

Sana'a chosen as ASCEC headquarters African and Arab nations push for better governance

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The First Conference of the Association of the Senates, Consultative and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World (ASCEC) wound up last Tuesday with a statement stressing the commitment of member states in promoting democracy, human rights, good governance and the role of women.

The event, which was attended by 18 states and other European delegations focused on the questions of human rights, the role of civil society organizations and promotion of public participation.

In their final meeting, the delegates approved of the platform of the association and said in their final statement that they are committed to implement the decisions and recommendations of the conference with regards to "strengthening and enhancing democratic values, making them concrete in their own countries as well as promoting political and economic reforms."

The statement said that these countries are committed to play a vital role in supporting initiatives of good governance, parliament monitoring, promoting decision-making based on public participation. They also committed

themselves to carrying out legislative reforms, development of civil and administrative service.

The statement also pointed out that the member states of the ASCEC stressed on "the pivotal role these senates, consultative and equivalent councils in promoting democracy, human rights and encouraging the basic principles of good governance and the role of civil society organizations and women's roles in the political and social life, protecting them against any sort of exploitation.

The conference committed itself to working with regional and international parliament institutions in promoting democracy, freedoms and standing by the just causes of Arab and African peoples, mainly the Palestinian cause; they condemned the Israeli atrocities and brutal acts against the Palestinian people with whom they expressed solidarity to achieve its goals in establishing its own state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The statement also said the association members states support the political initiatives and efforts meant to hasten the leave of the occupying forces in Iraq, replacing them with UN troops, handing power to the Iraqi people.

They also said that they are against the setting up of political parties or ethnic, religious or sectarian bases and that they support all efforts made to reach peaceful resolutions in some African countries hit by conflicts.

The member states chose Sana'a as the main headquarters of the association which was set up in 2002.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh inaugurated the opening session of the event in which he called on the coalition forces in Iraq to leave the country immediately, putting the regime of Saddam Hussien partially accountable for the occupation.

He said that the excuse for which the coalition forces invaded Iraq, the weapons of mass destruction, has proved untrue and for that they should withdraw and let the Iraqi people choose its government.

"We would like to see a peaceful Iraq, rather than bloodshed," he said.

He said that democracy has become the only choice for the people at this time, expressing refusal of reforms imposed from outside which he said

will not succeed.

"We should reform ourselves before others reform us," he said, calling the political regimes to take the initiatives in starting political, economic reforms and public participation.

He said if there were elections, freedom of press and democracy in Iraq, the pretext of liberating Iraqi people under which the Americans occupied Iraq could have been thwarted despite the fact that the "conspiracy" was there, according to him.

He lashed out at the US double-standard policy in the Middle East incites the hatred of Muslims and the people of the third world countries. He emphasized on the role the UN should play otherwise it lose its importance.

Al-Sawany wants "infidels" and "secularists" to be arrested

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Sawany, the convicted killer of the former Assistant Secretary General of Yemeni Socialist Party, Jar Allah Omar, told a Sana'a court on April 26 that the authorities should arrest people he described as seculars and infidels and the leader of Al-Buhra sect in Yemen.

He also denied that there is any group or cell behind the killing of Jar Allah Omar.

He said that he was the lone plotter and executor of the crime.

The only person he was informed was Abbed Kamel, the murderer of the three American doctors.

Neither Islah nor PGC Party or the state has anything to do with his action, he said, adding that political parties competed to blame the crime on each other because it was during the election season.

Al-Sawany demanded the trial of Ba'athists and Nasserites as infidels.

He also demanded the arrest of rep-

resentative of Sultan of Al-Buhra in Yemen, Mr. Salman Rasheed, and the leader of a Sect in Yemen as well as "Al-Taiyfeen" sect.

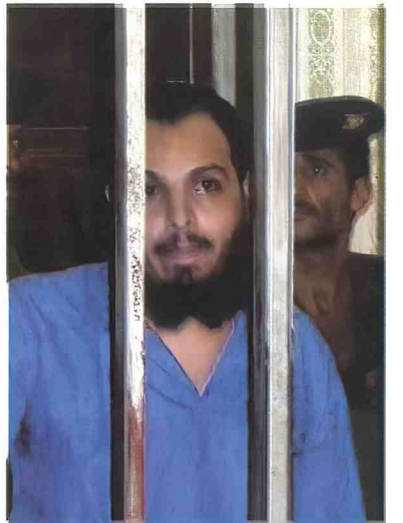
He also accused Islah Party of having two currents, which were the reasons behind his deviation.

The first current led by Yassin Abdul Aziz and Dr. Mohamed Al-Yadoumi considering them deviants and the second current led by Sheikh Al-Zendani and his followers, who stood silently in front of the first current as a courtesy.

The accused revealed the brutal treatment he had received in the past by saying that during the four-month interrogating period, he was continuously blind-folded with his hands cuffed, even at times to go to the bathroom.

He declared that if he were taken back for further interrogation, he would abstain from talking unless he was beaten severely and only then, he would implicate anyone the interrogating team wanted him to.

He demanded his release and com-



Al-Sawany

pensation for the suffering and time spend in jail and instead to jail the leaders of Yemen Socialist Party, and the leaders of Nasserite and Ba'ath parties.

Blast hits Damascus



Residents survey the damaged building that used to house the United Nations office in Damascus, April 27 after explosions and gunfire rocked the Syrian capital. Syria said on Tuesday its security forces had confronted an armed group that opened fire in an upmarket Damascus area and brought the situation under control. REUTERS

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The inauguration of Cultural Festival in Taiz

YEMEN TIMES- TAIZ

The activities of Al-Saeed Cultural Festival, as a contribution to the national activities for Sana'a Arab Cultural Capital, were inaugurated on Sunday 25th April in Al-Saeed Institute for Cultural Sciences.

The opening session of the festival, which is scheduled to end on 8th May, was attended by Mr. Mohamed Abdullah As-Sofi, Dean of Taiz University; Mr. Ali Abdulkarim, Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League; Mr. Monir Said Ana'am, representative of the Al-Saeed Group

and Mr. Faisal Fare'a, General Manager of As-Saeed Institute.

Poetry evening sessions and art exhibitions were some of the major activities that had taken place in the festival.

In the framework of the festival activities, the 2nd Taiz International Exhibition for Books and Information Technology, was opened on Wednesday 28th April.

On 29th April, as an activity of the festival, prizes commemorating the late Hael Saeed Ana'am were presented to winners in literacy and science fields.

HRITC organizes a symposium on civil society in the Arabian Peninsula

As part of their activities in the region, and as an attempt to strengthen the abilities and capacities of civil society institutions in the region and to create new horizons for cooperation, the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) is organizing a symposium that is scheduled to take place in Taiz during the period of 4-5 May, 2004.

The agenda consists of 4 pivots:

- challenges, such as independency and relationship with official institutions that are facing the region's civil society institutions.

- privacy
- The social and political chal-

lenges that are facing the traditional tribal system.

- Finding an appropriate mechanism to establish cooperation and coordination among such institutions.

Thirty-five participants are expected to attend the symposium meetings, representing nine Arab states: Kuwait, Bahrain, KSA, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Yemen, Egypt and Palestine.

In a press release, Mr. Ezuddin Al-Asbahi, Director of the Center, asserted that the main goal of the symposium is to come out with a vision for future cooperation that will enable civil society in the region to develop and meet the challenges facing them.

Austrians visit Taiz and Aden

BY YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BUREAU

Dr. Clemens Coreth, the Ambassador of Austria to Oman and the non-Resident Ambassador to Yemen, and Dr. Vavra, the director of international relations of the Vienna Municipality Council, visited Taiz city recently.

During the visit, they met with Mohamed Al-Haj, Deputy Mayor of Taiz and Shawgi Hayel, Chairman of Planning, Development and Financial Committee of the Local Council, for discussions on the cooperation between the councils of Taiz and Vienna.

The two visiting guests paid a visit to the Leprosy Hospital in the city where they were received by Dr. Yassin Al-Qubaty, Chairman of Association of Combating Leprosy, Dr. Abdul Aleem Al-Samae, Vice

President of the hospital, and Dr. Sameer Khairy, Chairman of Association of Combating Aids.

The two also toured Taiz City after they had visited Al-Saeed Corporation and library.

They expressed their admiration of the cultural development they saw.

Also, this trip, Mr. Abdulkareem Mutair, Chairman of the General Investment Authority, received Mr. Martin Sasajolik, Director of Economic Affairs and European Integration at the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for discussion of bilateral relations and the horizons for their development and enhancement.

The two sides exchanged the instruments of ratification of the agreement for the mutual promotion of investment between Yemen and Austria, signed in Vienna on 30 May 2003.

The ceremony was also attended Coreth.

Union of Yemeni Writers declares Solidarity with Writer

The High Administrative Board of the Taiz branch of the Union of Yemeni Writers issued on 25th April a statement condemning the administration of Taiz University for denying the writer Boshra Al-Maqtari a position because of her political allegiance.

In its statement, the union condemned such action a "violation of human rights", asserting that such action is

preventing society from getting the benefit of such highly qualified people.

Urging the sincere citizen to announce their solidarity with Ms. Al-Maqtari, the union declared its demands to be:

- that the university be allowed to be a zone of freedom and respect.
- the adoption by the university administration of a fair hiring

policy based on qualification not political affiliation.

According to the union's statement, Ms. Al-Maqtari's employment by the university as an Assistant Professor has been delayed for 4 consecutive years because of her political beliefs, even though she is very qualified and there is a position available in her field.

Middle East needs world partners

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A seminar was under the title, "The Middle East and the World" which studied Yemen's vision for possible reforms and more partnerships between the state and the society was held April 26.

The seminar, held by Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy, was attended by a number of ambassadors and interested individ-

uals. Working papers were on various Arab, American and European initiatives and reform in the Arab world.

In addition, other working papers were discussed, such as terrorism and violence and their effects on the development operation in the Arab world.

Other issues were 9/11, the development of events in Palestine and Iraq, and how to lay down a genuine partnership between the countries of Middle East and countries of the world.

Photo exhibition at Culture House

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the support of Haier Company for home appliances, and as part of participation of Taiz in the celebration of Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004, a photo exhibition will be held by journalism photographer Adel Al-Araigy.

The exhibition, opens during the period 1-10 May, and is to be held at the Culture House in Sana'a, under the title, "The concave eye" consisting of 60 photos depicting the fascinating, historic, tourist and breath taking views in and from Taiz City.

Ministry of Endowment publishes book to fight terror

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's Ministry of Endowment and Guidance has recently issued a booklet entitled, "Terrorism... the threats and means to combat it", part of a series of enlightenment booklets of the Guidance Sector of the Endowment Ministry.

The booklet, written by Shiekh Yahya Al-Najar, Undersecretary of Ministry of Endowment, consists of five chapters in thirty-two pages. It defines terrorism, its motives, charac-

teristics, threats and dangers and the stance of Islam toward it and the means to combat it.

The booklet deals with the role of preachers and religious corporations in the fight against terrorism through the spread of Islamic values, which call for discarding extremism and excessiveness and for embracing forgiveness and moderation. It also seeks the enlightenment of citizens of the religious, political, social, economic and security dangers of terrorism.

This comes in line with the direction adopted by the government of

Yemen in the issue of dialogue with terrorist elements. Yemen has achieved great progress in this and at the same time some Yemeni authorities are making consultations with the American side through the US Embassy at Sana'a in order to devote the path of dialogue before transferring the detainees and suspects to the judiciary.

This step also comes following the visits and intensive meetings of the US Ambassador, Mr. Edmund Hull with the officials at the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance and Justice.

Apollo company organizes an International exhibition

Under the auspices of H.E. Dr. Mohamed Yahya Al-Naame, Minister of Health and Population, Apollo Company organized the fourth International Exhibition for Medical Dentistry Equipment and Accessories at Expo Center Sana'a, May 10 to 15.

Omar Al-Nahme, Director of Marketing at Apollo, said that the exhibition, the most important in the medical field, gives an opportunity for medical companies and corporations

to show the latest production in the medical field.

The exhibition is accompanied by the holding several scientific and acknowledgment including (the national strategy to combat smuggling and counterfeiting of drugs - the importance of sterilization in preventing transmitting of contagious diseases - and a background on tube babies) plus others, in addition to the hosting of international doctors and

experts.

Mr. Al-Nahme explained that the exhibition MedFarm Yemen 2004 is held for the fourth time at Expo Center Sana'a where the previous three were successful in terms of participation.

The exhibition has become a tradition, held every two years. This year it coincides with the celebrations of anniversary of Unification of Country on May 22.

UNDP, Candian Nexen, Yemen sign

Project Document to promote water management and sanitation

Sana'a (UN Information Centre— 24 April 2004) - A project document was signed in Sana'a today, 24 April 2004, for a joint initiative between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Canadian Nexen and the Government of Yemen to promote water resource management, community water supply and sanitation, and capacity building in the vicinity of Masila Block 14, Hadramout Governorate. According to the project document, Canadian Nexen commits the amount of US\$ 1 million and UNDP US\$ 500,000 for this partnership.

A UN Information Center press release said the agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of Yemen by Dr. Rasheed Saleh Baraba, Minister of Oil and Minerals as well as Abdul Kader Ali Hillal, Governor of Hadramout. The document was also signed by Mr. James W. Rawley, the UNDP Resident Representative, and Dr. Randy Gossen, Vice President of the Safety Environment and Social Responsibility Department, Canadian Nexen. The agreement is expected to be signed by Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, upon his

return from abroad.

The project is intended to represent a model approach for sound management of rural water supply and sanitation services, introducing essential measures for water conservation and environmental protection. It aims to improve institutional capacity at the governorate, district, and community levels, to ensure sustainable water and sanitation management, and to develop a model for long-term, sustainable stewardship of water and sanitation services at the community level within the Masila Block 14 that potentially can be replicated throughout the country in the future. The project was designed in close cooperation with the UNDP supported Sustainable Water Resources Management Program assisted by the UN department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The support and assistance of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation), the Ministry of Oil and Minerals (Dr. Rasheed Saleh Baraba, Minister of Oil and Minerals), and Ministry of Water and Environment (Dr. Mohammed Lutf Al-Iryani, Minister

of Water and Environment), and the direct involvement of the Governor of Hadramout (Mr. Abdul Kader Ali Hillal), have provided the leadership on behalf of the Republic of Yemen to complement the Global Compact Partnership.

Within the framework of the UN Secretary-General's Global Compact initiative, the project provides a living example of a replicable model of joint UN-private sector cooperation. The project aims to achieve four complementary elements: enhancing access to clean water for drinking and domestic use and conserving this scarce resource; improving health by preventing the incidence of diseases caused by unclean water and poor hygiene; promoting conformity with the principles and practices that ensure environmental protection and sustainability, especially with regard to the disposal of wastewater, effluent, and solid waste; strengthening local institutions and capacity building, particularly at the Governorate, Local Council and community level, to operate effectively in support of the community-based development goals in general, and sustainable water resource management, supply and sanitation services, in particular.

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:

News reports mentioned: Shoura Council barred journalists from interviewing participants in Senates League 1st Conference, was that a justifiable measure?

- No, I think it deprivation of journalists rights
- Yes, it might be
- I have no idea

last edition's question:

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

- Yes, I think so 45%
- I doubt that 36%
- No, I don't think it would completely 19%

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In Brief

Women's Rights Program resumes in Taiz

Taiz - The Women's Forum for Researches and Training (WFRT), in cooperation with GTZ, organized a second training session to improve skills in communication and detecting public opinion, April 26 to 29.

Taking part are 30 trainees, a mix of journalists, advocates and activists from Tazi, Sana'a, Aden, Hadramout, Hajah and Ibb.

The program was launched last January and the first training session was organized in Sana'a Feb. 12 to 17, in the field of determining the Islamic vision on women's rights and their roles.

Mesk Al-Junaid, the coordinator of the program, said that the program would continue until February as the first phase aiming to confirm the spirit of Islam, which calls for equality among people, men and women.

The elimination of the role of women is based only on traditions and norms.

Ministry of Culture and Tourism honors 35 young poets

Sunday, 18 April 2004- The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, during the First Forum for Arab Young Poets, held in Sana'a during the period of 13-16 April as part of the "Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004" programme of events, honored 35 young Yemeni poets. The honoring came in as an encouragement and in appreciation of their creativity in the field of poetry.

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On the job for nine months

Alsoswa tries to improve Yemen's human rights

Amat Al-Aleem Ali Alsoswa's experience in different fields stretches wide. In the political arena, she has been a Yemeni Ambassador in several European countries, the Chairwoman for the Women National Committee, and she has held positions in the Ministry of Information. She was once a lecturer at Sana'a University. She also has experience working in the media, was an advisor to the United Nations, and she is a permanent representative to the Organization of Prohibition of the Chemical Weapons.

Nine months ago, Alsoswa took on a task that could be the most challenging she has ever faced. She was appointed as the Minister of Human Rights in Yemen, the first woman as a Yemeni full minister.

Yemen Times reporter Peter Willems spoke with Alsoswa about challenges she is facing and progress that has been made in human rights.



Amat Al-Aleem Ali Alsoswa, Yemeni Minister of Human Rights, has been on the job for nine months. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Q: After being the Minister of Human Rights for nine months, have you found this position to be challenging?

A: Being a minister can be a difficult job at any post, but being the Minister of Human Rights can be even more difficult. The bulk of the issues you are dealing with are related to any person in this country. And it is very difficult to be able to capture the main ideas, interests and problems of people regarding human rights, and awareness may be far from the realization of what we are talking about when we say human rights because we are suffering from illiteracy and people do not really understand their rights. And even if they do, they cannot really express their needs for their rights, so we are faced with a special challenge.

For these main reasons and other reasons it is not an easy job. But, again, it is very important to start tackling this issue because it's very important. And it is very important to me. I have been working as an activist, if you want to call it that, and this is the time and place to really try to do something and make a difference.

Q: What have been some of your responsibilities?

A: First of all, if you look at the Yemeni constitution, which is one of the very real constitutions in the Arab world, the human rights declaration is the basic root of its own legislative system. And that puts us in front of real challenges regarding the application of those rights. It has the principles of the constitution, and it is very unique. It is an obligation: It's not a favor for the people but a duty that we have to perform.

What we have done to start with is working as the main coordinating body in this government to work with other related ministries and agencies whose work is actually dealing with the question of human rights. All these agencies and ministries are working according to their own agendas and policies.

What we are doing is coordinating all the work related to the question of human rights, especially to the violations and the misuse of human rights. We have established a complaint mechanism in this ministry. People can come to us and complain about certain actions, laws, discrimination and so forth. We take it a step further and have to do it by law so we guarantee the rights of the people. This is exactly what is meant by the work in this ministry. We are really in the middle so we can pull together all the elements to guarantee that people have their own rights according to the laws and the established legal system.

We have established a commission representing about eleven other ministries and agencies who are working under my chairmanship so that we can deal with the question of human rights day-by-day. We have also established another commission represented by about 27 NGOs who are the people who are reporting to us the cases of human rights, the violations, and we

also have a regular meeting every three months whereby we have to review what we have done and what things we have to tackle.

We also have other departments which are concerned mainly with the rights of children, women, the disabled, and so forth. We have other departments where we report on human rights. We have to issue a national report every year on the status of human rights in Yemen, and we have to answer to all the reports that are issued by agencies, like Amnesty International, the State Department, Human Rights Watch, and other agencies.

Q: What are some of the obstacles you have had to face?

A: The notion of human rights did not really come to this country as early as other countries. Many rights and liberties did not come to Yemen until very recently. We have had, unfortunately, a long history of other ways of life with not really dealing with the question of human rights. So this is really a new way of looking at things, a new approach.

You have to first deepen the idea and the understanding of human rights among the government and the people. You have to raise awareness, not only of the people but also of the government offices, like the different structures of the government to make them become aware of the way they are supposed to deal with things from that perspective. That is really a huge task. We have to start showing that we can accept that idea, and we have to build on that acceptance and direct our focus on certain issues. We have to work very hard to establish awareness of human rights, which is a long way to go.

Q: There have been complaints about detainees in Yemen not receiving fair legal procedures during the war on terrorism. What is the ministry's position on this?

A: We stand that, generally, all the detainees have to have access to lawyers, have to be accused legally and have to be presented in front of a fair, public trial. That is our stand in Yemen. Some of the detainees that escaped from the jail in Aden were hunted and found again. All of these detainees and all of the files have been sent to the prosecutor's office in preparation for a trial.

After September 11 there were a number of people who were detained for questioning and investigation, but now the ones that have a case with clear accusations will go to trial. There is also the Dialogue Committee to talk with them because they have held certain opinions regarding people who did not hold the same belief, the same religious view or that they thought other people did not deserve living.

That was a very scary thing for a country like Yemen where it has always been living in peace and accepting each other. That was perhaps the issue that people started talking about as to why they were not given

freedom. But there was the question of security. Can you guarantee that if they go free they will not go out and commit crimes and kill people on the street? It was difficult to deal with.

As the Minister of Human Rights, I wish no one whatsoever to be held at any place without a justification. With those different approaches which were taken to solve this particular problem and dilemma - with part of it using the dialogue and also taking their files to the prosecutor's office - we hope that soon people will be able to witness the trial because it will be public.

The conference on human rights held earlier this month, which was organized by Amnesty International and other NGOs, was accepted to be held in Yemen to help us and anybody else take on the issue of this whole general notion of security versus the law. We are trying to find a way to work together and be parallel with one without the expense of the other.

In reality, it has proven to be very difficult to achieve. But we still have to insist there is always a place to have people's rights introduced before anything else. Of course it is very difficult to fight terrorism and maintain full human rights. Sometimes it seems impossible. But we are trying to make it less difficult. Progress has been made. I do not say we have solved it fully, but progress has been made and there will be more progress.

Q: Has the Ministry of Human Rights tried to help Yemenis being held at Guantanamo Bay?

A: We have tried our best. We have not been given access to meet them or do anything. We are responsible as a State to take care of our own citizens under any circumstances. We have continued direct contact with authorities of foreign affairs and the American government. We have never stopped facing the issue. We have gone to all the meetings, all the conferences, and so forth, to deal with it.

We are continuing our efforts. The conference by Amnesty International was effective to bring lawyers who have volunteered to do something about the issue. It was a chance for families to know more. Some of the families until today don't know if their sons are there, are alive or are dead. It has been a very long time and a very sad story. If you look at this whole notion of security on the international level and the fear of terrorism that has been left on all of us, you can understand how difficult it is.

Q: How is the ministry dealing with women's rights?

A: One of the problems is illiteracy. Women in general did not have the chance and the right to receive a normal, basic education until 1962. Forty years of progress is not very long. It is very little time. But it has had an impact on the education of women in this country, especially in the rural areas where there are still social norms that women should not do that and they should be kept to do the work in the house or on the farm.

That has been the number one problem, and it will continue until a certain clear national strategy has been implemented for the integration of women in this country. There have been political speeches and statements about the life of women, but what we lack is the implementation of this vision.

We have been working with ministries, NGOs, at the cabinet level, and with the women associations which are concerned with gender equality in this country. Now we have seen certain steps taken, like encouraging education, encouraging incentives for families to let girls go to school, building more schools for girls in rural areas, training many female teachers, and encouraging families to let their girls go to mixed schools. It has really paid off because we have seen the number of girls enrolled in schools increase.

Second, it is also the involvement and the credibility of the political parties accepting women as real full partners in the issue of participation in voting. A large number of women have voted, like in the last election when there were more than three million that went to vote. But they went to vote for their male family members or for the members of political parties who were men. There was only one woman who was elected.

That was a setback. It also shows the realities and the promises which were given during the election campaign.

They were only of a political notion not reflecting a true belief in full participation.

That requires not only the changes of the mentality of the society but, most importantly, the political leadership of the parties to put women as candidates and not only to get them only interested in having them vote for them. All political parties have to have a national agenda on that, or the parties will put them in a position that they say what they don't do.

Thirdly, we need to look at the legislative body of this country and see if there is any discrimination against women. We think that there isn't much, except in certain laws. But what happens is that, for example, in the constitution most of the rules related to human rights, like the rights to work, the rights for salaries, and so forth, are not really the problems. The problem is that there is no application for it.

For example, while the constitution is calling for equality, regardless of gender, in reality we don't see women represented at least to even a very symbolic portion in society. Some say that it is too early and things will come so why should women rush? But we don't say that when it comes to applications of newly introduced ideas.

We are not denying that if you look at the situation of women ten years ago it is not the same today. There has been progress. Ten years ago they

wouldn't believe that a woman would be able to become a judge, a lawyer, a police officer or a pilot. They wouldn't think of a woman being in the structure of a political party or being a professor in a university. These are steps of progress.

What we still don't see, and is a challenge, is how to have a real difference in norms in society in the way that people are perceiving women and accepting them before treating them.

Q: The government is focusing more attention on gun control and reducing revenge among tribesmen. Is the ministry involved in this?

A: Actually, most of the complaints that we receive are from revenge and people using guns. There is now a national commission on trying to solve ongoing revenge, and certain provinces have agreed on a five-year period without any revenge. Among those provinces are some that have been historically unsettled.

It has cost Yemen so many lives, including children and people who don't know how to use guns. The government has taken certain action, there are NGOs that are dealing with this, and we have distributed information about the misuse of weapons.

We have a big problem in this country that needs to be faced because it is affecting the lives and human rights of the Yemeni people.

Electricity and water use on agenda Middle East and North Africa talk energy

By ISMAEL AL-GHABERI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Middle East & North Africa Renewable Energy Conference ended its sessions on April 22.

The conference which lasted for two days, discussed means to improve an essential needed regional cooperation towards the development of renewable energy as part of sustainable development.

The conference was organized by the Yemeni ministries of electricity, and of water and environment, in accordance with the German ministry of environment and nuclear safety.

In the final session, the Yemeni minister of electricity, Abdul Rahman Tarmoom, asserted the importance of renewable energy and its usage in the process of development in Yemen, and also as a mean to protect the environment, saying that "in Yemen, we are still in the stages of establishing, and also educating about, this technology. In addition to collecting data and information that will enable yemen to put the appropriate principles for this technology."

In his part, Mohammed L. Al-Eryani, Yemeni minister of water and environment, emphasized that the renewable energy is considered a very important choice to Yemen, because of the environmental dangers on the Yemeni countryside.

Such dangers, as indicated by the minister, are the natural results of the scattered population and limited energy resources, which force the poor to tend to firewood as an alternative

source for heating, which threatens the soil.

James Rawley, UNDP representative in Yemen, stated in his speech that the activities of the UN developmental program is aiming at helping the developing countries in their attempts to develop economically, socially and environmentally at the same time. He also indicated the program support for developing the sources of renewable energy.

Rawley, also pointed out that, that according to the 2000 Yemen statistical year book, there are some 300,000 rural households who live in small villages scattered in remote mountains regions, semi-desert or coastal areas. Given the crucial need for energy access and the high cost of central grid extension-particularly to remote villages, renewable energy applications are expected to play a fundamental role in rural electrification.

Indeed, for most of these villages, the cost of the grid extension or energy via diesel based generators is prohibitive whereas both solar and wind energy sources represent an important alternative for energy supply.

The German minister of environment and nuclear safety, Juergen Trittin, stressed the necessity to establish a new international system to protect the energy sources, and resist climate changes and poverty. Urging the north to open its doors to the south, the minister indicated that exchange of information is an effective avenue to that. In that span he, pointed out that Germany has come far in the field of renewable energy and protecting

environment in general.

Trittin also reassured attendees of Germany's commitment to pay 500 Millions Euro, within the next five years, to developing countries to use in the field of renewable energy.

In his speech, Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNER, Nairobi, pointed out to the fact that there are many issues to discuss, particularly in the field of energy, in terms of saving it and improving the quality of production. He also stated that there is a great challenge the world has to face in the subject of energy usage, emphasizing that his participation in the conference came as a try to create a stronger cooperation with the Yemeni government.

At the end of their conference, the participants call upon the industrial nations and international organizations to establish a regional center for renewable energy in Yemen. Such a center, as proposed by participants, shall conduct researches on the technology of renewable energy.

They also urged the industrial nations to fulfill their financial and technical obligations towards developing nations. The participants also signified the importance of proving such nations with technology that are environmentally safe, and economically available, which can be easily designed and transported.

It is noteworthy that representatives from 17 countries attended the conference, most of which were from Middle East, North Africa in addition to participation by Yemeni and foreign private sectors.

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Commercial courts needed

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH

The Ministry of Justice concluded a 2-day workshop last week to discuss the impediments and obstacles that the commercial courts have been facing. The workshop took place in the Higher Institute of Justice.

In the opening ceremony Mr. Adnan Umer Al-Jefri, Minister of Justice, delivered a welcoming speech in which he promised that the Ministry will have a plan in order to activate and develop the commercial legal system in the country and expand its activities.

He also pointed to the importance of organizing this workshop, as it represents the importance of meeting the partners of the Ministry of Justice, who are interested in commercial justice either in the private or public sector, to discuss the obstacles that commercial courts have been suffering from as well as to discuss the solutions and suitable suggestions to develop and implement the legal system.

He also mentioned that providing an efficient and honest justice system is important to achieve development and build an appropriate investment atmosphere.

The Minister also mentioned a group of mechanisms and tasks related to improving the commercial courts, especially in providing the judges, who should be specialists in commercial cases, besides inventing commercial courts and building a strong manage-



A seminar held by Ministry of Justice on commercial judiciary

ment structure specialising in commercial cases, as well as using updated means and computer networks in this field.

The Minister also encouraged the participants to benefit from all the ideas and suggestions that come up, and that such fruitful recommendations and decisions certainly would develop the commercial courts' job and help them meet the changes and circumstances Yemen lives in and through.

Judge Mohammed Abass Zabara, the Deputy Minister of Justice, also delivered a speech in which he pointed out the importance of commercial courts as the main bases to attract and bring investors to Yemen.

He displayed a number of executive procedures that the Ministry has adopted, such as preparing detailed programs concerning improving the com-

mercial courts and reorganizing the departments and branches of the commercial courts, besides continuing the training of judges through organizing a number of workshops.

He also mentioned that the commercial courts had got more attention since the First Conference on the Judiciary and was considered one of the priorities of the Minister of Justice.

Then the participants started to discuss the paper submitted by the Ministry of Justice, which included the foundation of the commercial courts in Yemen as well as a number of cases related to the field of justice.

A number of interested bodies, banks, private sector, the lawyers' union, businessmen, chambers of commerce and industrial unions, along with a number of specialist academics, participated in the workshop.



A scene of audience attending the seminar

حليب الهنا

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طريقة الإستشارك في هذه المسابقة

إجمع عدد عشرة أجزاء علوية من باكيت حليب الهنا ٢٥٠ مل والتي تحمل شعار الحليب الوطني وسلمها لأقرب مركز إستبدال

واحصل فوراً على قيمة سحب للإستشارك والفوز بإحدى الجوائز الكبرى يمكنك الإستشارك أكثر من مرة

المزيد من الإستفسار يمكنك الإتصال على الأرقام التالية:
 المركز الرئيسي تعز ١٢ / ٢١٨٦١١-٤
 صنعاء ٥٩-٤٤٨٠٠١
 عدن ٢-٢٢٤٢٧
 المكلا ٣-٥٣٠٨٦٣١
 أو مراجعة أقرب مركز إستبدال في منطقتك

سيقام مهرجان السحب الكبير في تاريخ ٢٤/٠٦/٢٠٠٤

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٧ مليون كاش!!

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Iraqi police deploy in force in Falluja

FALLUJA, Iraq, April 27 (Reuters) - Hundreds of Iraqi police fanned out on the streets of the restive town of Falluja on Tuesday but the police commander said it was not clear when they would begin joint patrols with besieging U.S. forces.

An agreement between the U.S.-led administration and Falluja civic leaders set a Tuesday deadline for insurgents to hand over heavy weapons and said joint patrols between U.S. Marines and police in the city would resume "as early as" Tuesday.

The police chief told Reuters he was waiting for news from the Americans on whether they would join his men.

Witnesses said the number of police on the streets was much larger than at any time since U.S. Marines began a siege of the city on April 5. Insurgents have met attempts by U.S. forces to probe into the town with heavy firing.

"We have increased the number of police on the streets on this day because the agreement goes into effect today," Iraqi police Colonel Sabbar al-Janabi told Reuters.

He said he would hold talks with U.S. officials at a military base in the outskirts of the city of 300,000.



U.S. Army soldiers, from the 1st Cavalry division, run to a secure area after an unknown gunman shot dead an American soldier in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad April 27, 2004 a U.S. Army officer said. REUTERS



A video grab image shows smoke rising in the turbulent Iraqi town of Falluja, April 26. Besieging U.S. forces launched air attacks on Falluja on Monday as new fighting broke out on the ground with guerrilla fighters. REUTERS

"I want to find out if we will be going on joint patrols today."

Witnesses said U.S. forces clashed with insurgents in the area of a highway north of Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

U.S. helicopters fired rockets and the sound of heavy artillery was also heard during the clashes, which lasted about one hour.

Information on casualties was not immediately available.

Eight Iraqi guerrillas and one U.S. soldier were killed in heavy fighting in one sector of the city on Monday, U.S. officials said.

U.S. soldier shot near Baghdad - witnesses

A U.S. soldier was shot on Tuesday as troops patrolled a bus and taxi station on the eastern outskirts of Baghdad, witnesses said.

A soldier from the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps and a translator who were in the patrol said the soldier suffered fatal wounds. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. military in Baghdad.

The witnesses said gunmen on rooftops fired assault rifles at the patrol, triggering a gunbattle. There were no other known casualties.

U.S. forces sent reinforcements and conducted house searches in the area, the witnesses said.

Iran's military supervising nuclear experts-sources

VIENNA, April 27 (Reuters) - Iran's Revolutionary Guards are overseeing some 400 nuclear experts in order to prevent further leaks of sensitive information about Tehran's atomic facilities, an Iranian exile and informed diplomat said.

Alireza Jafarzadeh, who disclosed in August 2002 that Iran had a hidden uranium enrichment facility at Natanz and a heavy water plant at Arak, told Reuters his new information came from the same sources who told him about Natanz and Arak.

"According to the latest information I have from well-placed sources inside Iran, some 400 nuclear experts are now under the control and supervision of the Revolutionary Guards," he said.

A diplomat who follows Iran's nuclear programme told Reuters the guards' supervision of the nuclear programme was not new. "Since a long time ago, the Revolutionary Guards have taken over supervision of all the nuclear activities and have trained some of their people to work there," the diplomat said.

"There are hundreds of them" now working at nuclear sites up and down the country, the diplomat said. He said they have placed some sites "off limits" to personnel they do not trust.

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna, Pirooz Hosseini, told Reuters: "I have not heard such information. I don't think we should put too much emphasis on such news."

Revolutionary guards want a bomb

Other diplomats told Reuters it was no secret that the Revolutionary Guards were one of the most powerful headline elements inside Iran. Unlike many of the reformists who oppose building an atom bomb, the diplomats said the Revolutionary Guards want to Tehran to build a bomb as soon as possible.

The guards have even forced some personnel changes inside the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation, the diplomats said.

Jafarzadeh also said that the arrest of two atomic experts last week was part of an overall crackdown on employees working inside the Iranian nuclear industry to prevent further leaks to the NCRI and other whistle-blowers.

Iran's intelligence minister denied that the two men had been arrested for passing on atomic secrets to foreigners.

Jafarzadeh declined to say whether the atomic experts were linked to the NCRI, but warned that all "patriotic people who oppose the Iranian regime" working inside Iran's nuclear programme are in danger of being arrested.

Israeli troops kill two militants in West Bank

TULKARM, West Bank, April 27 (Reuters) - Israeli troops killed two Palestinian militants in the West Bank on Tuesday as security was tightened inside Israel to prevent attacks during the Independence Day holiday.

Days before a crucial referendum of the prime minister's right-wing Likud party on a "disengagement plan" to abandon the Gaza Strip, political sources say a big militant strike could harm Ariel

Sharon's chances of pushing it through.

But tough military action might bolster his chances of winning over a party reluctant to give up any land captured by Israel during the 1967 Middle East War.

"I hope that during the next Independence Day we will be in the middle of the disengagement process," Sharon told a military ceremony.

Palestinian witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire on armed militants at

Tulkarm refugee camp in the West Bank, killing two Hamas gunmen. The group has sworn massive revenge for Israel's killing of two top leaders in less than a month.

Israeli military sources said soldiers identified three gunmen approaching them and shot them before they had a chance to fire back. Palestinians evacuated a wounded gunman to hospital but troops later took him away in an Israeli ambulance.

The latest deaths bring to at least 34 the number of Palestinians killed by Israel troops since the assassination of Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi on April 17. Militants have killed one Israeli border policeman over the same period.

Hamas, sworn to destroying Israel and behind scores of suicide bombings, has vowed to step up attacks to avenge Israel's killing of Rantissi and spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

"If there was a big attack it would not help Sharon," said one senior political source.

Polls indicate approval for Sharon's plan, which calls for uprooting all Jewish settlements in Gaza and four of 120 in the West Bank, is far from guaranteed by the traditionally pro-settler Likud party.

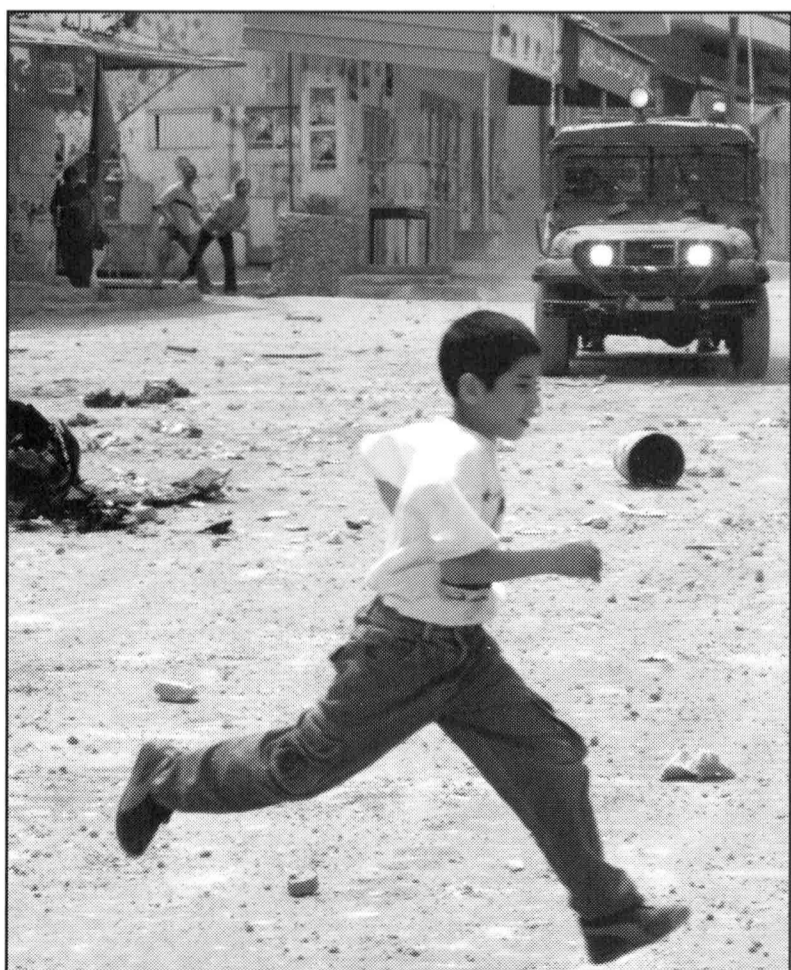
A survey on Friday showed 49 percent of the party's 200,000 members in favour and 39.5 percent against.

Sharon, whose plan was endorsed by U.S. President George W. Bush during a visit to the White House this month, could suffer a major blow should the proposal be voted down on May 2.

But the Israeli leader has signalled he would still take it to parliament, where he would have a better chance of success.

Sharon says a Gaza withdrawal will improve Israel's security after three and a half years of fighting with Palestinians. But many in the Likud oppose ceding any land and have branded the proposed pullout a "reward for terror".

Palestinians see Sharon's plan as a ruse to annex large swathes of West Bank territory they want for a state.



A Palestinian boy runs for cover as youths throw stones at Israeli army jeeps during clashes after the Israeli army raided the refugee camp of the West Bank town of Tulkarm April 27, 2004. Israeli troops killed two Palestinian militants in the West Bank on Tuesday as security was tightened inside Israel to prevent attacks during the Independence Day holiday. Reuters

Gaddafi supporter causes security scare at EU



Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi (L) is welcomed by European Commission President Romano Prodi (R) in Brussels April 27. Gaddafi is on a two-day official visit to Belgium and the European Union institutions — his first trip to Europe for 15 years. Gaddafi is in the process of ending the international isolation of his country caused by Libya's support of terrorism in the 1980s. REUTERS

BRUSSELS, April 27 (Reuters) - An over-enthusiastic supporter of Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, dressed as a security guard, caused a scare at the European Commission headquarters on Tuesday when his hero arrived for a ground-breaking visit.

Wearing an earpiece and lapel badge, the man approached Gaddafi from behind as the Libyan leader was

shaking hands with Commission President Romano Prodi and tried to hand him a letter.

Apparently fearing an attack by a dissident, Belgian security men hustled him away as he shouted "Gaddafi, Gaddafi", and waved the letter in front of massed cameras.

The man, who gave his name as Khalid al-Moutaani, said he was the

head of a Brussels-based Arab-African Immigrant Child Support Committee and wanted to present a letter supporting the European Union's opening to Libya, long an international pariah.

"I wish Libya and all of the Arab-African world can profit from the opening that Europe is offering Gaddafi," he told Reuters.

S.Koreans raise \$9 million for North blast victims



Buildings and houses are seen destroyed following a huge blast in Ryongchon in a picture released by Korea Central News Agency April 26. At least 161 people were killed and hundreds injured in last week's blast. REUTERS

SEOUL, April 27 (Reuters) - South Korean citizens and public servants have donated \$9 million to victims of last week's fiery blast at a train station in North Korea that killed at least 161 people, many of them schoolchildren, charity organisers said on Tuesday.

The funds raised by charities, media outlets and local government bodies are in addition to the \$1 million in emergency aid supplies pledged by the South Korean government.

South Koreans need formal permission to visit communist North Korea, with which the South has been technically at war since their 1950-53 conflict.

Aiding the North is technically illegal under strict anti-communist security laws.

South Korea's three major television broadcasters — KBS, MBC, and SBS — have raised a combined 210 million won (\$182,000) since they mounted an appeal in the wake of Thursday's explosion at Ryongchon, near the North's border with China, officials said.

An official at KBS said the money would be handed to South Korea's Red Cross to buy relief goods for Ryongchon victims. Twenty-five local governments, including the Seoul Metropolitan government, have set targets for civil servant donations of 350 million won (\$303,300), a Seoul government official said.

Local authorities run similar campaigns to help victims of floods, fires and typhoons in South Korea

Korean Sharing Movement, a coalition of 40 civic groups, said it had tapped its coffers to assemble 10 billion won (\$8.67 million) worth of goods and planned to send them by ship to North Korea via China on Wednesday.

South Korean officials travelled to the North Korean border city of Kaesong on Tuesday to try to negotiate with the reluctant North the direct overland shipment of aid supplies. North Korea said on Monday it preferred to receive aid from the South by sea.

The blast took place at the Ryongchon station near the border between China and North Korea last Thursday, killing at least 161 people and injuring some 1,300, international relief agencies said.

New, small Afghan national army on parade in Kabul

KABUL, April 27 (Reuters) - The squeaking Soviet-era tanks were freshly painted in U.S.-style military colours. Thousands of goose-stepping Afghan soldiers in crisp new uniforms saluted in time. A force of female police made a historic debut.

A National Day parade in front of Kabul's yellow and white Eid Gar mosque on Tuesday reflected a small but historic milestone in a year when U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai has struggled to tame mounting unrest across much of the country.

Inspecting thousands of soldiers under tight security, Karzai and Defence Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim stood in a convoy of new Russian-built vehicles, an ironic twist on a day Afghanistan celebrated the overthrow 12 years ago of the Soviet-installed Communist government.

The Afghan National Army, which has doubled to nearly 10,000 soldiers from 2003 but remains woefully short of a U.S.-set target of 70,000, sported new uniforms with bright white belts, replacing Russian-style fatigues.

"Building up our army and deploying the army into the provinces has been the achievement of the past year and we want to continue that," Fahim said in a speech.

A small band of female police marched by, a near revolution in a country where women were prevented from showing their faces in public under Taliban rule only three years ago.

National Day celebrates the victory of the holy war, or "jihad", against Soviet occupation on April 27, 1992, when President Najibullah's Communist government fell and Afghan anti-Soviet mujahideen took control of Kabul.

"This is a day that we won our victory to defeat our enemy," shouted 38-year-old Ainullah, a former mujahideen who marched in the parade, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher on his shoulder.

But underlining the army's limited resources, most of the equipment remains Soviet-issue, reflecting a decade of support for a puppet Afghan government after the 1979 invasion.

Soviet-era helicopters thundered overhead. A battalion of old Russian tanks,

freshly painted in U.S.-style brown and beige, clattered over pavements and soldiers marched with AK-47 rifles in their hands. Two Scud missiles even made an appearance.

Security forces were on alert. U.S. bodyguards in a black SUV shadowed Karzai's jeep around the makeshift parade ground and U.S. troops and NATO-led international peacekeepers were deployed on buildings in the area.

FRESH VIOLENCE

As Fahim spoke, details emerged of fresh violence in the insurgency-gripped south, where remnants of the Taliban militia overthrown by U.S.-led forces in late 2001 have launched a wave of attacks in recent weeks before elections in September.

Senior police official General Salim Khan said Taliban remnants killed two local aid workers late on Monday in the restive province of Kandahar.

The attack on the office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Panjwai district was carried out at the same time as another raid on the district's police headquarters, he said.

The Taliban have declared their own "jihad" against local and international aid workers, government officials and foreign troops based in Afghanistan, while factional clashes in the north and west are another security headache.

The violence cast a shadow over the victory parade in east Kabul, much of which remains in ruins after a civil war that followed the fall of Najibullah.

"This is one of the happiest days in the history of Afghanistan. We are celebrating the victory of beating the Russians, but I still have concerns," said Hassan Khan, 35, who fought against the Soviet army in northern Afghanistan.

"Today there is no real security, anywhere," he said.

More than 650 people have been killed in attacks, mostly in the south and east, since last August as Karzai struggles to extend his authority beyond Kabul. The U.S. military says a spring offensive by militants is gaining momentum.

The U.S. leads some 15,500 foreign troops hunting al Qaeda and Taliban militants in Afghanistan, while about 6,300 NATO-led peacekeepers are mainly stationed in Kabul.



Afghanistan's Heavy Weaponry parade to mark the 12th anniversary of the Mujahideen (or holy warriors) victory over the communist regime, in Kabul April 27. REUTERS

India's BJP says still confident of winning polls

NEW DELHI, April 27 (Reuters) - India's ruling Hindu nationalist-led coalition brushed aside exit polls showing the opposition fast catching up in an election race, saying on Tuesday it would make strong gains in the final rounds of voting.

India has held three rounds of a five-stage election, the world's largest democratic exercise involving 670 million voters, that pits the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition against the Congress Party.

"This is not bad news," said Prakash Javdekar, a BJP spokesman, referring to TV exit polls.

"These were phases where we were supposed to lose some seats," he said of the first three stages.

"But the next two phases are ours. They are our strongholds and we have to do well. We don't have doubts about winning a majority," he said referring to the final rounds on May 5 and 10.

Exit polls after the close of the third round of voting on Monday said the BJP and its allies were still ahead of Congress but they could fall short of the halfway mark of 273 seats needed to form a government in the 545-member lower house of parliament.

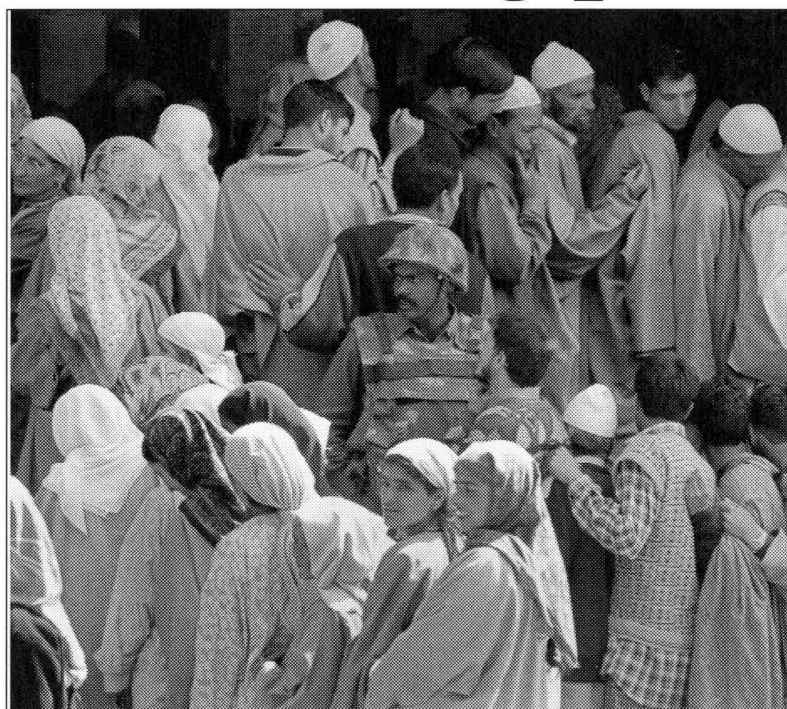
The country's main Bombay share index fell nearly three percent early on Tuesday on predictions of political uncertainty but later recovered marginally. Federal bonds also wilted in early morning deals on the news.

The Congress party, headed by Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, said it was not surprised by the exit polls.

"This was what was envisaged from the beginning," party spokesman Jaipal Reddy said.

"This means the Congress and its allies may win a majority. The BJP began its campaign with a bluster and are now finding themselves in a fluster."

The ruling coalition won 306 seats in



An Indian Border Security Force soldier stands guard among Kashmiri voters in Chadoodra, west of Srinagar, April 26. Polling booths were open in more than 135 constituencies for the third round of the vote, from the financial hub of Bombay to the northern state of Uttar Pradesh and the violence-hit Kashmir Valley, the heart of Jammu and Kashmir. REUTERS

the last election in 1999. Opinion polls conducted before this election varied widely, but almost all predicted the BJP and its allies would get a majority.

That now seems in doubt.

The latest exit polls said the BJP, which is campaigning on a platform of development and peace, was still expected to form the next government by attracting small, regional parties and produce a wafer-thin majority.

Polls show Congress, helped by high-profile campaigning of Sonia Gandhi's popular daughter, Priyanka, and son, Rahul, has been gaining steadily through the campaign.

An average of five television exit polls tallied by the Times of India gave the ruling coalition 140 of the 276 seats in which votes have been cast so far,

down 33 from 1999, and Congress and its allies 100 seats, a gain of 28 seats.

Based on a combination of exit and opinion polls, television stations forecast anywhere between 235 to 279 seats for Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's BJP and its current coalition partners.

But in a sign of a close contest, political analysts also say that among the regions voting in the final stages are two Hindi heartland states that the BJP won in state polls in December and were expected to back the party this time as well.

Votes will be counted and results announced on May 13.

Opinion Polls have a mixed record in India with voter patterns varying sharply in different constituencies.

South Africa celebrates 10 years of democracy

PRETORIA, April 27 (Reuters) - A proud South Africa celebrated 10 years of democracy on Tuesday, marking a decade since the end of apartheid and its first all-race elections with a presidential inauguration and parties round the world.

Thabo Mbeki, whose African National Congress was re-elected for the third time in a landslide victory two weeks ago, was expected to be sworn in for his second term of office at around 0820 GMT, watched by over 100 international dignitaries.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth was among the first to congratulate Mbeki, who succeeded Nelson Mandela, icon of the anti-apartheid struggle, as president in 1999.

"2004 is a special year for South Africa, commemorating 10 years since the end of apartheid. As you celebrate your national day, I have much pleasure in sending my warmest best wishes," the Queen said in a statement.

Mbeki's inauguration fell on the anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections, held on April 27, 1994, which saw Mandela elected as the country's first black president in polls that ended centuries of oppression by whites.

Many feared those polls would trigger the kind of bloody ethnic violence or autocratic rule that has dogged so many other countries on achieving independence.

But the "Rainbow Nation" has largely defied the doomsayers.

On Monday, the country's second largest black political group, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), formally withdrew a legal challenge alleging irregularities in this month's polls, citing the importance of national unity.

"It was never our intention to spoil the celebrations of our first decade of democracy," said IFP leader

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, adding that all South Africans should look forward "with hope in our hearts and courage to the next chapter of our country's history."

That chapter presents South Africa with huge challenges as it enters its second decade of democracy, not least a devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic that affects one in nine of the population, steep unemployment and high levels of violent crime.

Mbeki's inauguration at Pretoria's Union Buildings — a hilltop citadel bequeathed by the British Empire — was expected to be a more low-key

affair than that of Mandela in 1994, which was attended by hundreds of dignitaries, thousands of ordinary South Africans and much of the world's media.

Most countries outside Africa are sending low-level delegations this time, which some said reflected the confidence the international community now had in the country.

Officials say the party will nevertheless be the largest South Africa has staged since 1994, featuring a giant open-air concert, a military fly-by, and celebrations at South African missions round the world.



South African President Thabo Mbeki (R) is sworn in by Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson (L) at the Union Building in Pretoria April 27. Mbeki was sworn in for a second term on Tuesday as South Africa celebrated 10 years of post-apartheid democracy, its joy tempered by glaring problems ranging from poverty to AIDS. REUTERS

Spanish troops leave Iraqi city of Najaf

MADRID, April 27 (Reuters) - Spanish troops have left Iraq's holy Shi'ite city of Najaf, where rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr is holed up with his militia, for their main base at Diwaniya, officials said on Tuesday.

The pullback appears to be a first stage in Spain's plan — announced by new Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero earlier this month — to withdraw Spain's 1,400 troops from Iraq.

"It was carried out today and was carried out according to plans, with all security measures and without any problems," General Jose Manuel Munoz told state radio.

A Defence Ministry source in Madrid confirmed the operation had been completed and Spanish troops were now all in Diwaniya.

Spain had about 200 troops at the al-Andalus base in Najaf with the bulk of its force at Diwaniya, officials have said.

No details were available on how the operation was carried out, but some 200 U.S. troops entered Najaf to protect the Spanish withdrawal and occupy their compound on Monday, a U.S. commander said.

U.S. forces backed by aircraft killed 43 Shi'ite militiamen in fierce overnight clashes near Najaf, residents and the U.S. military said on Tuesday.

Socialist leader Zapatero won a surprise victory in a general election last month held three days after 191 people were killed in Madrid train bombings suspected of being carried out by a group linked to al Qaeda.

Reversing the Iraq policy of his pro-U.S. predecessor Jose Maria Aznar, Zapatero's first decision after taking office was to announce he was pulling Spanish troops from Iraq as soon as possible. The move has disappointed the United States.

"We are reassured to see that it (the withdrawal) is progressing and our troops are fulfilling the objectives we had set out," Spain's Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said in a television interview on

Tuesday. The government has refused to give a firm date for when the Spanish troops will be home, but a minister said most are expected back by the end of May.

Spanish troops — part of an international force led by Poland — have killed at least seven Iraqi insurgents in ambushes over the last few days in south-central Iraq.

The United States has started to take over responsibility for two provinces in south-central Iraq from troops from Spain, Honduras and the Dominican Republic which have begun to withdraw, the Polish army said on Monday.

Zapatero is due to address Spain's Parliament on the withdrawal later on Tuesday.



Spanish troops wave while driving towards the Kuwaiti frontier in a convoy of 33 vehicles from their bases in the Najaf and Diwaniya area of Iraq April 27. Reversing the Iraq policy of his pro-U.S. predecessor Jose Maria Aznar, Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero's first decision after taking office was to announce he was pulling Spanish troops from Iraq as soon as possible. The move has disappointed the United States. REUTERS

Bulgaria demands Iraq base move after attack



Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov (L) chats with U.S. administrator in Iraq Paul Bremer during a meeting in Baghdad April 25. REUTERS

SOFIA, April 27 (Reuters) - Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov demanded on Tuesday that his country's troops be moved to a new base outside the Iraqi city of Kerbala after his convoy was fired on during a weekend visit to the unit.

The new NATO member state's 450-strong light infantry battalion has been repeatedly attacked by Shi'ite militants loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who launched a rebellion against the

U.S.-led forces earlier this month.

"I don't think the militants shot because (I) was in the convoy. The fact that every convoy is fired on is worrying, and that's why I demand the Bulgarian base be moved out of Kerbala," Parvanov told reporters.

No one was wounded in the attack, which came just a day after a Bulgarian soldier was killed in an ambush and has added fuel to an already intense debate over the unit's safety.

Parvanov demanded the troops be transferred to a new base by the end of June, when the United States plans on handing power over to Iraqi authorities.

But he reiterated the will of the Balkan state, a strong supporter of the U.S.-led military operations in Iraq, to keep its forces in the country.

Poland, which leads the multi-national division in which the Bulgarian forces are included, has its troops stationed in a base on the outskirts of Kerbala.

EU, Russia clear last hurdles to trade deal



Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov (L) and Irish counterpart Brian Cowen (R) look on as an European Union official (C) holds a draft joint agreement issued in the margins of the European Union-Russia Permanent Partnership Council in Luxembourg, April 27. The agreement covers trade and all political, economic and cultural links between Moscow and the EU and must be extended by May 1 to include the 10 states which join the EU then, as well as the current 15 members. REUTERS

LUXEMBOURG, April 27 (Reuters) - Russia and the European Union agreed to sign a deal on Tuesday extending all political and economic ties between the two trade partners to 10 new EU members, averting a crisis in relations days before the bloc enlarges.

"The two sides have agreed the wording of a joint statement and will sign the agreement shortly," an EU official told Reuters.

He was speaking after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held talks with Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowen, whose country holds the current EU presidency, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, and External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten.

The old Partnership and Cooperation Agreement covering ties between

Moscow and the current 15-member EU will be extended to cover the 10 new countries joining the bloc on Saturday — many of them former communist satellites of Moscow.

Russia had resisted extending the deal automatically, fearing the loss of trade benefits with its closest neighbours, and also raised last-ditch objections over the treatment of Russian minorities in acceding states Estonia and Latvia.

"The EU and Russia reaffirm their commitment to ensure that EU enlargement will bring the EU and Russia closer together in a Europe without dividing lines," the joint statement said.

"Both sides underline their commitment to the protection of human rights, the protection of persons

belonging to minorities," the final, ungrammatical sentence said, reflecting the last-minute removal of contentious wording.

Moscow had wanted to add a call for the "social integration" of minorities within the EU as a way of highlighting the status of Russians in Estonia and Latvia.

The EU insisted this be dropped, saying that all EU countries already meet stringent criteria on human rights and minority treatment, making the extra language unnecessary.

As late as Monday evening, disagreement over this final point threatened to hold up signature of the agreement, which has been a sore point between Moscow and the bloc for months.

Italy united against kidnappers, families seek help

ROME, April 27 (Reuters) - Italy's government and opposition leaders refused on Tuesday to bow to demands by kidnappers in Iraq who have threatened to kill three hostages unless Italians protest against their country's military presence there.

But relatives of the hostages pleaded with Italians to help set the men free and participate in rallies on Wednesday and Thursday, not to denounce the government but to call for the release of the three Italian security workers.

In a tape aired by Al Arabiya television on Monday, the kidnappers issued a statement saying they would release the men only if Italians publicly denounced Italy's involvement in the U.S.-led occupation. They gave a five-day deadline.

The hostages, captured outside Baghdad, were working for a private U.S. security firm. In the videotape, the three — Salvatore Stefio, Umberto

Cupertino and Maurizio Agliana — were unshaven and haggard but appeared in good health.

A fourth Italian captured with them was killed after the kidnappers demanded the withdrawal of Italian troops from Iraq.

Leaders from across the political spectrum rallied around Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right coalition, vowing Italy would not give in to blackmail.

"We, who were against the war, are completely opposed to any negotiation with kidnappers and terrorists. The government is continuing to work with seriousness and discretion for the release of the hostages," said Francesco Rutelli, leader of the centre-left Daisy party.

Berlusconi's office said in a statement the government was doing all it could to secure their release.

But families and friends of the private

security workers abducted two weeks ago said there was no time to lose.

"I'm asking that all the mothers and fathers in Italy do everything they can so that our boys can come home," said Angelo Stefio, the father of one of the hostages. "We need everyone."

Marches are being organised in the captives' hometowns for Wednesday and in Rome on Thursday, but it was not clear how much support they would get.

Italians largely opposed the U.S.-led war on Iraq and the deployment of some 2,700 peacekeeping Italian troops after the fall of Saddam Hussein. But they also appeared to be against giving in to the hostage-takers' demands.

"To accept blackmail is impossible," one man in Rome said.

"We'll demonstrate on May Day like every year and like every year we'll demonstrate for peace as well. We can do more than this."

E. Europeans vie for fanciest E-Day celebration

WARSAW, April 27 (Reuters) - Lithuanians will light up the land, Hungarians will dump the past in one big heap, Estonians will plant a million trees and pious Poles are being asked not to touch a drop.

As the clock strikes midnight and ushers in May 1, such unorthodox celebrations will accompany the official pomp and ceremony across eastern and central Europe as the European Union expands across the former communist bloc.

The historic expansion is being hailed as a pinnacle of efforts to build lasting peace on the continent after centuries of war, but with it comes widespread anxiety about the economic impact, particularly for citizens of the current 15 members.

Reflecting that mood, celebrations will be low-key in most west European capitals except Dublin, host for the first summit of the enlarged Union of 25 members.

But in eastern Europe, the joy of finally overcoming the legacy of isolation behind the Iron Curtain has sparked an undeclared competition for the most original way to mark "E-Day".

In the former Soviet republic of Estonia, some 20,000 people will plant a million trees.

In fellow Baltic state Lithuania, citizens will switch on lights at their homes at the stroke of midnight to make the country glow on the satellite image of Europe.

Budapest mayor Gabor Demszky has called on Hungarians to enter the EU without the baggage of the past, inviting them to dump unwanted belongings at the city's central Deak Square.

European rainbow

At several border points in the Czech Republic, mist from water cannons and floodlights will create a rainbow linking "old" and "new" Europe, symbolising the end of the continent's division after World War Two.

In Poland, the biggest new member with nearly 40 million people, scouts in the central city of Lodz are busy sewing

what they call the world's largest map of Europe, which will cover the city's main square.

The capital Warsaw, however, is bracing for riots as an expected 5,000 anti-globalists will try to disrupt a summit on enlargement organised by the World Economic Summit this week.

Many inhabitants will leave for summer homes after the authorities shut down schools and government offices in central Warsaw, making enlargement one of the longest holiday weekends in years.

Ten states are joining the EU on May 1 — Malta, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia.

As in most of their capitals, there will also be official state-sponsored celebrations and private parties in Warsaw, but it will not be party mood only.

The Catholic Church, which has converted earlier euro-scepticism into euro-enthusiasm in recent years, has called on the faithful to fast on May Day to show solidarity with the poor.

YT Business

Regional conference on renewable energy issues Sana'a Declaration

Establishment of regional center for renewable energy, project funding

By Mahyoub al-Kamali
Yemen Times Staff

The Regional Conference on the Renewable Energy held in Sana'a on 21-22 April 2004, called on industrial and advanced states and also international organisations to work for building a regional center for renewable energy for sustainable development in Yemen to be specialized in conducting researches on energy technologies.

The conference in which 22 Arab, Islamic, and European countries had participated, in addition to 11 regional and international organisations, called on industrial countries to implement their material and technological pledges to the countries of the region for the continuous development of the self-potentials of those countries for generating energy, water desalination and also the technological cooperation with the participant countries in exploitation and use of both solar and wind energy.

Sana'a declaration issued by the conference had also affirmed the importance of the public sector participation and scientific research centers in the area as well in developing requirements of sustainable development such as energy technologies in addition to providing financial grants and loans by advanced countries to the developing states for importing clean energy from

the places of its production.

The conference had in its recommendations depended on Abu Dhabi declaration on future of environmental work in the Arab homeland and the Arab declaration on sustainable development of 202 and Abu Dhabi's declaration on environment and energy in 2003 and Dubai declaration on trans-frontier air pollutants in 2004.

The conference expressed its great consideration for the contribution of the government of Federal Germany with 500 million euros to the development of renewable energy in the developing countries as it would host a world conference on renewable energy next July.

The conferees had been unanimous that the constructive employment of sources of renewable energy sources would help develop sustainable development of the developing countries through:

- fighting poverty and providing energy in rural and remote areas,
- increase in providing energy and its efficiency as well as multiplicity and diversity of its national and regional sources,
- the possibility of using the renewable energy in areas of desalination of water and improving bases of industrial development.

The conference had come out with strategic resolutions among which were:

the development, dissemination and



Panel of the conference.

Photo by Ismael Al-Ghabery

distribution of technologies energy efficiency and preservation of available energy, cleaner technology and encouragement of increasing activities of research and involvement in areas of various technologies of energy. The resolutions also urged industrial and advanced states to extend helping hand to the developing countries that depend on exporting and consuming fuel in the process of developing their economies.

The conference was organized by the ministries of electricity, water and environment in Yemen in association with the ministry of environment in Federal Germany and the donor parties to Yemeni electricity sector. Among the senior participants in the conference were the German minister of environment Jurgen Trittin, a number of German businessmen and investors in the field of new and renewable energy

and Al-Hassan bin Talal, chairman of the Arab Intellectual Forum.

Electric power production sector in Yemen suffers from many problems, more serious of which is that some of the stations that provide the main network have exceeded their presumed capacity and they are permanently exposed to failure and therefore it has become a serious matter to look for means for overcoming those problems.

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

Private sector participation in curbing employment

By Yemen Times Staff

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has urged the private sector in Yemen to have effective participation in implementation of intensive labour projects in the bid of curbing unemployment and contribution to protecting Yemeni labour against exploitation and despotism.

Participants in the consultative meeting organized by the unit of labour work at the ministry have stressed the importance of cooperation between the private sector and the ministry for restraining child labour and their being exploited and also to help them return to schools and training institutes in application of International Labour agreement.

The meeting has also discussed a draft bill on jobs prohibited to worker children. The regulation contains 35 articles that defined the jobs dangerous for children and work sites suitable for them according to international agreements signed by Yemen.

Ms Muna Salem, director of the children work at the ministry of social affairs and labour emphasized the importance of joining forces for fighting child labour, calling for enactment of a strong legislation supporting field work in the process of curbing the phenomenon of child labour.

More than 300 thousand Yemeni children work in free works and for owners of workshops, agriculture farms, carrying heavy weights in popular markets, for construction contractors and iron wastes and plastic materials for recycling them in factories.

The government says it is keen on preventing child labour by carrying out a national strategy on fighting poverty for improving family income and assisting poor segments of the society to keep their children at schools and institutes of raining and qualification.

Measures annoying old Sana'a merchants

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The local authority in the capital have carried out certain measures for organizing traffic in Old Sana'a with the purpose of facilitating reception of visitors and activities of Sana'a Capital of Arab Culture 2004. As a result and in response to that the tradesmen at the markets of Old Sana'a have considered those measures and controls as acting against their trade activities

and as limiting of the movement of the people dealing with them.

The measures include prevention of vehicles from entering the Old part of the city except for its population and even those are allowed at certain times following official permits explaining the time of entry and exit and to transporting commercial goods as starting from 10:00 p.m. till 7:00 o'clock a.m.

Those measures were taken for preserving the tourist landmarks and environment in Old Sana'a known by

crowdedness of its streets and its around 20 specialized markets, containing about 10 thousand small trade shops.

A statement issued by the Chambers of Commerce at the capital Secretariat has criticized the traffic plan, demanding the evacuation of the old city markets from peddlers and those displaying their merchandise on sidelines and narrow streets. The city's traders said the traffic plan was to harm a large trading sector and to hamper arrival their customers

internal markets and delay transport of goods to their trade shops. Although the local authority meant by its measures to ease crowdedness inside Old Sana'a and providing comfort for its inhabitants, the people there described the measures as severe especially concerning their need of easy movement to and from their houses at all times and particularly for transporting their sick people.

On the other hand the visitors to old Sana'a do not need to have cars

for touring its close markets that are contained within a small area. Tourists can tour the whole city in less than an hour while the control of traffic is considered an element auxiliary for easing crowdedness inside the city and providing its visitors quietness and enjoyment of seeing its beautiful tourist landmarks.



Main gate of Old Sana'a.

Photo by Hassan Al-Kuhlani

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 pro-

viding 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.

The first great Sana'a bike ride: A marvelous ride

BY SADEK A. AL-MOWALLAD
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

When Bernie Power, or "Abu Yasser" as he is called in Arabic, thought of organizing the first Bike Ride in Sana'a, he may never have thought of the deep impact such an event would have on everyone who would take part in it.

Abu Yasser, a keen biker who has been involved in several rides in his native Australia, is a Project Director with the International Community Service (ICS), whose work with ICS in Yemen has mostly involved health issues. Therefore, such event was just a natural extension of his social and environmental work.

When an approach was made to the Ministry of Youth and Sport in March, 2004 about organizing a Bike Ride program, the Minister, Abdurahman Al'Akwa'a, was very enthusiastic and supportive of it.

While Mr. Ali Al-Suwari, Assistant Director of the Yemen Cycling Federation, a department of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, took care of organizational details like official permission, police, traffic, ambulance services and ride observers, Mr. Abu Qassim, an employee of the ministry, carried out the registration of ride participants.

The Great Sana'a Bike Ride, being organized to promote biking as an option for everyone, was not intended to be a race or a championship; rather it was a public event, open to all. To

ed in building community than promoting competition, as their event book said "fun and friendship were more important than velocity and victory." They just wanted people to understand deeply the health, social, economic and environmental benefits of bikes as one of the basic form of transportation.

In the process of preparation, a registration fee of a 100 Y.R. was due on every participant. The fee was decided to be symbolic due to the generosity of the event's sponsors, in covering the majority of the program's cost.

While Yemen Times donated free advertising space and printed articles about the ride, other sponsors like SPACETEL provided free T-shirts for all participants, ten free mobile lines and twenty clocks in addition to cash donations to cover running costs. Taj Sheba Hotel, as a mean sponsor, sponsored the press conference on March 28, providing valuable prizes and also arranging the printing of the T-shirt. Shamalan Water Company took a very important part in sponsoring the event, where it provided free water, donated the cost of its employees to give away water to the participants.

Complete media coverage of the event was carefully planned. As for TV, the event was promoted in two TV ads in prime time in the week before the event. Yemen TV news gave significant coverage of the event in the sport report the evening after the ride.

Regarding newspaper advertisement, ads appeared in five English editions and one Arabic newspaper prior to the ride. That is in addition to interviews with Mr. Power, who, in his turn,



There were 287 people registered for the Ride, wearing their official white T-shirts. Several dozen unregistered riders also joined them, both at the start and at different points along the Ride. Insert: Abu Yasser

Arabic posters were placed in strategic positions around the city.

The plan took many sides into account. Logistically, the route of the ride, at a length of 21 kms, was designed to be a challenge to all, nonetheless, achievable by most. As for time, the event was to take place early on a Friday morning to minimize disruption to city life and traffic. Four police cars, four motorbikes and an ambulance were on duty during the ride. To that effect, three support vehicles accompanied the riders to pick up those could not complete the ride. Meanwhile, major intersections were blocked off as bulk of the riders went through.

At 9:00 AM on Friday morning, the ride began and 287 participants, wearing official T-shirts, took off. Along the ride, several dozen unregistered riders also joined at both the start and at different points.

The toughest point in the route was the hill going up to the Sheraton Hotel, which broke up the pack of riders as some got off and walked. Others had mechanical problems and needed help, some stayed together and some just rode alone. As the ride continued, some



riders went fast, some went slow, while others just wanted to have fun and ride at a medium pace. Nonetheless, towards the end of the ride, all riders stopped and rode to the finish line together.

At the finishing line, prizes, which

total value was more than \$5500, were given out through a Lucky Draw. Since it was not a race, there were no prizes for first, second or third place. Draw prizes included mobile phones and clocks, and free meals and overnight stays at Taj Sheba Hotel. Other prizes

included free bikes helmets and bicycles. Regardless of how they did in the ride, all participants received a free T-shirt and 5 free bottle of Shamalan water.

One thing that was shared by all was the fact that everyone left happy.



stress that point even further, there were no specification or restrictions on the types of bikes that could enter, any two-wheeler would do.

Organizers were obviously interest-

wrote six articles about the ride. In that span, about fifty journalists attended the event's press conference.

A strong poster campaign was mounted, under which dozens of

Yemeni artists makes landmark in Dubai

By Sumaya Raja'
reinesaba@noos.fr

Well-known Yemeni artist, Suad Raja, the jewelry designer behind the Sheba brand, has worked to redefine traditional designs to give them a more contemporary spirit, thereby capturing a sense of continuity between traditional and modern jewelry design.

She is participating in the inauguration of the first Scarabée store in Dubai, at Wafi City Mall on April 15, 2004. Scarabée is a store with a comprehensive range of hand-crafted silver ornaments, featuring a subtle blend of Oriental and Western designs, handmade modern and ethnic silver jewelry and handmade ceramic items and glass.

The 70 sq. meter store offers shoppers a chance to purchase high quality gifts in creative and eclectic designs. There is something in the shop for every taste and prices to suit every budget.

It is almost natural that Scarabée, named after Egypt's holy beetle, should be based at the Egyptian-themed Wafi City Mall. The items available at Scarabée are sourced and procured keeping in mind quality and uniqueness.

"Many of our collections and gifts are only available exclusively through us, in the UAE. We work with some of the most famous silversmiths, including SAAD of Egypt, who sells to the most prestigious shops worldwide", said Colette Makar, owner of Scarabée.

I. A. Ibrahim, known as Esaad of Egypt handcrafts, moulds his own designs into silver masterpieces and is known for painstakingly restoring silver antiques. His reproductions are famed for their beauty and perfection and have gained him a reputation as a master silversmith throughout the world.

Carrs is the UK's leading silverware brand from Sheffield, a city whose silversmiths have honed their skills and techniques to produce some of the world's finest silverware over three hundred years. Carrs Silverware's

products are sold at some of the world's most prestigious stores, including Harrods, London, and in over sixty countries worldwide.

The pieces made by Suad are designed individually and are not reproduced. The stones used include Egyptian coral, lapis lazuli, malachite and turquoise. The unique hand-crafted silver jewelry juxtaposes baroque and rough stones with fine gems to create a bold statement in design and colour. Inspired by her roots in Yemen, Suad Raja designs necklaces, pendants, earrings, rings, bracelets and brooches. Suad Raja, a key supplier to Scarabée, also attended the official opening.

Shwar is the brand under which Naglaa Ezzat designs and sells her jewelry exclusively at Scarabée. Holding a baccalaureate in art, Naglaa Ezzat's jewelry is inspired by old oriental jewelry and she works with silver, semi precious stones and a combination of silver and gold. She is well-known for the Arabic calligraphy on her pieces, which is both intricate and unique.

Scarabée also offers exclusive jewel-

ry lines including those from well-known Polish designer, Arkada, who specializes in attractive and modern jewelry made of Baltic amber and silver.

Pelletier, an artist based in the south of France, is the only person to master the technique of a finishing coat of gold and platinum. His ceramic work ranges from mirrors to ashtrays, decorative serving dishes and from bowls to vases. No two objects of Pelletier are ever the same. They are only available at Scarabée.

In collaboration with the South Carolina State Museum, the David Howell collection consists of Gemuseum frames in sterling silver or plated silver with designs inspired by works of art. Each frame has a small write-up to describe the inspiration from which it was created.

Scarabée also houses, exclusively for Cristal de Paris, handmade vases, bowls and ashtrays in various colours, and sought-after mouth-blown perfume bottles in the shape of daggers, coffee pots, and camels.

في موكب جنازي مهيب ووسط أسى وحزن عميقين
تم تشييع جثمان

العقيد/ عبده محمد النجار

والذي توفي اثر حادث مروري مؤسف تغمد الله الفقيد بواسع
رحمته والهـم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان وانا لله وانا اليه راجعون

وبهذا المصاب الجلل نتقدم بأحر التعازي واصدق المواساة

الأخ / أياذ عبده النجار

الأسيفون

كافه الأهل والأصدقاء عنهم لطفى علي المسني

تهانينا أبو عزام

أجمل التهاني وأطيب الاماني مع باقات من الورد
والياسمين نهديتها للأخ /

أحمد يوسفه محبدا لله السهيلى

بمناسبة إرتزاقه المولود البكر الذي أسماه

عزام

جعله الله قرّة عين والديه
فألف ألف مبروك يا أبو عزام
المهنى/ علي الخضمي



Weddings in Yemen

Traditions and social customs of marriage

By ISMAEL A. AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Wedding ceremonies in Yemen are not much different from those of other Arab countries, particularly those of tribal and rural areas.

Nonetheless, marriage ceremonies in Yemen differ from one area to another. In the northern parts of Yemen the man pays the costs of marriage ceremonies; he pays the dowry, prepares and furnishes the house, and takes care of the wedding banquet. In southern areas, the bride takes to her husband's house all that she'd need (e.g.) bedroom furniture, kitchenware.

Here, we will take an overall look at a particular side of these wedding: the social side. In such side, social solidarity becomes very obvious, where the groom entertains ten to three hundreds person for three continuous days.

Those guests usually come from nearby cities and villages, in addition to groom relatives who would take the hardship of traveling far distance to attend the wedding.

Usually, the groom's neighbors help in preparing banquets for those guest, which is a strong social tradition called "Al-Garm."

To alarm the neighbor of Al-Garm, the groom's father go to the neighborhood chief who, in his turn, notify everyone in the neighborhood of the kind of food they should prepare like bread, sweets.

However, the responsibility of preparing of the banquet's main meals, likes meats and broth, is the groom's family's. Those meals are usually prepared from the goats and cows that the groom's guests bring along with them.

Al-Mizayn -servant- does the cooking part of those meals. Ash-Showa'ah, a group of the groom's guests, have the duty of going to the bride's house (or village) to accompany her procession to the groom's house.

Even though, a lot of money is spent in such weddings, it is all ok as long as the wedding went on a way that's up to the family or the tribe's honor and nobility. That's because weddings are looked at as important tribal festivals. Nonetheless, one can reduce the cost of wedding according to his financial ability, in some cases wedding would be limited to immediate family members and close friends.

Weddings in Sana'a

Weddings in Sana'a are looked at as a way to vie in glory with others, where the total cost reaches a million YR, more or less.

The wedding ceremonies usually starts with distributing wedding invitations, followed by "Lailat El-Hena" - night of Henna, for both the bride and the groom. In that night, guest must do "At-Tarh", giving the groom amount of money each according to his ability.

At-Tarh could also be done after the wedding procession. During At-Tarh, the Mizayen collects the money for the groom, announcing the name of the giver using a traditional phrase that goes "O' groom, it is collected for you from so and so (giver's name) the amount of..."

If the groom decided that there would be no banquet, just to save on the cost, then the night of Henna and A-Tarh won't take place. Instead, the groom goes with his guests, in the early morning of the wedding day, to a traditional bathroom.

After finishing his bath, the groom and his guests head back to the his house where they eat their breakfast then they leave for a drive around the city (or to the close villages) accompanied by drummers. They perform different traditional dances till the lunch time, at which they head back to have their lunch.

Al-Magyal, sitting for chewing Qat, starts after lunch. During Al-Magyal, a chanter or a vocalist sings some chants, and attendees repeat after him, until 7 P.M. where people get ready for the wedding procession.

The ceremonies of the wedding procession in sana'a start with some traditional dances followed by the Zafah, actual wedding procession that lasts for an hour and a half to two hours.

During Azafah, the chanter sings some religious chants as the groom, carrying a sword, walks slowly from the start of the street, till he reaches his house doorsteps. The street is usually lit by special lamps and candles. Unusual habit is pricking with needles, as away to distract him during Azafah. Therefore family members should keep an eye on the groom at all times.

After Azafah, the groom asks permission to leave for his bride, as guests dance until from 10 P.M. till the dawn. As the groom arrives at the bride's room, he sits next to her and juices and coffee served.

The next morning, dances are performed. And in the afternoon, the similar



In wedding ceremonies people gather, entertaining beauty of happy songs to add more joy to the occasion.

File photo

ceremonies are conducted just like the previous day.

Wedding ceremonies in Hadramout

In Shibam Hadramout, where we observed the traditional wedding ceremonies, the wedding starts with distributing wedding invitations, called "wikad", by a group of people called "Abeed Jalwah"- servants - three days before the actual wedding takes place. Girls in Hadramout are considered children until they reach the age of nine. Once they reach that age, they wear Hijab - scarf- and they don't meet with married men, except those of the immediate family.

Marriages in Hadramout are the type of arranged marriages. Parents of the groom and the bride agreed on marriage date and they pay "Gobaz"- dowry, which is defined by 1920 personal status law.

The Gobaz is usually put in a perfume handkerchief, then it is put in a box called "Sundoq Al-Gobaz"- dowry box. The people witnessing the event open the box and congratulate both parties wishing them a blessed marriage. Attendees who couldn't see the Gobaz, can not attend the wedding.

The wedding lasts for four days, regardless to the family financial situa-

tion. Eight days before the wedding day, the families of the groom and the bride get together in a previously set appointment called "Qahwa." During the Qahwa, mixed nuts are served with coffee that is prepared by the groom.

After the Qahwa, the marriage contract is signed and the groom's family moves the "marriage furniture" out the couple's house. The furniture consists of:

1- A small wooden box called "botya" that contains incense, saffron, fragrant soap and so fragrances.

2- A clothes box made of teak wood that contains a prayer dress, four pillows and other things that are considered to be a help to the groom.

In the second day, the bride comes back to her family, even though the groom's family's insistence on her to stay. When she arrives at her father's house, she heads toward a room, where her father is awaiting her. The father then puts a long veil on her saying: "In the name of Allah, the merciful You are the wife of so and so (groom's name). After that he takes his daughter to women's room. During that, the family of the groom watches closely the bride's actions; if she stays calm, than that's an indication of her decency. If she shows her joy in a very noticeable way, that would indicate her indecency.

Lailat El-Haky

In the night of El-haky, they take the bride to traditional bathroom where she is giving a bath. Then they take her to the divan of women, as her face is covered with a black veil with beautiful variegations called "Moqana' Elhena."

Four women start applying henna designs on the bride's hands and feet. Meanwhile, in the groom's house, the drums are beaten and groom is taken to his house to wash off the henna, which is applied in design like it is with the bride, of his feet and hands.

The next day is called "Al-Mashti." In Al-Mashti, ceremonies start at a very early hour, where bride is given another bath before the drummers arrive. Coffee is served in this day, then more henna is applied to bride's hands and feet. The guests leave when the henna session is done with, just to come back at lunch time carrying At-Tarh and gifts.

The bride's family brings a censer, while one of the bride's little brother or sister cuts the bride's hair from the front and the back. After having lunch, the bride's guests head to the groom's house. At night, entertainments are performed while serving coffee to attendees.

Education, training and finding job opportunities

By ISMAEL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Universities and training centers in any city in any country are considered the scientific landmarks where newcomers obtain the education and training needed and required for the work market. Teachers and professors collectively or individually continue through research, attending conference and continuous studies to keep up with everything new in science and technology. Their findings and the research conducted in the social, economic or educational fields are always of benefit to one or another sector. Thus, universities and training centers are somehow connected with creating job opportunities through teaching or training students in order to provide the market place with qualified workers.

Teaching verses training

Universities until recent time were concerned only with the teaching aspect of the educational operation. Many of the universities continue to do

that still until today. But many universities' officials have realized that teaching alone would not lead their universities to a bright future in light of the competition from training centers. Employers continue to demand and prefer those with experience and knowledge instead of those with just universities degrees but who still require training. Some universities, through field surveys of what training centers are offering, have begun to adopt the same thing through new measures, the development of the curricula taught at their universities and introducing supportive subjects that would guarantee their graduates job opportunities. They try to lure employers to seek university trained graduates rather than training centers' graduates, because they are the best.

Looking at the reality of the situation at our universities, many of the universities are still concerned only with the teaching aspect of the educational operation. This requires them to reconsider the situation and to develop the educational operation at universities in order for their graduates to be qualified and acceptable in the market

place. Applied sciences have become important subjects to be taught for meeting the demands of the competitive market place. Another factor is the fact that the market place nowadays prefers a graduate with more than one major or with one major and one minor. The kinds of such double qualifications are endless, such as a major in engineering and a minor in business administration, or a major in industrial engineering and a minor in marketing etc.

The mechanism for admission to universities and the distribution of enrolled students at various university faculties must be reconsidered. The grade point average obtained in high school does not necessarily reflect the qualification of a student. Universities should provide general education in the freshman year, allowing students to determine the fields they would actually succeed in, according to his/her developed trends. The universities have to contribute to eliminating situations where some students are enrolled in a specialization of no interest to them but rather of interest to their families or relatives. The freshman year

will be the decisive factor in setting the correct path for the student to continue on.

Furthermore, the educational system should not restrict the number of graduates in any field. The number of graduates should not be set to the number of available job opportunities in the market place. In fact, competition to obtain the available jobs would encourage and motivate students to excel in order to be the selected ones. As far as the surplus of graduates, over a long period, they could be exported to neighboring countries. An example of this is taking place in India and Egypt, where the surplus teachers in the two countries are considered important economic sources and provide their countries with hard currency.

Another important issue that must be reconsidered in the educational system, is that the system must differentiate one teacher from another depending on their capabilities. Teachers should not be considered equal. They must be financially treated according to their levels, skills, qualifications and capabilities. The Civil Service Law must also be amended. It is not logical

to prevent a teacher from expanding his capabilities and specialty through using them outside his university, in order to improve his living condition. The fact is that developing and using his specialty will be positively reflected on his university and students as well. The current Civil Service Law compels teachers to seek and invest in commercial businesses of no connection to their specialty, simply to avoid contradiction with the law.

Finally, I find myself suggesting and strongly recommending that a university should conduct a field survey similar to the one made in Austria, in order to find out the need and requirement of the market place at both the private and public sectors and to evaluate the universities' graduates and the suitability of the fields being taught comparable to needs and demands of the market place. Furthermore, there is a need to find and search for the reasons leading to unemployment, if it exists. This field survey should be conducted and consist of independent teams to guarantee reaching suggestions and recommendations that can be implemented in reality.

CHANGE She Wrote

For the love of books

By SADAF SHAH
MSADAFSHAH@YAHOO.CA
FOR THE YEAMEN TIMES

Dear parents, the importance of learning must be emphasized time and again for the sake of our children's future. Please do not believe the false notion that it is the teacher's job at school to foster learning. No. It starts at home. Teachers help students build skills, but a parent's crucial role is to nurture a love of books and words. How do we do that? By reading to our children at bedtime especially, but even throughout the whole day. Making reading a part of your child's life will make him crave books, as he gets older. Foster an environment of reading by being an avid reader yourself. Children emulate behavior, and by showing your children how you love to read will help them to appreciate books as well. There is a huge difference between knowing how to read and being an avid reader. We have to turn our children into adults who will consistently turn to reading as a source of pleasure. But how do we do that?

Some important points to remember:

There are some rules to remember when promoting an environment of reading. First of all, read aloud starting from birth. This is really important since listening comprehension comes before reading comprehension. The more words a child hears, the bigger his vocabulary will be. And this will help when the child starts to read by himself. Second of all, parents, instead of wasting time and money on 'qat', buy lots of books and have them available all around the house. 'Qat' will not nurture a love of books. Stocking your house with books will send a strong message to your children that you value reading. Be a reader yourself! Make a habit of reading a book or the newspaper while your child is in the room. Please do not watch T.V, as a child who sees his parent watching T.V most of the time will emulate that behavior. More than ten hours of T.V a week leads to underachievement in school according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Forget the cartoons/movies; show your child that reading is more important to you by reading yourself. And let your children also be in charge of what they read. If they have an interest in airplanes for example, let them buy books/magazines that cater to their interest. Yes, even magazines count as a good source of reading material. To sum up:

"I know no animal product that despite its youth, the short time that elapsed since its birth, its modest price and its ready availability brings together so much excellent advice, so much rare knowledge, so many works by great minds and keen brains, so many lofty thoughts and sound doctrines, so much wise experience or so much information about bygone ages, distant lands, everyday sayings and demolished empires, as a book...."

The above passage is taken from a translated version of a prolific Iraqi writer by the common name of Al-Jahiz. Happy reading everyone!

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Main headlines

- Explosion in Riyadh and shrapnel in Sana'a, Islah congregation condemned, GPC accused the Islah of supporting terror
- Al-Heela discloses concomitant circumstances of his disappearance
- Yemeni students abroad face financial crisis
- Ministry of social affairs assigns a committee to study the phenomenon of smuggling Yemeni children abroad
- Oil ministry denies the charge of its violation of the law, confirms avail of selling the sector
- Yemeni Jews in Israel demand Yemeni government to include them as its nationals abroad
- Indignation dominates the street for assassination of Rantissi
- Al-Zindani: Citizens possession of weapons rendered the Iraqi resistance stronger than the army in fighting the Americans: American soldier works for Israel in Iraq
- Arab rulers sending troops to protect armies of occupation in Iraq
- TeleYemen's new system and ending monopoly of G.S.M. to reduce cost of mobile phone calls
- 96% of Iraqis say security during his era was better: Saddam's lawyer considers him as kidnapped, his trial of no legal force

Al-Wahda weekly,
21 Apr 2004.

- Main headlines**
- Public dialogue sittings with returnees from Afghanistan
 - Endowments minister: Contacts with the Saudi side to tackle issues of Umra pilgrims
 - Justice Minister: Looking forward to found distinguished commercial judiciary
 - Fish wealth minister: Organizing artificial fishing preserves fish wealth
 - Italian journalist delegation visits Yemen
 - Security agreements with Oman, signed
 - Director of private education: The foreign ministry did not understand our complaint regarding the French school
 - Four new companies in the Free Zone in Aden

Columnist Ahmed Abdrabah Alawi says in his article in the age of scientific advancement, openness and strong competition in the time of globalization and scarcity of resources it has become imperative for the governments, Yemen's government included, to give great attention to human resources as they are considered a rare resource, on the one hand, and a relative competitive trait on the other hand. This matter takes an exceptional dimension when talking administration leaderships.

We, in Yemen, despite of the great investment in preparing and qualification of human resources, as there are many government and private universities and research centers, this matter alone is not enough without taking into consideration the nature and quality of qualification of preparation of these resources for an age in need of to have these resources equipped with large groups of required administrative descriptions.

Al-Mithaq weekly,
organ of the General People's Congress, 19 Apr 2004.

- Main headlines**
- General strategy for wages, Bajammal: The restructuring is a complete system and partitioning it is harmful
 - Elections Supreme committee prepares a comprehensive study for a system of geographic information
 - In condemnation of Rantissi assassination, The GPC demands the international community for providing full protection for the

Palestinian people

- The national Conference discusses developments that happened to the Arab renaissance project
- An early attempt by Islah party for rigging students elections

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in his article for appeasing Israel and its Zionist project aimed at extending eastward and westward and in satisfying some family rancours and economic greeds, the American administration went to Iraq and dropped its troops in the desert under the mercy of the sun and sands. The two parties have thought that after the temporary fall of Baghdad everything was achieved and that the winds were in their favour and according to what it was planned and then Bush appeared boastfully to talk about victory and lies of liberation and democracy. Observers thought that time stopped and the whole globe have become a ranch for the Bush's family, their supporters of new conservatives and mercenary allies to entertain the freedom of roaming here and there. But the time that appeared to those as had stopped again began to turn and the Iraqi resistance began to come out from under the rubble, brave and gradual in its operations until it has reached its peak at the first anniversary of the regime fall and it spread n the whole land of Iraq. All Iraq changed into a wave of anger against the foreign occupation forces confirming in the name of all the Iraqis that the war is still going on and what happened on the 9th of April was just a temporary truce to restore strength and balance. Nowadays the world is talking about the genuine war of liberation, the liberation of every inch of Iraq from occupation. It is true that the price is high but these are the great peoples and Iraq has sacrificed he best of its sons and will do so and these people would accept to surrender to usurpers.

Wahj al-Haqeeqa weekly, 24 Apr 2004.

- Main headlines**
- After the success in journalists union and the failure in the unions of lawyers and physicians, The opposition sweeps elections of Sana'a University students
 - GPC accuses the Islah of blessing terror
 - The issue of politician Ahmed Ubeid continues at the information level
 - In one day, aggression of the journalist al-Sharjabi and lawyer al-Samawi
- Titled " Blair Warns against staying in Iraq inferno" Mr Abdeh al-Maswari says in his article that in his recent visit by Tony Blair to Bush he has warned the American president and told him that if they would not protect themselves from the hell that has exploded in Iraq lately and rationally pull the

American and its allies troops, he (Bush) would not be able in the near future come out of it at all. Blair advised him that the only outlet was the return t the UN Security Council and giving the full authority to forces from the NATO, Arab and Islamic countries to be supervised by the United Nations in order to avoid the painful disaster around us. The British prime minister has predicted that result and advised Bush by that. Now we see that Bush's allies are pulling their troops from Iraq. The first country was Spain to be followed by Holland and another number of countries in this iniquitous alliance.

Annas weekly,
26 Apr 2004.

- Main headlines**
- A GPC leading member: Those demanding reforms are secessionists
 - Sheikh Hussein Omer bin Mahfoudh under arrest
 - Yemeni students abroad facing financial crisis
 - A father kills his son in Radhmah and a wife kills her mother in law in the capital
 - Iraqi economic expert: Iraq needs investments estimated at about 40 billion dollars to qualify its oil sector
 - On selling 60% of oil sector 53, The government assails the Oil Committee and MPs threaten by a vote of non-confidence
 - Journalists solidarity with the Palestinian people

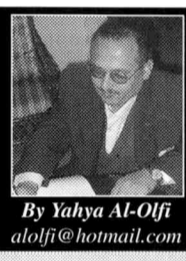
Columnist Shaker Ahmed Khalid says in an article the Saudi statements on the increasing numbers of Yemeni infiltrators to its territories by 150 thousands during the past three months have burst many questions on the social and economic dimensions of Yemenis migration in a fearful increase. These dimensions are seen by social circles as coming as a reflection of the Yemeni situation, which is economically is characterized by stagnation and growing structural failures and performance weakness of economic sectors because of imbalance policies and the weakness of saving rates and investment as well as the rise in rates of poverty, inflation, unemployment and migration of national capital. Added to those are the administrative complications, weakness of security and judiciary and corruption of administration and misuse of resources. All that creates circumstances that would not help growth and would not support indicators of economic stability. In addition to that the government economic policies have failed to accomplish the second phase of the economic reform program, embodied by creating economic stability capable of positive rate of economic growth and improving the citizens standard of living. Under these deteriorating situations the government insists on more of the poli-

SKETCHED OPINION



By Samer A.

cies that would double the deterioration of the economic and social situation of the Yemenis. The eye-catching thing in those latest Saudi statements is that they came coinciding with meeting of the follow-up committee emerged from the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council in its third session that discussed the movement of goods transport between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Riyadh has also lately announced the confiscation of large quantities of weapons, ammunition and drugs on the borders between the two countries and continuously condemned the attempts of infiltration and smuggling of drugs and weapons across its borders with Yemen.



By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

Waiting for Godot or waiting For Jehovah? (Part 4)

Who adores Israel more: Kerry or Bush?

You might still remember that the first article bearing the above title was based on a casual discussion in a simple Sana'a café. It started with the intriguing question of who orders the other one about, is it Israel or USA? Together we shall hopefully try to find the answer to this elusive question through this and the upcoming last article about the subject, hoping to have your essential timely feedback on this crucial and extremely important affair which has perplexed us all. You as myself are of course very much enamored with American media productions of horror movies, action films, soaps, comedy series and most importantly those portraying Arabs in stereotypes as sex maniacs, bandits and dull avid terrorists. So let us have an outlook at the industry because it is related closely to our subject and you shall notice in the upcoming American elections that the upcoming "love story" or core of the electoral competition between Bush Jr. and Veteran Kerry shall be undoubtedly the ubiquitous monotonous complex of "who loves Israel more!?" Is it Bush or Kerry? Mind you! Both guys' wives do not feel jealous at all.

For your and my information, I have just known that CBS network comprises of 200 TV stations and is owned by gigantic "Viacom" the owner of "Paramount Pictures" which in its turn owns the following TV channels: MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon, BET which is exclusively destined to African Americans, Showtime and Infinity radio network which possesses more than 180 radio stations, UPN TV network which reaches 97% of American homes in addition to CBS. This great network is run by Mr. Rothstein who has changed his typical Jewish name into a more fashionable one and that is Rodstone, so that he can go with the times. His deputy is also a Jew named Melvin Karmazin. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Rothstein or for that matter Rodstone is an active and unrivalled member in countless Zionist organizations. In brief most of the other remaining media organs running the show in USA are being run by pro Israeli American Jews. In fact it has come to my mind to

indicate the Jewish impact at the White House, so that we can have a better comprehensive conclusion. Thus, let us mention some of the Jews who worked in Clinton administration, and others working right now for Bush Jr. The Clinton administration boasted having many Jewish members who were in charge in addition to those mentioned in one of my previous articles such as Keith Boykin, Jeff Eller, Tom Epstein, Judith Feeder, Richard Finebridge, Herschel Gouper, Steve Kessler, Ron Klein, Madeleine Conan, David Koznit, Margaret Hamburg, Manny Gruenwald, Karen Adler, Samuel Lewis, Stanley Ross, Dan Sifter, Elli Siegel, Martin Indic, Dennis Ross, Louis Fé, R. Ginsburg, Michael Waldmann, James Robin. Meanwhile, Mr. Bush brags about having Eliot Cohen the defense policy council member who called bluntly for a no holds barred attack against Islam as a religion rather than at Islamic extremists, Mel Sembler the USA Export & Import Bank Chairman, Michael Chertoff a deputy minister of justice, Steve Goldsmith the special Consultant of President George Bush Jr. and is an intimate friend of the Israeli Ultra-extremist charlatan Ehud Olmert who used to be mayor of Jerusalem and now is a Cabinet member of the uncontested international War Criminal Sharon (by the way, in Arabic "Sharon" means "complete Evil" what a coincidence!), Adam Goldmann the Jewish Community's special representative at the white House, Joseph Goldenhorn Bush's special envoy to the Jewish Community, Christopher Gersten the first health minister deputy and the husband of the Labor Minister Mrs. Linda Chavez and both are bringing up their children according to radical Judaism, Mark Weinberger the deputy Treasurer, Samuel Bodmann the deputy Minister of Commerce, Bonnei Cohen a deputy foreign minister, Ruth Davis, Lincoln Bloomfield a deputy foreign minister for military affairs, Jay Lefkowitz the white house's budget legal consultant, Ken Melman a political manager at the white house, Brad Blakeman the agenda manager of the white house and at last but not least the chairman of the Central Bank Mr. Alan Greenspan.

I hope that with such information we

can have a clear idea of how and why America is behaving as it does. It is to be noted that although Israel is based on an asinine legend, it is run through meticulous secular machinery and religion is merely used to bring about adherents from all over the world. Of course with time, different Jews have developed the idea that they are Hebrew descendants, but unfortunately the bitter fact is that each and every Israeli, or for that matter Jew, belongs to his original ethnicity. Naively, Jewish Arabs who say that we are cousins are in fact pure Arabs who happened to be Jewish and the same applies on the other Jewish Blend. In other words, present Israel is merely based on a religious heresy rather than on a non-existent old-time blotted out tribe. You must observe that I do not hate Jews because they are Jews, but I really do hate butchers and children-killers like Sharon, Peres, Menahim Begin, Yitzhak Shamir, Ben Gorion, Golda Meir and the other miserable bigoted maniacs who have cold-bloodedly wiped out thousands of Arabs, namely Palestinians, the indigenous people of what is termed today as the State of Israel or the superstitiously-based "promised land." I have received emails from different Jews of different ethnic backgrounds, who blamed Arabs for the ongoing plight of the Palestinians, because according to them, the Arabs refused the 1948 United Nations Plan for the partition of Palestine between the Jews who were then, chucked from Europe and the indigenous population of Palestine. This is partly true but we must remember that most Arab countries at the time were either under French or British direct occupation and thus they could not put up a fight at all let alone taking an appropriate decision. Furthermore, western powers were extremely sympathetic with the Jews who were indeed subjected to undeniable crimes in Europe. But, it is a shame that the survivors are reticent about what is going on against the Palestinians except if they do consider them *goiym* of no value according to their holy *Torah*. The next and last article about the title subject shall deduce the answer to the question, what are the Arab prospects of an Arab counter action? See you then.

NOKIA 6230

تستمتع بها.



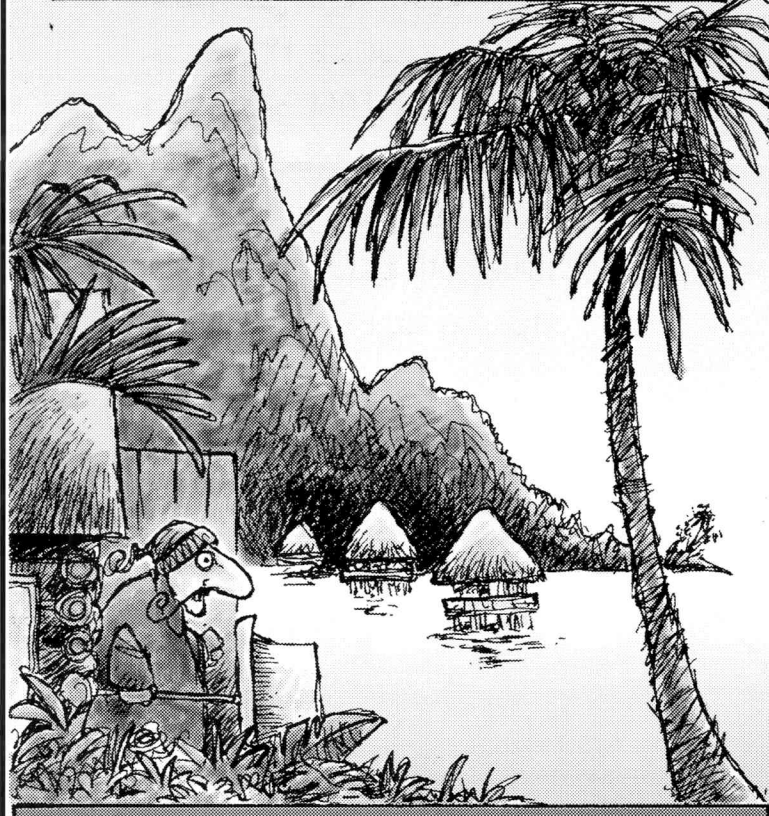
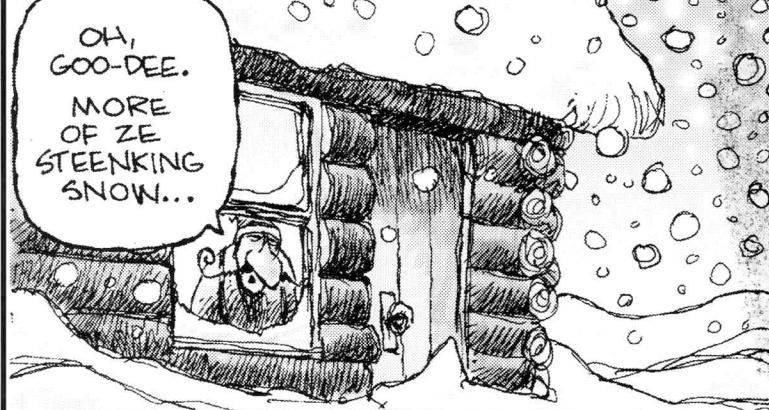
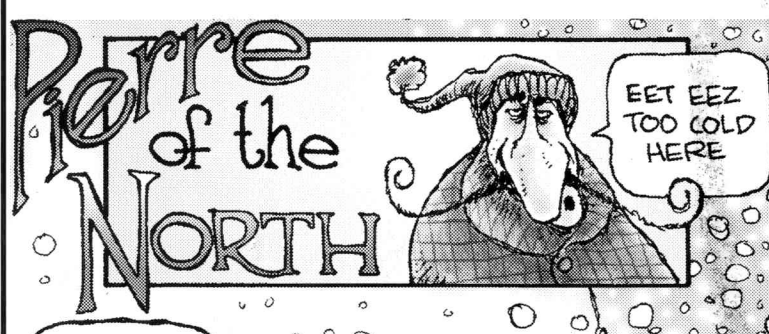
سرعة،



احصل على سرعة عالية تصل حتى ٢٣٦,٨ كيلوبايت في الثانية في شبكات EDGE، مع بريد إلكتروني وتحميل فيديو كليبي. إنه يمنحك الراحة والتلاؤم مع التكنولوجيا اللاسلكية Bluetooth، كل ذلك في رزمة أنيقة ومصقولة. إستمتع به.

NON SEQUITUR

by Wiley



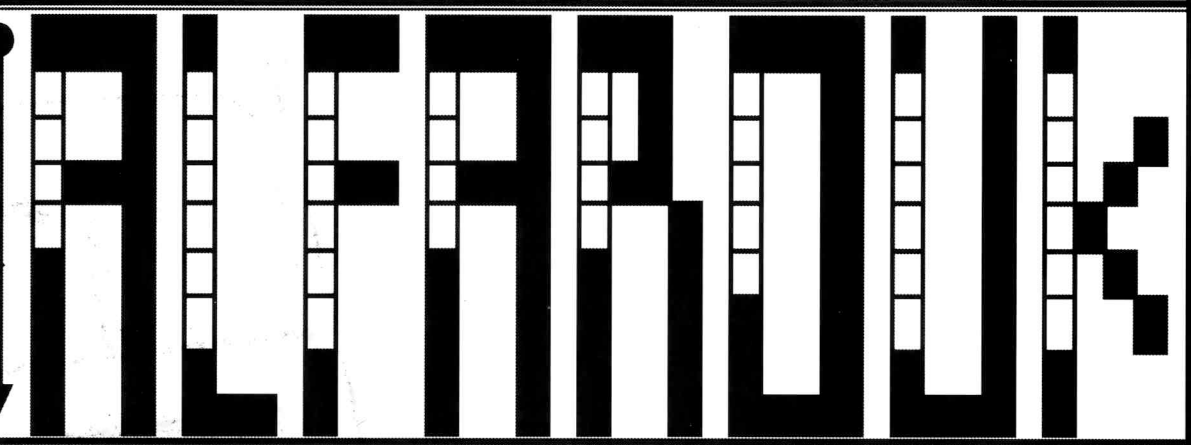
Separate Contest on Common Names & Symbols Contest (3) مسابقة

Which Kind of mineral water does this symbol represents?

Ans cont (2)
Dr. Ahmed A. Al-Hamdani
Chairman - Watani Bank
Winner
Hussein A. Mansour

Contest No. (11) مسابقة رقم
إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر
Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer
الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز اكسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا
The Sole Representative of Oxford L.C & ST.Giles Colleges UK&USA
تخفيض ٣٠% في نظام الدبلوم (إنجليزي أو كمبيوتر) مع ضمان الوظيفة للأول
تخفيض ٢٠% للإجابات الصحيحة التي لم توفق بالقرعة

1. Day, month and year
2. Any beast
3. Not married
4. Hill insects
5. Story
6. Not real
7. Looking -glass
8. Up ward climb

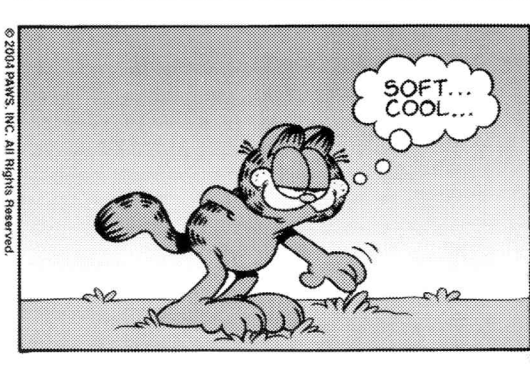
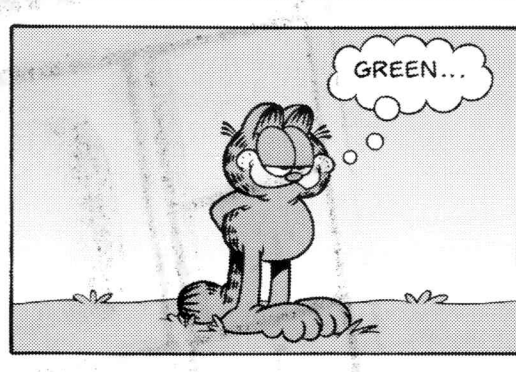
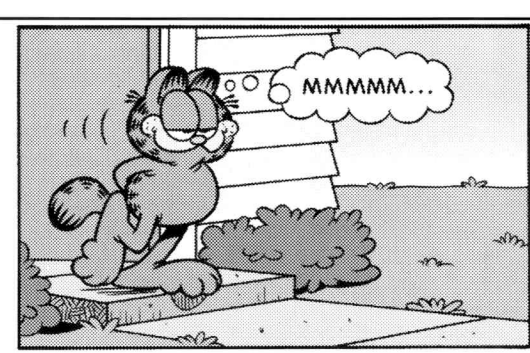
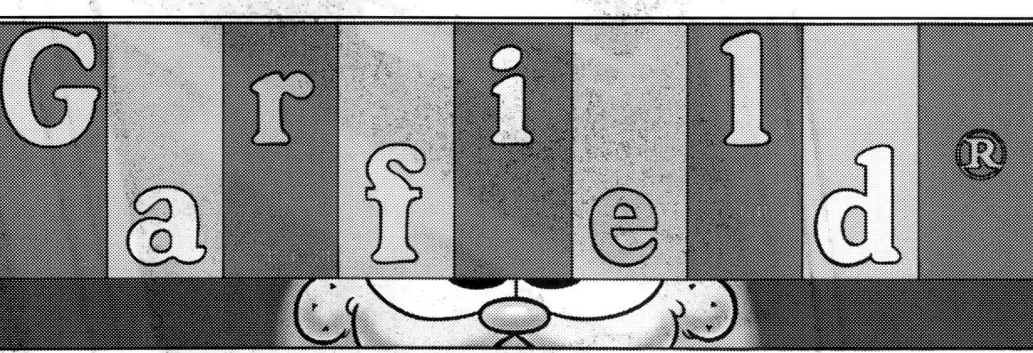


Ans. Cont. 10

1. Pool
2. misery
3. clumsy
4. data
5. open
6. raise
7. helper
8. afraid

Winner
Nohad Al-Asbahi
Sana'a Hael St. Tel/Fax 213711
Email: alfarouk26@hotmail.com
Website: www.alfaroukinst.net/firms.com

جائزة هذه المسابقة دبلوم كمبيوتر مقدم من المعهد بتخفيض ٥٠%
معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر - صنعاء - شارع هائل - مقابل مجوهرات الجابري - تلفاكس ٢١٣٧١١



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**
Love will take a turn for the best if you are aggressive in a passionate and intelligent way. You will be able to attract some very interesting people with your creative ideas.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**
Don't try to force someone to be frank with you. Have a good comeback prepared to avoid embarrassing yourself. This is not the day to make changes.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**
Hit the information highway and do your research. You can drum up interest for projects that involve all forms of communication. A relative or close friend may back your idea.
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**
Remind yourself what it is you always wanted to do. If you haven't reached your goals, consider where you went wrong and what must be done.
- Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**
Take advantage of your good fortune and put it to use where it will count. If there is something you have been trying to get others to help you with, today would be the perfect time to persuade them.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**
Refrain from criticizing the people around you. You will gain more ground if you encourage and compliment. Be smart and change your strategy.
- Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**
Ask for help if you need it. Contact and talk with people who will appreciate your talents and make valid suggestions. Count on a profitable turn of events.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
Money may be on the line today. Someone you work with is likely to conceal important information. Don't leave yourself open — do your own research and your own work.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
Your mind will be on entertainment and travel. Give yourself a break and give in to your whims. You will make some interesting observations.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
Play a safe game when it comes to your investments. Take care of any pressing matters, clear up overdue bills and rethink your long-term goals.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
You will be emotional and will probably find it difficult to contain the way you are feeling. Try to reason with yourself before making a scene. Counteract your anxious feeling with something energetic and physical.
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**
It's time to make a decision as to what you are going to do next. Opportunities are present, but you must make the move. Don't let anyone talk you into giving up.

إعلان هام من صحيفة "يمن تايمز":

"لنكن يداً 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 يداً واحدة معها في سبيل تحقيق النهضة الاقتصادية والتنموية المنشودة وتحقيق آمال الشعب اليمني في بناء اليمن الحديث والأكثر تالقاً وازدهاراً. 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 يداً واحدة معكم في طريق بناء اليمن الحديث". نحن على ثقة أنه ليس هناك من لا يريد الانضمام إلى هذا المشروع الجبار الذي تقوده مؤسسة اليمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر. وهي من اعلام ودعاة التطوير والنمو والشراكة في بناء اليمن المستقبل.

للاستفسار عن كيفية الانضمام لهذا الركب، يرجى التواصل بالبريد الإلكتروني على عنوان "withpresident@yementimes.com" أو عبر الاتصال بالأخ / أحمد الهاللي على النقال ٧١٦٨٧٨١٦.



دعونا نكن يداً واحدة في تحقيق الطموحات والنهوض بالوطن.



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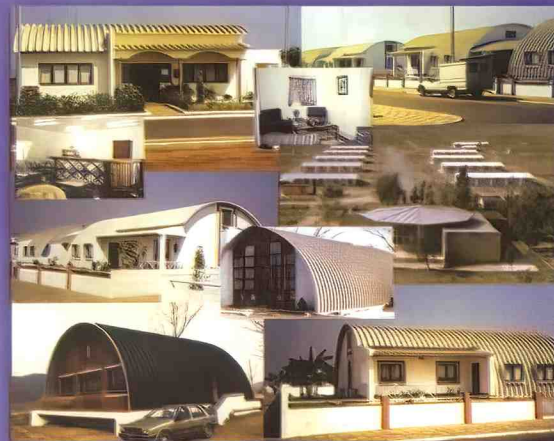
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