an assured possession of state of the art conventional killing technology and a sophisticated security and intelligence apparatus of highly effective global reach. However, Israel continued to project itself as an underdog faced with "hostile" neighbors out to destroy it and insisted on having an indisputable right to possess all the "conventional" military capability to thwart any assaults by any or all of its "hostile" Arab neighbors. The fact that its unique and abrupt creation and continuing expansion at the expense of inhabitants with roots to the stolen land Israel sits on that go back for millennia and its persistence to grow outward is not, to Israel, sufficient grounds for raising possible hostility and suspicions of its neighbors. These neighbors only have to ask the Palestinian refugees that live in their midst how they came into being as such in order to get a grasp of the threat that looms in their midst, not to mention recalling the menacing aggressive attitude and the illegitimate occupation of their own territory that they themselves have faced from their "peaceful democratic" neighbor.

But the buck does not stop there. Israel has aggressively pursued a nuclear weapons development program almost from the start of its fairly recent history. This program was undertaken initially under maximum secrecy and cover up. When it could not keep the secrecy lid on tight anymore, the IZM propaganda machine tried to project the effort as initially an innocent research effort, which even the Americans were convinced of, when they sent a team of inspectors in the early 1960s. Of course these American inspectors were not shown (or ignored) the real nuclear hanky panky of this research effort, which was going on in the basement of the Daemona Nuclear Facility and five floors below that. By the Mid-Eighties, it was recognized that Israel had indeed developed a rich nuclear arsenal. However, the strength and outreach of this capability was belittled and projected as mainly being for deterring possible attacks by its hostile neighbors. Estimates suggest Israel having from 200-400 A-bombs. Needless to say, the hostile neighbors were nowhere near presenting a nuclear threat to Israel and were even lacking the infrastructure to develop one. So what is the rationale for the development of such a huge arsenal that has turned Israel into a mature member of the nuclear power club, surpassing even the United Kingdom in some of its capabilities? Even if we assume that Israel's deterrence motive has some merit to it, if we forget the already conventional superiority owned by Israel, surpassing all the Arab countries combined, wouldn't twenty or say 40 A-bombs be enough (it took two early vintage A-bombs to bring formidable Japan to heel in WW II, so with 40 A-Bombs Israel should feel quite comfortable amidst 20 "hostile" Arab countries). Yet Israel continued to develop a far larger nuclear capability in size and outreach. Why? Isn't it enough that the United States has literally guaranteed that any possible serious threat to Israel will be viewed as a threat to the United States and thus Israel has the full conventional and nuclear American capability behind it? But, one should not forget the international ramifications of the International Zionist Movement and the often declared motive behind the Israeli nuclear build-up to "insure that another 'holocaust' does not occur against any Jews anywhere in the world". Moreover, because of the unorthodox methods that the IZM relies on to mobilize international support for its Zionist agenda, in its regional and international implications, would it not be safe to conclude that this nuclear capability of international outreach would add more arm-twisting and embezzlement leverage to the IZM, especially if Israel were to have achieved inter-continental ballistic capability and thus add more to its "persuasive" capacity in the United States. Looked at another way, if Israel was to be able to get 10 ICBMs to the US mainland, wouldn't that make the nuclear balance in favor of Israel vis a vis the United States? Even if the US can send 100 ICBM's to Israel, because of the territorial area make-up of the two countries, for all practical purposes 10 or 100 missiles hitting Israel make little difference in terms of destructive capacity. But if Israel musters 100 missiles to reach to the United States, the destruction would be relatively devastating. Now, who represents a real WMD threat to the United States in particular and to the world at large? Only Venunu Mordechai

YT Business

Fish exports increase by 27.9%



By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen had last year achieved an increase in its exports of fish wealth by 27.9%, as production amount of fish jumped to 228.1 thousand tons compared to 1179 thousand tons in 2002.

A report issued by the ministry of fish wealth said the value of fish production rose by 16% to amount to YR 38.5 billion, equals \$212.3 million compared to YR33.1 billion during the same period.

According to the report the Yemen's fish exports last year amounted to 63.6 thousand tons with an increase by 27.9% compared to exports of 2002.

While the production volume of tra-

ditional fishing reached 209.3 thousand tons in 2003 the proportion of artificial fishing dropped to 18.7 thousand, equaling a rate of 13.7% out of the total production of the year 2002 that amounted to 24.1 thousand tons. The report also mentioned that the ministry of fish wealth had taken certain measures for reducing commercial fishing and to orient its investments to fishing in pure economic areas, 12 miles far from the lowest ebb limit.

The report rated the governorate of Mahra as in the first position in terms of production, as it has reached 75.8 thousand tons, followed by the governorate of Hadramout whose production amounted to 73.1 thousand tons while the last position in this regard has been occupied by the government of Hajjah with a production amount of 1428 tons.

The ministry of fish wealth had last year filed lawsuits against a number of

fishing companies evading from paying their financial dues reaching around \$ 5 million for granting them fishing licenses.

Statistics report that about 500 thousand people work in fishing along the coasts of Yemen that are 2500 km long. Among those people 50 thousand fishermen possess fishing boats of their own.

The Yemeni government is seeking to raise the proportion of its exports of fish especially to European markets where Yemeni fish products entertain good reputation. Concerned authorities have worked for intensifying their monitoring of territorial waters to prevent random fishing and protect marine wealth against exhaustion and destruction. Those measures are aimed at increasing revenues of the national income and providing the budget with finances to bridge the budget deficit that amounts to about YR 63 billion.



Fishing boats on Yemeni coasts

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.4200	184.6400
Sterling Pound	326.8400	327.2300
Euro	218.2700	218.5300
Saudi Rial	49.1800	49.2300
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.5800	626.3200
UAE Dirhem	50.2100	50.2700
Egyptian Pound	29.7700	29.8000
Bahraini Dinar	489.1800	489.7700
Qatari Rial	50.6600	50.7200
Jordanian Dinar	260.1100	260.4200
Omani Rial	479.0400	479.6200
Swiss Franc	140.2200	140.3800
Swedish Crown	23.8400	23.8700
Japanese Yen	1.6874	1.6894

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Telephone services and information technology to be expanded

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is expected that the total telephone capacities in Yemen by the end of the year 2005 to reach 1.6 million telephone lines and 3 million public lines in 2009. By the end of next year it is expected that the number of computer sets would be 118 thousand at a rate of 55% of the total number of the population who are expected to reach around 21.4 million people. In 2009 it is expected that the number of computers would reach 287 thousand at a rate of 1.17 sets for each citizen and to 338 thousand sets in 2010 at a proportion of 1.33 sets for each 100 citizens.

An official report indicates that expansions in the fixed telephones network has reached at more than one million and 200 thousand lines at the end of last year whereas the state establishment of communications is exerting efforts to extend telephone services to the countryside by 120 thousand lines.

Communications and information technology ministry is nowadays implementing the second phase of the presidential project pertaining to spreading the gaining of computers including more than 5 thousand computer sets to be sold to government officials with the system of installment, while the first phase in 2002 has covered the distribution of 4426 sets and that is with the aim of implementing the practical steps



Communication centers, telephone services to be developed

towards the electronic government.

The ministry is also implementing a project of the city of technology and communications in Sana'a and the building of similar cities in some governorates to circulate information technology and its software and the care rendered for innovators.

By expanding telephone services the government aims at removing the existing gap between the city and the coun-

tryside and enhancement of communication between citizens as well as mitigating the acuteness of poverty. The poor groups outside cities find it difficult to have continued communication with their families in the capital via passenger means of transport because of the high fares of transport.

The Yemeni government also endeavors to publicise the internet service in order to create a qualitative transfer in

university education and conveying services to the citizens in all governorates and districts as part of the electronic government project it is working for realizing. Among the goals of this orientation is the keenness on providing information for investors via the internet and to guide them to opportunities of investment in feasible projects especially in the agricultural aspect and building water dams and barriers.

Funded by World Food Program

School nutrition project doubles number of girls joining schools

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The project of school nutrition implemented by the ministry of education and financed by the World Food Program (WFP) contributes to increase in number of girls enrolled at basic education schools in Yemen. Officials say that the rates of those girls joining schools have risen in the academic year 2003-2004 by 50% since the beginning of the program in 2003.

The government says the project is part of the strategy for fighting poverty and a plan aimed at urging girls to join basic education especially in the areas suffering from poverty and that include 17 governorates and 88 districts where the mothers and children are given help by building more health centers in order to narrow the gap of food.

General Manager of the project of school nutrition Hamoud al-Akhram is of the view that implementation of the project helps prevent truancy of girls from schools, under the pressure of the need for their staying at home. He says the project provides those girls with wheat and oil and is part of the rapid course of education plan. The

general manager also says that during the present season there would be a distribution of 255,096 sacks of wheat, 57,134 cartons of cooking oil to be distributed among 119,055 girl students from 1334 schools from 85 districts of 17 governorates, namely, Hajjah, Tamar, Baidha', Taiz, Dhalie, Amran, Lahj, Shabwa, Abyan, Mahweet, Mareb, Sana'a, Ibb, Hadramout, Hudeidah, and al-Jawf.

The food shares would also be distributed among girls of basic education in the island of Socotra as well as the teachers in the schools included in the project. Both sexes teachers included in the project of school nutrition would amount to 9933 teachers who would receive 19866 food shares.

Deputy executive director of the WFP who has visited Yemen said the project succeeded in achieving its goals because it took into consideration requirements of the family to encourage girls to join education.

The number of expectant mothers who obtained assistance at health centers, as part of the project activities, amounted to 136 thousand women from those classified as suffering from malnutrition. Therefore the project has succeeded in doubling the number of girls joining basic education in Yemen.

Deliberations on integrating people of special needs in society

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The deliberative meeting organized by the ministry of technical education and vocational training for institutions concerned with those of special needs has come out with results that affirmed the importance of integrating members of these groups in the society by implementation of organized and continuous training and qualification programs.

The meeting has proposed the necessity of determining the type of training that is compatible with the nature of the handicap and fixing descriptions to training programs in

harmony with cases of those of special needs of deaf and dumb and those mentally and physically handicapped as well as the blind. The meeting has also called for drawing up working mechanism between the ministry of technical education and establishments of the groups of special needs. The mechanism aims at providing convenient climates for training handicapped individuals and rendering them to productive elements from whom the Yemeni society would benefit as well as enabling them to spend on their families and contribute to the process of comprehensive development in Yemen.

The ministry of education pins hope on integrating those special groups in the society for finding job

opportunities for the handicapped through training and qualification.

Handicapped training programs are receiving support from donor states and organizations, local charitable associations and non-governmental organizations.

Figures indicate that there are around two million disabled persons in Yemen who are the product of internal wars and conflicts and they therefore constitute a burden on the state's development and services schemes. Therefore the plan of integrating the people of special needs in the Yemeni society comes as part of the strategy aiming at fighting poverty and improving the living circumstances of those groups for the better.

YR one billion investment project For marketing agricultural products

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Thahban Company Ltd. is preparing to inaugurate in Sana'a the capital the first phase of a project for marketing and exporting agricultural products at a cost amounting to one billion Yemeni riyals. The new market project aims at improving the efficiency of domestic marketing of agricultural products, easing marketing congestions in the capital and exporting the surplus to external markets.

A report by the Yemeni news agency Saba mentioned that the project is to be built on an area of 60 thousand square meters. It is composed of seven hangars built according to technical specifications commensurate with the good display of goods and agricultural products, warehouses and depots for

stocking and preserving products and providing 250 offices for trading agencies, in addition to building and utilities for auxiliary services. The project is considered the first of its kind in Yemen and there would be parking lots accommodating 225 cars, a mosque, modern restaurants, communication, faxes and internet services as well as a power station providing full lighting day and night.

Thahban Company is also preparing to implement the second stage of the project on an additional area including of a station for categorization, gradation and packaging of agricultural products, refrigeration stores, a factory for agricultural convertible industries and construction of halls for seasonal agricultural fairs and celebrations.

Director of the project Ahmed Hantal says there would be collecting

of various kinds of agricultural products in the market and the work for marketing them internally and externally according to a suitable mechanism depending on scientific and economic methods, keeping the quality of the product and provides suitable profit for the farmers sector in a manner enabling to supplying of products for the local consumer with suitable prices and high quality.

It is expected that the project, in its first phase, would provide more than 30 job opportunities in addition to employment of labour of producers and those benefiting from market services, expected to reach at many hundreds. The project is to meet desires of wholesale and retail sale merchants and serving exportation of agricultural products especially via express air freight.

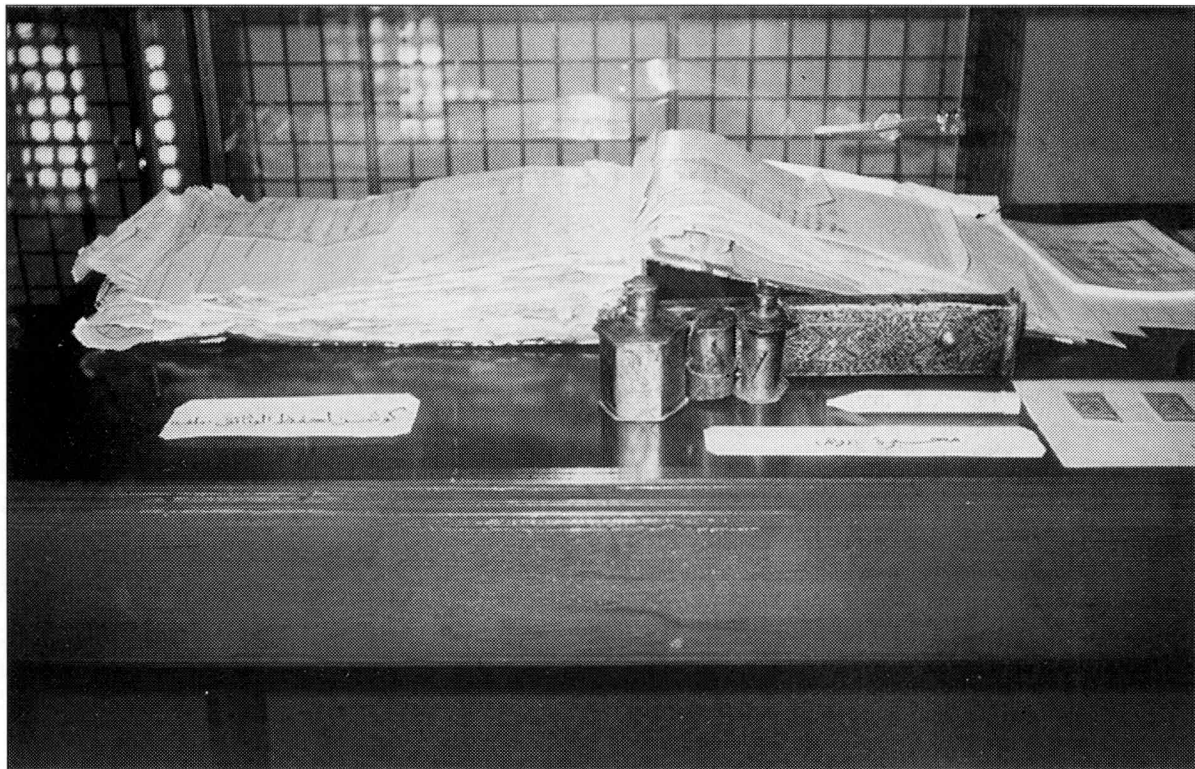
Yemeni Manuscripts... Can we preserve them?

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Republic of Yemen is considered one of the Arab countries possessing the most significant collection of historic manuscripts. Yemen possesses thousands of rare manuscripts reflecting the history of Yemen. These manuscripts represent a genuine fortune for researchers and concerned individuals interested in the histories of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

The fortune of Yemen of the rare and spectacular manuscripts has astonished many researchers, especially the brilliant scientists who have been able to witness before their eyes the great Yemeni civilizations through these manuscripts, especially the Sheba, Muaen, Qutban, and Awsan civilizations, as well as to get acquainted with many other civilizations.

Antiquities have contributed to the unveiling of ancient Yemeni civilizations in all of their details. However, today, the antiquities of Yemen are



Yemen treasures thousands of rare manuscripts depicting the rich history of its civilization

being threatened because of the smuggling, plundering and looting operations aiming at emptying Yemen of its spirit and history. The smuggling and stealing operations of Yemeni manuscripts are not taking place on mere coincidences and it has not just started, but the operations have been taking place in some time.

Everyday we hear of foiled attempts to smuggle antiquities and manuscripts at Yemeni airports, sea-

ports and at land entry/exist points. Researchers, especially those who have visited Yemen in the past, estimated the number of manuscripts in Yemen to be around two million pieces, scattered throughout libraries, mosques and study and research centers as well as possessed by individuals inside and outside Yemen. However, the exact number of the manuscripts is not currently available due to absence of precise statistics on the volume of the remaining manuscripts. In addition to this, the field survey of manuscripts throughout the governorates of the Republic, commenced in 1998, has not been completed. Most of the manuscripts are believed to be available or kept in Sana'a or in historic cities such as Zabed, Shibam, Jeklah, and Al-Shaher in Hadramout.

Sana'a Manuscripts House, estab-

lished in 1980, consists today of rare and valuable manuscripts, which include Koranic verses written on leather, and are estimated at 800 books written during the period of the first to the fifth centuries (Islamic Calendar), including one hundred embellished copies of the Holy Koran.

The library at the Grand Mosque in Sana'a city also contains a number of rare manuscripts, about 515 manuscripts, but all manuscripts continue to face smuggling and stealing conspiracies at the hands of major traders.

The duty to preserve the manuscripts is not limited to that of the related authorities, but it is the responsibility of all members and officials. To confront the smuggling of Yemeni antiquities and manuscripts requires the collective efforts of all. Thus, can we preserve our valuable manuscripts?

Life Under the Mutawakilite Kingdom of Yemen

BY SUMAYA ALI RAJA
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

What was it like growing up in the Mutawakilite Kingdom of Yemen in the late fifties?

It was magic! Taiz is situated in the midst of the Sabir mountains; it is a city with many hills. It is surrounded by the magnificent Sabir range. Our house was on a small hill named al-Ourthi, which took its name from the garrison further up the hill that housed the Imam's (Seif al Islam Ahmed Hamid al-Din's) soldiers. Al-Ourthi overlooked the walled city of Taiz, simply called al-Medina (the city). The market place where merchants sold their wares was situated between Bab al-Kabir and Bab Musa. Early every morning, father, a towering man of six feet, but slim as a reed, would take his zambeel and head to the morning market in Houthe al Ashraf. Since the average Yemeni man was pretty small, we could see him from far away with his bursting zambeel, filled with his daily purchases of lamb, butchered that morning, fresh vegetables and fruits. Houthe al Ashraf had a very blue-blooded sounding name, but it was one of the dirtiest parts of Taiz. "Valley of the Nobility" indeed.

Ali Raja' would make this journey everyday of his life until he had a son old enough (over puberty) to teach how to choose the finest quality meat cuts, the freshest produce and how to smell the fruits to gauge their ripeness, whom he would train to take his place.

He came a year after I was born in 1955, his name was Abdelrahman. But I am getting ahead of my story.

We had a huge garden with guava trees, mango trees, papayas and grand monstrous eucalyptus trees planted on the birth of every child beginning with Suad. Suad was the eldest child and she was named after my grandmother Saadah Al Bedwi the wife of

Mohamed Raja'.

Women in Yemen don't change their names after marriage. You are born and buried with the same name. That is how people can trace their heritage back to Sam and Noah. Today it's different. Many modern wives use their husbands' name, whilst our garden has become one of the main streets in Taiz.

Suad is the modern version of Saadah, and when she did or said something to make me angry I would call her Saoud, the masculine version of her name, which she loathed.

My second sister, Selwa, had large doe eyes and was destined to be the beauty of the family.

I was the third daughter, Sumaya. The exalted (her highness). My mother read a lot of novels, and she had chosen these names carefully, so she said.

Suad was happy! Naturally she was, she was the eldest, so she could make us all unhappy when she wanted to. Such is the authority invested in the eldest by my parents. Selwa was beautiful, intelligent and quiet. I was a tomboy I didn't live up to my name, I climbed so many trees, fell off my bicycle, fell off horses. I nearly drowned in our tiny swimming pool.

Suad, Selwa and Abdelrahman did all those things, but they were more resilient. I forgot to mention that I was the smallest and shortest, and the most accident-prone. It's lucky I survived my childhood, but then Yemen was 'the magical kingdom'.

Since Suad and Selwa were the eldest they did everything first. For

Abdelrahman and me the most humiliating moment was when we had to follow them on mules while they rode horses.

The year before that, it was donkeys.

This moment in history is dedicated to Janet Stoltzfus, my kindergarten Teacher, and written in loving memory of Al Ghurbany and Raja'.

The Yemen Female Media Forum

The Yemen Female Media Forum, the first Yemeni organization established to handle issues of female media members, was formed by a number of Yemenis working in the various media institutions, with Ms. Rahma Hugira as the chairman. The forum received its legal practice permit from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in February 2004.

The forum, considered a world-class service organization, is basically created to pursue several paramount goals and objectives. Among the forum's goals are:

1- Development of the media skills of women and affording all means necessary to carry out a reasonable and professional media mission.

2- Raising the public awareness about the potential role of female media personnel in comprehensive development.

3- Empowering female media personnel to communicate effectively their messages to the outside world.

4- Ensuring equal opportunities, rights and access to the media for women working in this field.

5- Enabling female journalists to take leading roles in various media

institutions.

6- Furthering the involvement of women in the process of development and modernization.

The forum, since its foundation in February 2004, has carried out activities such as a meeting of 30 media women to discuss the role of women journalists in the election of the council of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate in 2004. An agreement was concluded with the Media Institute for Training and Rehabilitation allowing access to the Institute's publications and the nomination by the forum of a woman for training in various activities and events at the institute, and much more.

The forum has a range of plans on its agenda for 2004-2005, for the defense and promotion of women's rights, headed by harnessing the skills of female media personnel and raising the efficiency of media women through training courses and workshops in various related fields.

In conclusion, the forum has been seeking to establish a library, and it has been trying to make partnership relations with local and international related organizations and with civil society organizations that are concerned with the forum's goals.

Organized by the Yemeni Turkish Association along with Turkish International Schools:

Child Day celebrated

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A ceremony was organized on Thursday by the Yemeni Turkish Association and the Turkish International Schools (TIS) in cooperation with Dar Al-Fikr Schools to commemorate International Child Day, the 23rd of April.

The organizers used the occasion to focus on Yemeni-Turkish relations, especially in the cultural and social fields.

The event was attended by several prominent personalities including the Yemeni-Turkish Association's Chairman, Dr. Abdulhadi Al-Hamdani, Mr. Faruk Yanik, the Manager of TIS, Mr. Hisham Sharaf, Deputy Minister of Planning and Development, along with several other personalities.

During the festivity, a statement by the TIS was given mentioning that the



day was proclaimed Child Day upon the formation of the Republic of Turkey in April 23 1920, as a signal of the importance children in building a prosperous tomorrow.

Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf, the Media Representative of the Yemeni Turkish Association, also gave a statement in which he expressed his delight at the launch of the first public event of the

association, and thanked the TIS for their role in promoting friendly relations between the two countries. "As the Yemeni Turkish Association, we commit ourselves to promote social, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries, and we believe that all our partners such as TIS and other Turkish companies in Yemen will support our efforts in this

respect," he said.

The representative of Dar Al-Fikr Schools also gave a statement in which he gave an historical account of Turkey and pledged to support Turkish-Yemen relations.

Children were the stars

The stars of the event were undeniably the children and students of the two schools, TIS and Dar Al-Fikr. Ranging from two and a half to fourteen years old, the children demonstrated incredible talent and ability in performing fabulous acts and sang several songs. Among the interesting sessions of the event was the singing of the marshal songs of Yemen and Turkey in Arabic and Turkish respectively by the same group of students composed of a Turk, a German, and several Yemeni students.

The overall impression of the guests was positive and the event signaled the beginning of a series of other events to promote Yemeni-Turkish relations.



تهانينا

تتقدم عائلة محمد عبد الجليل الخولاني
وعائلة محمد عبد الله العلايه
باسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات لتجلبهما الكريمان
عصام محمد عبد الجليل الخولاني وحرمة
بمناسبة ارتزاقهما المولودة البكر والتي اسمياها

داليا

فألف ألف مبروك بأبواب داليا وبها أم داليا
تمننين لها دوام الصحة والعافية
وعمر مديد إن شاء الله وفي ظل رعاية أبويها

يلا من احسنك

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Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Main headlines

- The president confirms the necessity of holding the Arab summit
- 250 thousand government employees laid off in response to WB pressure
- The president urges expansion in building water dams and barriers
- First conference of Senates League in the Arab Homeland and Africa. Abdulghani: The conference aims at supporting parliamentary bicameral, cooperation among the League's states
- Dr al-Iryani: Positive results of the Democracy in Islamic World Conference
- Arab foreign ministers resume meetings in Cairo to finish discussion of files of Arab reformation, development of Arab League
- Tens of thousands take part in Rantissi funeral, Palestinian wrath and Arab, international condemnations
- Sharon approved a list for assassination of 12 leaders from HAMAS
- Security forces storm a school in Lauder in search for a student
- MPs declare their war on corruption, assail Oil ministry justifications
- Woman initiative for peace in the Middle East
- Iraqi resistance annoys occupation forces, pushing the Americans toward division
- 100 MPs threaten Bajamal government of no-confidence
- voting
- Al-Zindani calls for arming Arab peoples to face external aggression
- Public dialogue sittings with returnees from Afghanistan
- Parliamentary committee accuses government of violating the law. Crisis between parliament and government on selling an oil share
- Hosted by Sana'a on 25-27 this month: Massive world participation in Shoura and Senate councils conference
- President and Arab League Sec.-Gen. discuss preparation for the summit and reform issues
- Oil scandal discloses future privatization, authority violates its law
- American piracy against a Yemeni fishing boat
- Local and external demands for uncovering the fate of Ubeid
- Condemned by Amnesty International Organisation: Commercial Court issues death sentence against a citizen
- The President: Criminals and those hiding them would not get away with their crimes
- FM to 26 September: Number of Arab countries support Yemen's initiative on Iraq, considering it a basis for a unified stand
- Preparation committee of the Yemeni-Saudi coordination council to meet in Riyadh on 9 May
- Trial of those accused of terror cases to begin this week

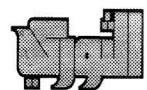
26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 22 Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- The president calls for good preparation for the summit to come out with resolutions living up to the level of challenges
- Amr Mousa: All Arab countries will attend the summit; agenda has no Great Middle East Project
- Interior minister says no leniency with hose impinging upon security and safety of the country and citizens
- Insurance companies reduced premiums to 0.012%
- Al-Mouyad file lawsuit against al-Ansi, another lawyer appointed to defend him

Columnist Abdulsamad al-Qaleesi says in his article the news of the past week reported about hundreds of martyrs falling everyday in the Iraqi cities and their houses and sanctities are violated as well as sanctities of Arab and Islamic peoples in their countries. Their news is about to be as routine as that of occupied Palestine and its brave people. But the news of the Arab leaders who should be described as "Arab entrepreneurs" is entering "joy" to our souls. Look for example at the secret visit of the Jordanian king Abdullah to Sharon in his ranch and how after a few hours has resulted in the assassination of sheikh Ahmed Yassin. And then see how the visit of the Egyptian president visit to Bush in his ranch has resulted in the assassination of Dr al-Rantissi. Though it is to be acknowledged that the assassination of this and that is on the Zionist agenda before the visits but taking such a dangerous decisions have to be prepared for, directly or indirectly with the two Arab sides that the American administration deluded as being two strategic allies whereas their determined function is the passing on of America's declared strategy against the countries and peoples of the region. Look how Sharon, the

actual strategic ally of the American administration came back from his visit to Bush with an American approval of whatever he wants. After the blow the Egyptian resident received from Bush, he insisted in his visit to Paris on his clinging to the American role considering it as unavoidable.



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 22 Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- Torture and strike in Sana'a, kidnapping and execution in Taiz
- Accused of his affiliation to the YSP, Al-Thawra prison tortures an officer with cigarette butts and hanging by hands
- Old Sana'a a scene of comprehensive strike
- YSP condemns the assassination of Rantissi

Columnist Aidroos Nassr Nasser says in an article the name of Falluja would enter the history of political conflicts to represent a symbol of challenge and resistance in the contemporary history. A symbol pictures the size of the shocking paradox between peoples capabilities and stances of the regimes. The peoples are deprived of any ammunition of material technology of confrontation but are armed with will and faith and sticking to the right while the regimes that possess large armies and various kinds of weapons are deprived of the weapon of faith, determination, willpower and clarity of goals. What happened recently in Falluja and the rest of Iraqi cities and towns has aroused astonishment of the world and made many political and military analysts bewildered. The inhabitants of Falluja who possess simple weapons in caliber and number managed to confront the strongest army in the world and to teach it a lesson they would remember for a long time. The Americans and their allies were of the illusion that this country has lost the will and surrendered to defeatism

and weakness and that terrorizing its civilian people would render them disappear out of fear especially because of the defeat whose impact is still standing in the souls and on the ground. But the Americans got shocked by that indefinite will and that great determination and rare courage and bravery while facing the most sophisticated army tanks and helicopter gunships and warplanes.



Al-Sahwa weekly, 22 Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- Abumarzook: Targeting us means failure for Sharon
- Oil flares in the parliament, MP Ali Ashal: We caught h government red-handed with the crime
- Political welcome of the president's promises of increasing the military salaries
- A child expresses her skepticism of Children Parliament elections honesty
- Journalists Syndicate worried about freedoms violations

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in less than a month a new hero falls and the struggler Abdulaziz al-Rantissi joins the long columns of martyrs. We have to stand with firmness against this incident and should be frank with ourselves when we ask about the criminal responsible for shedding of our blood. Is it Sharon and his gang? We would not have any difficulty in defining the biggest side involved in this crime and the ones before it, it is the Bush administration and Bush himself who has given the green light to killing the Palestinians and blessing any crime perpetrated against them. Our duty at present is to leave our silence, peoples and governments. We have to be frank with this enemy that it is no longer to be tolerant of dealing with this deception and no longer able to like and befriend those who hate us. We have to reconsider our relation with America. What is the use of embassies and ambassadors, delega-

SKETCHED OPINION

The Israeli policy



By Samer A.

tions and conferences while it deals with us in a way disrespecting us? The duty calls on our peoples to support their brothers in Palestine by demonstrations and support and above all by donating to the resistance. We have to warn the agents who have sold themselves and accepted to be the tools of the crime and treason. Such traitors are present in Palestine and Iraq and presently America is distributing them throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds. Such traitors must be disclosed and chased.



Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the People's Forces Union of Yemen, 21 Apr 2004.

Main headlines

- Following Barabba' accusation of the MPs, the option is canceling the selling deal or non-confidence voting
- A sabotage group behind the killing of the five officers in

Shoub, Sana'a

- Journalists Syndicate demands speedy hunt down for the criminals targeting the life of the journalist Al-Habeeshi and cancellation of al-Tagamou newspaper closure
- Torrents inflict damage in al-Jawf governorate
- Demanded the abolishment of security and military coordination with America, Support and anti-normalization committees call for armed resistance
- Preparation for establishment of a general federation for health professions trade unions

The newspaper's editorial says the results of the meeting between Sharon and Bush were not a surprise because they came expressive of the new world order of the unilateral American pole and the strength of connection between the ruling right in America and Tel Aviv, in addition to the common characteristics between the two men and the crises they are experiencing.

Bush has adopted all of Sharon's plans and pledged to support the Jewish state, accepting the presence of Zionist settlements in the West Bank and dropping the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their land. Bush's administration also considers the operations of assassination and collective killings as an Israeli right to protect its security. In all this, Bush attitude he is not showing any consideration for the Arab leaders and their peoples and putting weight to Sharon and the Zionist state. In fact Bush has declared the war on the Arab and Islamic nation repeatedly and violated the international law, legitimacy, and norms and contradicted even the road map his administration has adopted. Bush has also overstepped all resolutions concerning the alleged peace and defended the Zionist state terror. He has brushed aside the American example of coexistence with cultures, races and colors based on equality in rights and duties, as an example that deserved admiration and respect.



By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

Waiting for Godot or waiting for Jehovah

(PART 3)

First off and before I start the third part of this article I would like to say a big hello to Mr. Mohammed Fareed Hassanain, a conscientious Egyptian Parliamentarian who during the past few days submitted his resignation out of despair at the failure to achieve the reforms he aspired to, out of respect for himself and his constituents. There are many of such good men who are unselfish but are unheard of, for example Faraj Bin Ghanim, a former respectable Yemeni Premier and Swar Al-Dahab of Sudan etc. Such people could have succumbed to their natural desires of acquiring worldly goods like their peers but in my opinion it is with more of such men that things can change if ever we still have a hope for a better future in this miserable region of the world.

Let us turn now to our main subject and that is the state of affairs between Zionism, Christian Zionism and the American Statehood.

Christian Zionists believe that their number has reached now 500 million around the world and is still on the rise. All of them unequivocally believe in the inevitable legend of armageddon as a sign for the approaching cosmic apocalypse and the war between the powers of evil and the powers of good, silly as it is! But this is what they believe including His Holiness Bush! Hence Jews have saved no effort to encourage such senseless tendencies and thus Jews nowadays instead of getting their ends through their usual pressure methods, they are now decision makers in their own right and have succeeded to make the USA look through Israeli goggles achieving an anachronism in that Israel has become USA and USA has become Israel.

In my last article I expressed my extreme astonishment at the posture of Colin Powell during his attendance of an AIPAC event, but that astonishment faded when I came across a bit of information in the prominent Israeli newspaper

"Jerusalem Post", issue of December 8, 2000. It disclosed that even Colin Powell is of a Jewish background. The Israeli newspaper said that Colin Powell hails from a Jewish origin through his grandfather back in Jamaica, let alone that he was nurtured in a Jewish neighborhood of New York where he learnt Yiddish and is mastering the Yiddish language an exclusivity trait of Western Jews (i.e. German sprinkled with archaic Hebrew seasoning in addition to some borrowed Slavic words).

It is believed that most of the American media are either owned or run by Jewish individuals and today I am going to mention some of them, like NBC, CNN, ABC, CBS and NBC which possess more than 200 TV stations and has other associates such as CNBC and MSNBC. NBC and its associates reach 99% of American homes. The chairman of its news agency is Mr. Neil Shapiro, a well known Jew and its entertainment programs chairman is Mr. Jeffery Zucker, who is a Jew, too.



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من طيب حقيقي أو بالمرور
٢٥٠ مل لأقرب بقالة

العرض ساري حتى نفاد الكمية

كشف بأسماء الفائزين بجوائز السحب الأول لحملة سمن القمرية

م	إسم الفائز	القطاع	المحافظة	الجائزة	رقم الكوبون	المركز
1	فارس علي غـالب الوصـابي	الشمالي	صنعاء / دارسلم	سيارة هونداي	114906	43
2	أحمد شوقي أحمد	الجنوبي	عدن / دارسعد	أثاث بيت	418516	114
3	سلطان أحمد ناجي القـدسي	الغربي	الحديدة/شارع أروى	تجهيزات مطبخ	480230	سميرالدبي
4	محمد ظافر أحمد يحيى الشعوبي	الشمالي	صنعاء / شيراتون	تجهيزات مطبخ	009959	5
5	إكرام عبد الوهاب قائد أحمد	تعز	الدمنة	ثلاجة ١٤ قدم	355006	296
6	عبد الواسع غـالب	تعز	عصيفرة	ثلاجة ١٤ قدم	347911	290
7	محمد ناصر مسعود العزي	الأوسط	ذمار	فرن خمس عيون	119037	218
8	الحاج أحمد الصادي	الأوسط	النادرة	فرن خمس عيون	168014	237
9	سعيد عوض أحمد مفرج	الجنوبي	عدن / الممدارة	تلفزيون ٢١ بوصة	419501	116
10	إبراهيم خليل درهم	الأوسط	إب	تلفزيون ٢١ بوصة	098088	333
11	علي صالح بن صالح إبراهيم	الغربي	باجل	غسالة كهربائية	486232	141
12	زينب منصور هــدي	الأوسط	إب	غسالة كهربائية	022420	17



تنويه : سيتم تسليم جوائز السحب الأول يوم الإثنين الموافق ٢٦/٤/٢٠٠٤م فعلى جميع الأخوة الفائزين الحضور الى قاعة مركز الدراسات والبحوث بصنعاء لإستلام جوائزهم مع إصطحاب كوبون المسابقة والبطاقة الشخصية.

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233

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (65)
Expressing regret, repentance (II)

Regret is a feeling of disappointment at something undesirable that has taken place. As such, the expressions reflect the speaker's feeling of guilt and unhappiness and an assurance to prevent its recurrence.

- I am very sorry. Whatever happened was on the spur of the moment. Hope you don't take them to your heart.
- I know, whatever happened was wrong. Let's forget everything, for this was not what I had thought would happen between us. Sorry.
- I'm sorry for everything. Though it's so very easy to do things without thinking to hurt someone... but now I'm feeling so miserable, for somehow unknowingly I've hurt you. The path of my life now seems so desolate!
- Just want to tell you that if you are hurt, so am I... I feel something somewhere is amiss and that's all because you are not near. I hope you can forgive me and believe that I'm truly sorry. I just hope that sometime soon, somewhere, a new hope will come into sight and you'll realize that I never meant to hurt you.
- I'm really sorry for all that happened. The heart is going through an uneasy feeling and till we don't sort it out it will remain so. What words come from the mouth and not the heart, they really hurt, but they are not meant or wished for, as they seemed in the start, and all I wish to say after what happened, is SORRY.
- Sorry. Whatever happened was wrong. Let's get back to how we were earlier. Words do hurt and certainly it's not easy to forget; but these words are momentary, and not meant from the heart. So I ask you to forgive me and give me another chance.
- I wish to say sorry and let you know that the mistakes committed will not be repeated.
- I'm truly sorry for my rude words, for your aching heart, for your hurt feelings... Please forgive me and let's be our old selves, again.
- I'm sorry. Sometimes I say or do the wrong thing at the wrong time. I never intend to hurt you, but sometimes I know I do... I don't know how to make things better but I can start by saying 'I'm really sorry' and I really mean it. So please forgive me and help me in making things better.
- I'm feeling guilty and sad because I hurt you so and I regret all that has happened more than you could ever know, for I sometimes say or do things that I later really regret. When I see how wrong I was, I reflect for hurting you and causing you pain. I'm really sorry once again. And now I ask you to forgive me. I was truly in the wrong, and you don't deserve the sadness that I must have brought along. You touched my life.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- A considerable amount of Yemeni students are studying in India.
- There were three trophies in the showcase and the winners were allowed to choose either.
- You can have them back, now I'm finished with them.
- 'Lie your guns down and lay on the floor', ordered the bandit.
- Mice got into the store and ate the majority of the grains.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- I have read **poetry** of Shelley who was a romantic poet.
- Between you and **me**, Majeed is not to be trusted.
- He has a cat **which** he loves very much.
- Be respectful to **elder** members of the family.
- He turned a deaf ear to the **advice** of his father.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- One who makes love without serious intentions.
- First or original example.
- A form of work of art in which objects are glued to a backing to form a picture.
- False arguments intended to deceive others.
- An offence against grammar or idiom.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- Government by the rich: **plutocracy** (n)
- A literary theft of ideas, words, etc.: **plagiarism** (n)
- The practice of a woman having more than one husband: **polyandry** (n)
- Operation of a body after death: **postmortem** (n)
- Ancestor of a person animal or plant: **progenitor** (n)

(B) Foreign phrases and expressions

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following:

- irony
- jeu d'esprit
- lampoon
- literati
- littérateur

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- idyll** (Gk. 'little form'): A poem which describes a scene in rural life.
- imagery** (Lat. 'making of likenesses'): The term covers the use of language to represent objects, actions, feelings thought, ideas or states of mind.
- index** (Lat. 'forefinger'): An alphabetical list of subjects that serves as a table of contents at the beginning of a book.
- interlude** (Lat. 'between play'): A short entertainment put on between the course of a feast or the acts of a play
- invention** (the term derives from the 'inventio' of classical and medieval rhetoric): The term denotes the discovery of an idea or fact, and the arranging of words and ideas in a fresh and arresting fashion.

(C) Words commonly confused

- Distinguish between the following pairs of words
- classic, classical
 - jealous, zealous
 - crime, vice, sin
 - discover, invent
 - disinterested, uninterested

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- battle** (n) (fight between organized armies): The battle of Waterloo was won by England.
- war** (n) (armed fighting between nations): Two world wars were fought in the last century.
- fight** (n) (struggle bodily against): There was a street fight between the two warring groups.
- measure** (n) (size, quantity degree, weight, etc. found by a standard or unit): They enjoyed life in the fullest measure.
- major** (adj) (greater or more important of two): The major portion of the floor is covered by carpet.
- confess** (vt) (say or admit that one has done wrong): The accused confessed to the crime.
- admit** (vt) (acknowledge): I admit my mistake.
- conscious** (adj) (awake, aware): I am conscious of my duty.
- conscientious** (adj): He is a conscientious worker.
- right** (adj) (contrasted with 'wrong'): Stick to the right path.
- rite** (n) (act or ceremony): The burial rites of the deceased has been finished.

(C) Idioms and phrases

Bring out the meanings of the following in illustrative sentences

- kith and kin
- Jack of all trades
- an iron will
- a Herculean task
- to hold one's tongue

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- a **thankless job** (a job with no satisfaction or reward): Doing charity can never be a thankless job.
- a **snake in the grass** (a hidden enemy): Beware of him. He seems to be a snake in the grass.
- lion's share** (major part): As the eldest son, he claimed lion's share from his paternal property.
- lame excuse** (false excuse): Your absence from my

wedding party is inexcusable. Don't give me any lame excuses.

5. to **keep abreast of** (to be in touch): You should keep abreast of the happenings around you.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Use one idea from the left column and one idea from the right column to complete sentences 1-10

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| broke his leg | dangerous for other road users |
| excellent French | lived in Moscow |
| food very bad | lovely weather |
| plenty of rooms | long traffic jams |
| speak the language | waiters rude |
| many young riders killed | killed three people |
| several years' experience | twisted his wrist |
| burned a house down | perfect German |
| wonderful beaches | good with children |
| train delayed | nice garden |

- I would definitely recommend Greece for a holiday; —
- He had the most terrible journey home; —
- Motorbikes are such a bad idea; —
- He was sentenced to forty-five years in prison; —
- I consider myself to be an expert on Russia; —
- We should employ her as an English teacher; —
- She's completely bilingual; —
- That house would be ideal for us; —
- He has a bad skiing accident last year; —
- I will never go to that restaurant again; —

Suggested answers to last week's questions

- There **isn't** anything left for us to eat.
- The time now is a **quarter** to two
- Yesterday Mohammed **had** two apples but now he has only one.
- Last week some men **dug** a hole in the road near the school.
- I have a car and he has **one**, too.

(B) Composition: Paragraph writing

Expand the idea contained in the maxim

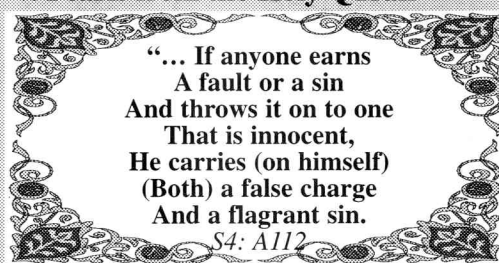
64. GREAT MEN HAVE ALWAYS SCORED GREAT RECOMPENSE

Last week's topic:

63: GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES

Disraeli says, 'The secret of success is constancy of purpose.' Indeed, a man's efforts and endeavors are crowned with success if he has made sustained efforts, has relentlessly tried to achieve his objective and has abiding faith in the Divine grace. In other words, success is sincere hard work coupled with an unshakable confidence in the divine dispensation. There are many examples which illustrate that one who is committed to his duty, and who unleashes dedicated efforts to attain his goal with single mindedness is blessed with God's mercy. Conversely, a man of mere contemplation unlike a man of action, leaves everything to God's will. One should have plenty of self-confidence as well as the will to act and the will to win. One should remember what Thoreau once said, 'Men are born to succeed, not to fail.' In the ultimate analysis, man should perform his duty as best as one could to deserve the Almighty's blessings on his efforts.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of Wisdom

"Love teaches even asses to dance."

—French proverb

Teaching Composition Skills



DR. BUSHRA AL-NOURI
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
AND HEAD
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
MAHWEET

In this age of labor-saving devices it is perhaps unfortunate that no one has yet come up with a labor-saving composition course. The ability to write English freely and accurately can only be acquired after months, if not years, of real hard work on the part of both the teacher and the student.

The teacher's first task is to so awaken the student's interest that they will be eager to write, for if they really want to write there is a good chance that they will write reasonably well. In the early stages at least, all written work should be preceded by thorough oral preparation, not only to ensure that all the students have enough ideas on the subject, the necessary vocabulary, useful structures, and so on, but also, by encouraging class discussion, to get the students interested in the subject. With a view to actively encouraging the students, the teacher should make sure that he does nothing which will discourage them for this reason it is advisable, when correcting compositions, to

concentrate on major weaknesses and to resist the temptation to mark every single error.

The aim of the composition course is to train the student, to write English freely and accurately, an aim which can only be reached if they are given plenty of practice.

Teachers faced with classes of between seventy and eighty students cannot possibly be expected to give each student much by way of individual attention. This does not mean, however, that the students are to be denied the practice they need if they are ever to learn to write good English. It is a good idea to divide the class into groups, the members of each group working together to produce one composition. The teacher will then have only a handful of composition to mark, and these compositions, because they have been checked by several students, will contain comparatively few errors.

When the compositions have been marked the students can copy their own group's composition into their exercise book; so by the end of the terms, they will have a good selection of model compositions.

The teacher-student relationship is of the utmost importance in the composition class, and no book can take the place, or do all the work, of the teacher.

Robot -The honest servant The quantum leap in Information Technology



BY HAJER SHIBAM
SANA'A

The word (Robot) came from the Czech word (Robota), which means the slave, or the agent of recruiting/conscripting. The one who used it for the first time is the playwright whose name is Careel Tchabich in his play (Robots and drawings of a commune).

Robotics is a science of designing, producing and investing robots. This science has mingled with computer science and it has been improving greatly, thanks to the technology revolution. This science consists of two branches: one is technological and the other is scientific. The first branch researches in the techniques of making accurate robots with low prices, the other one, which are scientific, researches in several sides, for example, investing the robot with more effective and more modern senses. Moreover, it provides the robot with enough intelligence and the two senses: seeing and touching and these two senses follow the bases of the artificial intelligence.

Robot consists of a movable arm and sometimes more than one arm with particular techniques which can be moved by a remote control.

The artificial robots have been changing

ing many things in the nature of the world of industry and the role of human beings in it. They have had a great role in increasing the production average, decreasing the product cost prices and developing its capability and many other things that man can't do either because it is dangerous or is not suitable for him.

The advantages of robot are as follows:

- It is an ideal worker.
- It can work for 24 hours without stopping and being tired.
- It does not need to have food.
- It does not demand more money.

Although the robot is one of the potential reasons for creating unemployment, the practical experience is quite opposite, as designing robot, maintenance of robot and preparing the laboratories to accept the robot, new, emerging occupations. They can absorb many workers.

Whatever technological strides computers and robots have achieved or may achieve in future, automation can't wholly pervade all the fields because these occupations need ingenuity and innovation, which can be achieved only by the human beings.

The volume of information has been steadily and unimaginably increasing over the past years and it has been found that it is difficult to keep all these information in the traditional libraries because they have not been enough. So, computers share in creating storing and retrieving a mass of information.

"In Memoriam"



BY ARIF AL-AHDAL
FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
HODEIDAH UNIVERSITY

Full of memories our hearts are
In your grave, you are NOT alone
The day God called you Home
A piece of each of us with you has gone.

To bid you adieu, our hearts break
And our lives seem to be at stake
But God is there to care take
Our belief in Him does never shake.

All on a sudden God took you away
To stay in paradise, we'll always pray
In our hearts and minds, you'll always stay.

N.B. In memory of my brother Mohammed's wife who passed away peacefully on Friday 26/3/2004 leaving behind loved and loving ones. May God bless her soul.

WONDERWORD®

by DAVID OUELLET

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

CLUES

Academic	First	Morning	Recreation	Supplies
Adults	Friend	Names	Result	System
Answer	Girls	Noises	Ride	Table
Arts	Glue	Note	Rows	Tape
Books	Grades	Order	Rules	Teacher
Chalk	Hall	Pads	School	Teens
Clean	Help	Page	Science	Tell
Clock	History	Paint	Score	Term
Compass	Hour	Paper	Seat	Text
Course	Kids	Pencil	Seminar	Think
Days	Knowledge	Pens	Shelf	Trip
Deck	Learn	Physics	Shop	Tutor
Desk	Lesson	Plan	Sing	Wastebasket
Drawing	Light	Primary	Skills	Week
Effort	Listen	Program	Song	Work
Eraser	Maps	Project	Speech	Write
Event	Marker	Public	Stage	
Examples	Master	Pupil	Students	
Explain	Math	Quiet	Study	
Films	Mold	Race	Subject	

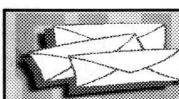
ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Slit

IN THE CLASSROOM

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

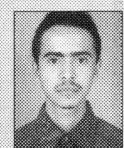
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YOUTH FORUM

A soccer tourney at Mahweet
In the interclass football tournament organized under the auspices of the English department last week, Level 1 team under the captaincy of Ismael Abdullah Al-Kudry beat Level 4 team to be declared the champion for the year, 2004. They were proud to lift the Krishna Chandra Sahu - Taramoni Devi Memorial running trophy. The champions: Akram Al-Quzahy, Omar Rajeh, Abdulmalik Al-Sayaid, Jalal Abdullah, Mohee Moteer, Nasser Ibrahim, Ashraf Al-Kahdhi, Waseem Al-Thicani, Anwar khalid Ahmed, Fouad Al-Tiyari. The match was umpired by Bassim.

to know English well?
Imagine...
You are at an international airport. You walk quickly, and you look confident. You understand all the signs around you, you understand the announcements. You know that if there were any problems you could easily communicate with the airport's staff in their own language. You walk to your gate, thinking how much more difficult it would be if you didn't know English.
So why wait for cultivating a good grasp of English?



By Eissa Salem Al-Hibshi
Business Administration,
Saba University, Sana'a

English makes you feel good
English can improve your life. It can let you get smarter, meet people, earn more money, etc. But have you ever wondered how it would feel

إعلان هام من صحيفة "يمن تايمز":

"لنكن يدًا واحدة مع الأخ الرئيس"

تتبنى صحيفة اليمن تايمز مع مجموعة من الشركات الخاصة والمؤسسات الحكومية وكذلك عدد من الشخصيات الوطنية المعروفة حملة جديدة وقوية بمناسبة العيد الرابع عشر لقيام الوحدة اليمنية المباركة، وهذه المبادرة هي للتأكيد للقيادة السياسية بأننا جميعاً سنكون يدًا واحدة معها في سبيل تحقيق النهضة الاقتصادية والتنمية المنشودة وتحقيق آمال الشعب اليمني في بناء اليمن الحديث والإكتر تالقاً وإزدهاراً.

لقد اجتمعت هذه الشركات لتساهم في مشروع هو الأول من نوعه لدعم التوجه الحكيم للقيادة السياسية للتركيز على البناء والتطوير والاستقرار، وهي الآن قد بدأت الخطوات العملية للتعريف بهذا التوجه وإرسال رسالة واضحة في رغبتها في المشاركة الأكثر فاعلية في هذا الإطار.

الباب ما زال مفتوحاً لمزيد من الجهات للانضمام لهذا المشروع الكبير الذي بلا شك سيشكل نقلة نوعية في الشراكة الحقيقية في بناء بلدنا الحبيب اليمن ورسالة واضحة إلى فخامة الرئيس تقول "أننا سنكون يدًا واحدة معكم في طريق بناء اليمن الحديث". من لا يريد الانضمام إلى هذا المشروع الجبار الذي تقوده مؤسسة يمن تايمز لصحافة والطباعة والنشر، وهي من أعلام ودعاة التطوير والنمو والشراكة في بناء اليمن المستقبل.

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