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A YEMEN TIMES EXCLUSIVE

Former Malaysian PM talks to Yemen Times

“Yemen’s government must listen to the people”

BY WALID AL-SAQQAF
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
YEMEN TIMES

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammed told the Yemen Times in an exclusive interview held last Wednesday that President Saleh and the Yemeni government must listen to what the people of Yemen want to say in order to achieve development.

Mahathir was in the midst of a short visit to Yemen in which he met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Prime Minister Abdulqader Ba Jammal and several governmental and private sector individuals.

In response to a question of how the Yemeni president should respond to the launching of a civil society committee to support the President in his efforts for reform and development through

advice and dialogue, Mahathir said, “The government and president must listen to the views of their people. They should not necessarily accept them, but they must carefully listen and have dialogue.”

Dialogue with people: A must

When confronted with the fact that Yemen is suffering from tremendous challenges and difficulties, and that a number of pioneer intellectuals have formed a committee to express solidarity with the president in presenting them with their views and advice on issues concerning development, he gave the Malaysia example by saying that “in Malaysia for example, we always have dialogue with the private sector, civil society including NGOs, etc. Representatives from all those people will have at least one direct dialogue with the government, and some-



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammed.

times more frequently. This is necessary because the government wants to know what those people think it has to do in order to enhance the standard of living and develop the country.”

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Oil deal angers MPs

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's parliament has intensified its confrontation with the ruling GPC over a recent controversial oil deal by demanding that the prime minister should summon before parliament next Wednesday.

The parliament decided Saturday that Abdulqader Bajamal should stand before the parliament to reply to the accusations

he made against the MPs who voted against the oil deal in which the government sold of 60% of its revenue in the field 53. The parliament gave the government a choice either to abolish the deal or withdraw its vote of confidence from the minister of oil.

MPs were angered by the accusations of Bajamal who described them of being opportunists, saying that the government will not cancel the deal. MPs decided Saturday that the PM should be give proof of his accusations or be interrogated.

However, MPs of the ruling party tried to calm down the tension, by voting for the decision in favor of summoning the PM.

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Al-Suswa: No idea of trial postponement

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Minister of Human Rights, Amat al-Alim al-Suswa said that she had no idea about a decision to postpone the trial of some suspected terrorists which was supposed to start last week.

However, she said in a meeting with journalists last Wednesday to observe the International Press Freedom Day that the USS Cole bombing suspects are excluded from the tribunal because some of the suspected perpetrators are still on the run.

It was reported last week that the

trial of the Limburg bombing and other terrorist operations suspects was postponed, as the security men are still hunting down for some of those suspects who are being protected by some influential clerics.

Al-Suswa called on the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) to play a more pivotal role to end the penalties that criminalize journalists on issues of publication and to enhance the watchdog role of journalists in the society.

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Mahathir Mohammed on Yemen, Iraq and a host of issues

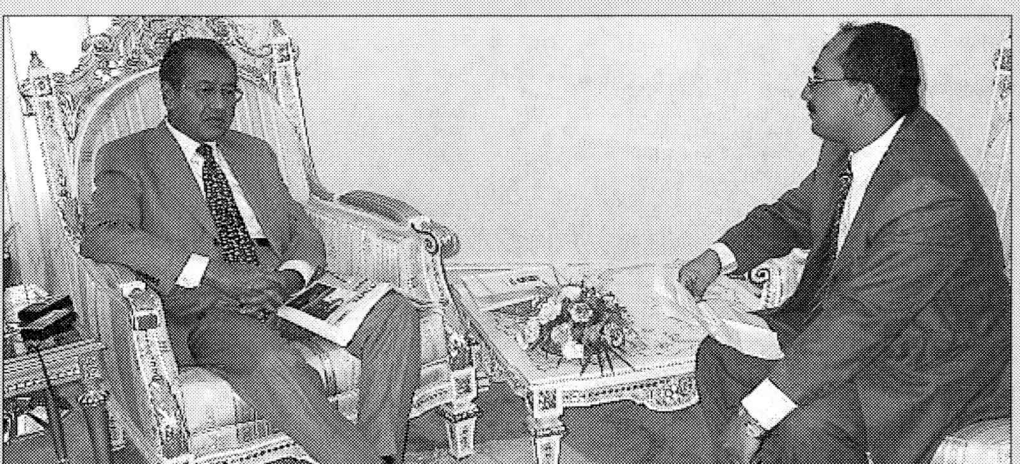
“I said it before: the Iraqi war was a big mistake.”

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed is a well-known personality in the Middle East and across the world. He has fascinated so many Muslims with his leadership skills and courage in confronting local challenges in Malaysia and international issues abroad. Being one of the highly respected leaders of the Muslim world, he is also greatly admired in the Republic of Yemen.

He has now paid his second visit to Yemen for exchange of ideas and views of establishing joint efforts to help develop Yemen's economy and promote Malaysia-Yemen relations.

Even though he is not in office right now, yet he is still quite active in all aspects and fields. He has his independent office in Putrajaya, the Federal Capital of Malaysia, and continues to contribute to the prosperity of his country.

Editor-in-Chief of Yemen Times Walid Al-Saqqaf met with Dr. Mahathir at the Presidential Palace in Sana'a last Wednesday and filed the following interview.



Former Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohammed (left) talks with Yemen Times Editor-in-Chief Walid al-Saqqaf. (Yemen Times photo)

Q: As you have resigned from your post as Prime minister, how is Mahathir, the citizen, leading his life?

A: I have been invited to many countries to give talks, mainly about Malaysia's development and also about international issues. I kept myself quite busy at home and I also continue to go to my office. I have my own office now, where I communicate with scholars from within the country and abroad. So I am still quite busy.

Q: How do you assess your successor Mr. Badawi in running the affairs of Malaysia? Do you believe he will have a similar line as yours and would follow in your footsteps in continuing your development plans for Malaysia?

A: He is doing quite well and his policy will remain the same. Only the style would be different. Of course, different people have different styles. But the overall policy of Badawi will always be the same of that set up for Malaysia.

Q: With no exaggeration, during your leadership of Malaysia, you have become more of an idol for millions of Muslims throughout the world. Many people and I am sure, many of our Arab leaders are wondering: what makes a successful leader?

A: Well, a leader first must lead in all aspects, but at the same time he must ensure that the people who follow him are not far behind. Sometimes, a leader may go too fast for his people in terms of ambitions and steps towards development. A successful leader must have a vision. He must have ideas. He must analyze and understand the priorities of his country to develop and prosper and know the needs of his people and how to meet those needs.

Q: You just seem to be hinting to your experience when you said that a leader may sometimes be far ahead of his people. Does that truly imply to you?

A: During my time as Prime minister, some people did tell me that they couldn't follow me concerning my ideas for development and progress, so when they used to tell me that I would usually slow down so then people would be able to understand what I am doing and hence can then follow me in this respect.

Q: This is your second visit to Yemen in the last few years. How do you assess the progress of the country since your first visit?

A: Yemen is making some progress. But by comparison to other countries in the region, especially oil-rich countries, Yemen's development pace is somewhat behind. Yet I believe that Yemen has the same potential as the other Arab countries, and should make better progress.

Q: What is the main purpose of your current visit to Yemen?

A: I am here to help bolster Yemen-Malaysia cooperation in fields of trade and training, which I hope will help in Yemen's development process. I am here together with several businessmen and investors to explore the opportunities of cooperation and expansion of relations between the two countries.

Q: What do you believe should be done to bolster Yemen-Malaysia relations?

A: Firstly, Yemen and Malaysia should have closer relations so we can exchange our views and experiences and learn from each other. If there are successful steps taken by one country, then experience of this country can be used by other countries, including Yemen, for their own progress. If some countries have succeeded - such as

Malaysia - then they should be followed by example. I personally believe that learning from others is vital for the progress of any nation.

Q: Of course Yemen is one of the least developed countries of the world, and is suffering from so many challenges from illiteracy to slow development. What do you believe the priorities of our president and government should be to bring about the desired change in the country?

A: In order to develop, there needs to be concentration on good governance. Yemen already has so many natural resources such as oil and gas. But even if you had tons of gold beneath your house and you didn't work properly to bring it up and use it, you will not develop. If you cannot do it yourself, you have to work with others. Others can help you bring out your resources, but you also must make sure you are not exploited by others, but through enhancing your own skills to develop.

In Malaysia, we first started to grow when we invited foreign investors to the country and start industries in order to create jobs for our people. They were not even told to pay taxes, but simply to provide employment opportunities. Today, Malaysia has become so industrialized to the level that, unlike before when we didn't export manufactured goods, we now export 82% of our industrial goods worth more than USD 100 billion a year. This in turn enabled us to grow quickly and develop to the level we are in today.

Q: Do you mean that developing the economy and specifically industrial sector are the priority?

A: Well you also need security and stability for investments to flourish. Without a stable country and government, you cannot carry out economic development policies. This is also a major priority as stability is necessary for economic development.

Q: I have been at the lecture you presented in Sana'a in your earlier visit and you concentrated on education to enable the public be more productive and hence build an active civil society. How can we in Yemen convince the president of the importance of communicating with the civil society to achieve greater development?

A: We cherish freedom of the people - including civil society - and must do so all the time. We can enjoy freedom when it is responsible and within the boundaries of the law. There should be freedom for example for laborers to go on strike and express their opinion to the authorities if they are mistreated or not given their rights. But if freedom to go on strike is not regulated and defined properly, such strikes will lead to disruption of services, which will discourage investors, and will hence damage the economic progress.

We in Malaysia have always said that civil workers and organizations must have their freedom, but they should also be aware that if they go on strikes too often, that will result in no investments and would damage the country's economy, and consequently their own standard of living.

The same applies for the press too. It is healthy to have freedom in the press, but being free doesn't mean being irresponsible, as that will have many negative consequences on the press and on the nation as a whole.

On the other hand, I agree with you that the civil society should assist in finding ways on how to develop the country.

Q: An initiative - from Yemen Times and a number of national figures - has recently been presented with the goal of extending a helping hand to the President in developing

the country. This group expressed its willingness to provide advice and assistance in helping the country develop more quickly to eventually lead to a modern Yemen. How do you believe the president should respond to this initiative?

A: In this respect, I would like to say that the government and the president must always listen to the views of their people. They should not necessarily accept them, but they must carefully listen and have dialogue.

In Malaysia for example we always have dialogue with the private sector, civil society including NGOs, etc. Representatives from all those people will have at least one direct dialogue with the government, and sometimes more frequently. This is necessary because the government wants to know what those people think it has to do in order to enhance the standard of living and develop the country.

Because we are a democracy, the government has to do this, as those who do it will be voted back again to the government if they are in close touch with their people and know their needs.

Q: What about the media. As part of civil society, how can they play an important role in the development of the country?

A: Free and responsible media that is self-regulated to ensure they carry their professional duties in society should have a major role to play in your country's development. Media should enjoy a lot of freedom, because basically you are committed to assisting the government in development of your country. Of course you have to criticize negative phenomena, and that is important, but it should be done out of care for your country and its development.

Q: What about the developments in Iraq? How about the future?

A: The Iraq war was a big mistake. We already said before and I repeat again that the Iraq war would result in more terrorism rather than the opposite. I once said that invading Iraq may be easy, but to rule Iraq is not easy. You can defeat a government, but you cannot defeat the people. If the people don't like you they will fight you. And this is what is happening in Iraq. Unless the occupying forces understand this and realize the need to allow the Iraqis to rule themselves, this will continue.

Our view is that Iraq needs a strong government, a very strong government. If you think that everything can be solved by democracy, than that may not be right. This is quite evident when through democratic elections; a majority wins and then oppressed the minority. For example in Serbia, when through democratic elections Serbs won the majority, they oppressed the minorities.

In Iraq, we must have Iraqis understand the limitations of democracy; otherwise, it will not result in a peaceful and stable Iraq.

Q: In the last Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting held during your last days as prime minister, you were applauded by Muslims everywhere in the world for your courageous statement on the influence of the Jews and the biasness of the US to Israel. As pressure is increasing on the UK and US governments to abandon the extra biased stance in favor of Israel, do you have hope in the future that the two governments will have a more balanced stance?

A: It is unfortunate that when they dealt with my speech at the OIC meeting, they only focused on my words concerning the Jews, but in fact I also criticized the Muslims. In fact, even Muslims focused on my commentary on the Jews. Because this was a biased outlook, my speech was not useful for many people and not much was learnt from it.

I appealed in my speech that we should sit down and think before we do anything.

Now I think people are beginning to realize that I was not being anti-Semitic in my speech. I think that the Jews made mistakes. They can be wrong, and we have the right to criticize them.

But the USA continues to support Israel irrespective of what they do, even when they assassinated Sheikh Yassin and Dr. Rantissi. In other words, the US is supporting assassinations, and that is extremely dangerous because it is against International law.

So, the US must rethink its support for Israel. When you support Israel irrespective of what it does and against the Palestinians even when they want peace, then you are not helping the peace process.

Q: What about the prospects of change in UK and US policy in the Middle East. Do you see any prospect of change?

A: At the moment I see no prospect of change. But we can see more and more voices being heard criticizing the policies of US President George W. Bush.

Q: As a prominent Muslim leader, and a supporter of the OIC, what are in your opinion the potentials of unifying the stance of Muslim countries in international issues and in support of their causes?

A: There are certain things that we, as Muslim, can do without requiring the approval or support of all the 53 Muslim members of the OIC. Maybe two Muslim countries can come together and do certain things that are good for the Muslim world. For example, we have proposed the use of the gold dinar in trade. Even if not all fifty three nations are involved, but just three or four countries at the beginning, this would be a significant step for the Muslim world. But there are definitely many other things that Muslim countries can cooperate in, which will be reflected positively on the Muslim world as a whole.

Q: Any final comments you may have?

A: I am very glad to be here in Yemen. I noticed that there has been some progress made in the last two years. I think that there is great possibility and potential for Yemen-Malaysia cooperation and investment and training, which will result in not only more trade between the two countries, but also will speed up the development of Yemen. I hope that there will be a good outcome as a result of this visit. I am keen to help the government of Yemen speed up the process of development in the country.

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Rumsfeld: 'deepest apology' for Iraq prison abuse

WASHINGTON, May 7 (Reuters) - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld took responsibility on Friday for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. troops and offered his "deepest apology" to the victims, but said he would not resign just to satisfy his political enemies.

"These events occurred on my watch as secretary of defense. I am accountable for them. I take full responsibility," Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Warning that he had seen new photographs and a videotape not yet made public that were hard to believe, Rumsfeld said more damaging revelations were coming that could inflict even more damage on the reputation of the United States.

"I feel terrible about what happened to these detainees. They are human beings, they were in U.S. custody, our country had an obligation to treat them right. We didn't. That was wrong," Rumsfeld said, adding that the United States would seek to compensate victims of abuse.

"To those Iraqis who were mistreated by members of the U.S. armed forces, I offer my deepest apology," he said.

The tense hearings, broadcast live in the Arab world as well as the United States, carried major implications for Rumsfeld's future but also for Americans' support for President George W. Bush and the war in Iraq.

The Vatican called the abuse an offense against God, while U.S. foreign policy experts said the scandal would make it harder for Washington to achieve its goals, including the "democratization" of Iraq.

At the end of the Senate hearing, Rumsfeld appeared to have retained the support of most Republicans on the committee, although some said there were still serious questions he had not answered. But the defense secretary seemed to have done enough to keep his job in the short term.

Bush, campaigning in U.S. heartland, promised to repair America's beleaguered human rights record. "We will

find out the truth and everybody will see the truth. People will testify. There will be fair trials, if there are trials. The truth will be known," he said.

Rumsfeld, lacking his trademark bravado, told the Senate and later the House Armed Services Committee that he had created a special commission to investigate the actions. But Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain said Americans needed all the available information at once, adding he was concerned that images of abuse would erode domestic support for the war.

Kerry accuses Bush
Kerry called on Bush to take full responsibility for the scandal because "the chain of command goes all the way to the Oval Office."

The president said he retained confidence in his defense secretary.

Asked by South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsay Graham whether he could still perform his duties effectively, Rumsfeld said: "Needless to say, if I felt I could not be effective, I would resign in a minute. I would not resign simply because people are trying to make a political issue out of it."

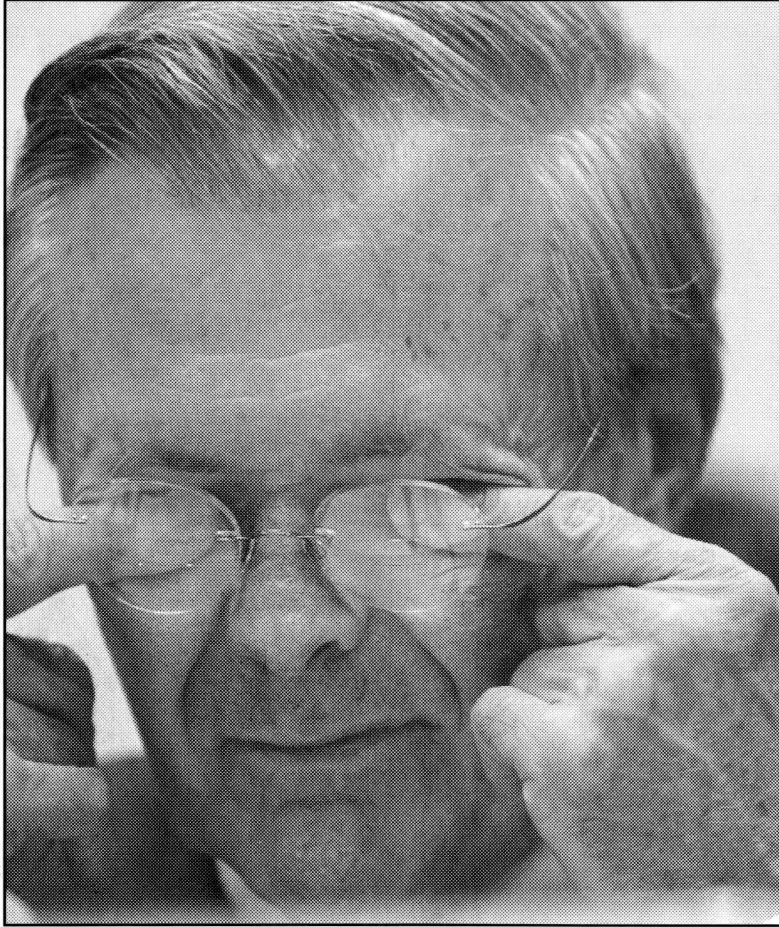
He also said it would be "not a bad idea" to tear down the Abu Ghraib prison.

Michigan Democratic Sen. Carl Levin said Congress needed to know how far up the chain of command the abuse went, whether it was part of a conscious policy, condoned by top officials, of softening up detainees before interrogation.

So far, six people have been criminally charged and six military personnel have been reprimanded.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said on Friday there had been widespread abuse and human rights violations, tantamount to torture, in U.S.-controlled Iraqi detention centers, which appeared to go beyond the revelations that have emerged from Abu Ghraib.

Rumsfeld repeatedly said he had not realized the extent of the abuse until he saw the photographs. He said he had seen more horrific images on Thursday



Near the end of a long day of testifying, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld wipes his eyes during the House Armed Services committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington May 7. Rumsfeld took responsibility on Friday for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. troops and offered his "deepest apology" to the victims, but said he would not resign just to satisfy his political enemies. REUTERS

evening that he hoped would never be leaked to the media because they would do much more damage to the United States.

The scandal exploded last week with the release of photographs showing grinning uniformed personnel posing in front of naked detainees. One photograph that appeared on Thursday depicted a naked Iraqi on his knees with a leash around his neck that was held by an American servicewoman.

The New York Times, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, New York Newsday, Boston Globe, Minneapolis Star Tribune and Detroit Free Press all called for Rumsfeld to step down in editorials on Thursday or Friday.

The U.S. military also said on Friday it had punished two Army Reserve soldiers who assaulted prisoners while working as guards at the Guantanamo Bay prison for terrorism suspects.



Sadr militiamen attack British forces in Basra

BASRA, May 8 (Reuters) - Shi'ite militiamen loyal to embattled rebel Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr launched a series of hit-and-run attacks on British forces in the southern city of Basra on Saturday, witnesses said.

At least two Iraqis were killed and three British soldiers wounded in the fighting, a British military spokeswoman said.

Hundreds of Sadr's Mehdi Army militiamen armed with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades took over several areas of Iraq's second-biggest city and set up checkpoints on the streets.

Bursts of gunfire and explosions echoed through the city, which has through most of the year-old occupation been far quieter than central areas controlled by U.S. forces.

Witnesses said fighters fired at British patrols and positions in several quarters of Basra. Some streets were largely deserted and many shops closed. Iraqis had demonstrated outside the governor's building, the British spokeswoman said.

Residents said they had heard some Mehdi militiamen vowing to expel British troops from the city.

The troubles, mirror of far more vigorous insurrection against U.S. forces, come less than two months before coalition forces are due to

hand over sovereignty to Iraqis.

extra weapons for Iraqi police

A British spokesman said large crowds, including armed men, gathered earlier in the city centre near the headquarters of the South Oil Company.

In Amara to the north, British forces stormed an office of Sadr's movement, triggering fierce gunbattles with his Mehdi militiamen. At least three fighters were killed and eight wounded in the fighting, witnesses said.

Iraqi police had been supplied with extra weapons and vehicles to try and bring the situation under control with the help of British forces, she said.

Mehdi Army militiamen killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded at least three British soldiers in clashes in Amara a week ago.

Saturday's clashes came a day after an aide to Sadr in Basra offered rewards for the capture of British soldiers.



Iraqi gunmen, loyal to radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr take positions in the centre of the southern city of Basra, May 8. REUTERS

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تعز ت: ٠٤ ٢٢٨٤٦٠
إب ت: ٠٤ ٤٠٨١٣٩

وإلا بلاش!!

طريقة الإشتراك في هذه المسابقة

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



واحصل فوراً على قسيمة سحب
للإشتراك والفوز بأحدى الجوائز الكبرى
يمكنك الإشتراك أكثر من مرة

لمزيد من الاستفسار يمكنك الإتصال على الأرقام التالية
المركز الرئيسي تعز ١٢ / ٤٢١٨٦١١
صنعاء ٠٩ / ٤٤٨٠٥٩
عدن ٠٢ / ٢٢٤٢٧٠٢
المكلا ٠٥٣٠٨٦٣١
أو مراجعة أقرب مركز استبدال في منطقتك

سيقام مهرجان الحليب الكبير في تاريخ
٢٠٠٤ / ٠٦ / ٢٤

كما سيتم الإعلان عن أسماء الفائزين في
كل من (صحيفة النور / الجمهورية / أكتوبر / الأيام)



حليب الهنا

٧ مليون كاش!!

الجائزة الأولى ٣ مليون ريال

الجائزة الثانية ٢ مليون ريال

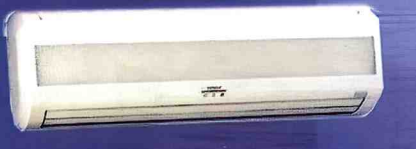
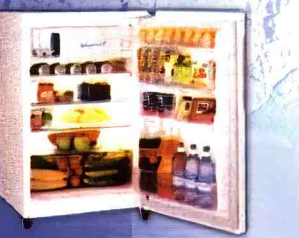
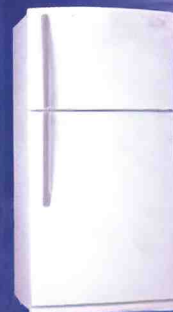
الجائزة الثالثة ١ مليون ريال

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Thousands of Muslims flee Nigeria town after attack

LAFIA, Nigeria (Reuters) - Thousands of Nigerian Muslims braved hostile Christian roadblocks on Friday to flee the town of Yelwa after an attack by Christian militia killed hundreds earlier in the week.

Many wounded and exhausted, the refugees sought police escorts to take them to neighboring Bauchi and Nassarawa states as Christians manning road blocks in surrounding villages tried to kill them as they left.

"On our way to the hospital they blocked the road and we had to turn back and get armed escorts," said Ozero Yunusa, a blacksmith shot in the leg in Sunday's attack.

"Even then they still attacked our vehicles and one of my brothers was shot in the process," he said from his hospital bed in Nassarawa state capital Lafia.

Lafia hospital was overrun with scores of victims from Sunday's

attack, with some badly wounded people sitting on floors due to lack of bed space.

The Red Cross said 955 displaced families were camped at a primary school in the town.

The conflict between the Christian Tarok tribe and the Muslim Fulani is rooted in their competing claims over the fertile farmlands of Plateau state in central Nigeria.

It has been stoked by a growing

trend of religious hatred in Africa's most populous country, and the sense among the Christians that Muslims are outsiders in Plateau.

Toll disputed

Survivors of the Yelwa massacre said they had buried 630 corpses in several mass graves around the remote market town after Sunday's attack. It was not possible to confirm the figure independently, but a senior policeman spoke of "hundreds" dead.

Presidential spokeswoman Remi Oyo said 630 dead was an exaggeration, adding 67 corpses had been recovered by police.

Access to the town was still extremely limited on Friday due to continued skirmishing nearby.

The Yelwa attack was the latest in a three-month-long conflict between Muslim and Christian groups vying for control of Plateau state.

Before Sunday, the fighting had already killed at least 350 people on both sides, according to witnesses, military and Red Cross sources. The government routinely does not confirm death tolls in religious fighting for fear of reprisal attacks.

Wounded victims spoke of a military-style, two-day assault on the town by hundreds of Christian militia, armed with assault rifles and machetes.

"Some were shooting, others were burning houses, while others were looting. They had satellite phones through which they were communicating," said Abdullahi Bala, a truck driver who was shot in the back.

A Reuters eyewitness saw corpses in Yelwa on Tuesday showing signs of mutilation and sexual abuse.

"It was an organized killing," said Justice Abdulkadir Orire, secretary-general of Jama'atu Nasril Islam and leader of Nigeria's 60 million Muslims.

Yelwa had already witnessed one of the worst atrocities of the Plateau conflict in February, when Muslim militia killed almost 100 Christians, including 48 massacred in a church.

Nigeria is a battleground for the world's top two religions, with its population of 130 million roughly split between Muslims and Christians.

Religious violence has killed at least 5,000 Nigerians since 2000, when 12 northern Nigerian states established Islamic Sharia law.



An elderly woman stands outside her burned home in Yelwa, central Nigeria, May 6. Thousands of Nigerian Muslims braved hostile Christian roadblocks on May 7 to flee the town of Yelwa after an attack by Christian militia killed hundreds earlier in the week. Reuters



Indian campaign closes with polls showing close finish

NEW DELHI, May 8 (Reuters) - India's mammoth election campaign draws to a close on Saturday, with exit and opinion polls showing a close race to the finish line.

The latest by NDTV and the Indian Express newspaper predicted Prime Minister's Atal Behari Vajpayee's ruling coalition would pick up just 67 of the 182 seats at stake in the final round of voting in 16 states on Monday.

That would leave them with between 240 and 260 seats overall in the 545-member lower house of parliament, way short of a majority, the poll said.

India's financial markets have been spooked by the prospect of a hung parliament, worried that Vajpayee might have to scramble for the support of smaller parties to form a government and as a result soft-pedal on much-needed economic reforms.

A win for the Congress party and its allies would probably be greeted even more negatively by the financial markets, with Congress likely to depend on left-wing parties for support in what could be an unstable coalition, analysts say.

Vajpayee called the election six months early to capitalise on a strong economy, a good monsoon and improving ties with old foe Pakistan.

But his Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign motto, "India shining", appears to have backfired among the country's impoverished rural masses, who feel excluded from an economic resurgence that has mainly benefited the urban middle class.

The BJP has now shifted tack, concentrating instead on promoting itself as the only party capable of forming a coalition in the fractious world of

Indian politics, and attacking the opposition Congress and its Italian-born leader Sonia Gandhi.

"Very early on in the campaign it became obvious that the 'India shining' propaganda was the biggest self-goal of the... elections," C. Rammanohar Reddy wrote in Saturday's Hindu newspaper.

"The BJP changed track mid-way and has since been campaigning on a platform of stability. Whether this is enough to salvage the election for the alliance is another matter."

Monday's vote will be the toughest by far for the BJP.

The fifth round of the three-week-long election is concentrated in the southern state of Tamil Nadu and the communist bastion of West Bengal, both large states where the BJP has little presence and is dependent on regional partners.

On Saturday, hundreds of communist activists rode bicycles around the streets of West Bengal's capital, Calcutta, flying the red hammer and sickle-flag of their party, while many more walked the streets chanting pro-communist slogans.

Vajpayee was due to address rallies in the northern states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, while his deputy, Lal Krishna Advani, would be campaigning in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Kerala, the BJP said.

Gandhi was due to address her final rally in the capital New Delhi, where seven seats are up for grabs. Under election rules, campaigning must end by 5 p.m. (1130 GMT) on Saturday.

Counting of votes will take place on May 13 with a result expected the same day. Spokesmen for both parties say they are confident of victory.

Japan finance minister reveals more missed payments

TOKYO, May 8 (Reuters) - Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki admitted on Saturday to skipping more mandatory payments into the state pension fund than he had revealed previously, but he reiterated that he had no plans to step down.

"I feel very sorry for the missed payments," Tanigaki told a hastily arranged news conference as the government of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi tried to limit damage from a growing scandal over missed pension contributions by cabinet members.

"It was just a short period but it was careless," he said.

On Friday, government spokesman Yasuo Fukuda, one of the most powerful members of Koizumi's cabinet, resigned after admitting that he had failed to make payments into the pension fund.

Tanigaki and Fukuda are among

seven cabinet members who have confessed to missing pension premiums at a time when the government is trying to encourage reluctant ordinary citizens to keep up contributions into the overburdened fund.

On Saturday, Tanigaki said he had missed payments for two months in 1972 and two months in 1979 on top of the 17 months he revealed last month.

"The Prime Minister has told me to continue with my work," he said. "I would like to put my best efforts into this job, including reforming the pension system to one that is acceptable for everyone," he said.

Pension reform is expected to be a major issue in Upper House elections in July. But the head of the opposition Democratic Party, Naoto Kan, is also under pressure to resign for not paying pension premiums for a 10-month period.

War-era mortar bomb kills two at Vietnam school

HANOI, May 8 (Reuters) - Two teenagers were killed and eight seriously injured when a war-time mortar bomb they were playing with exploded in a school yard in southern Vietnam, state media reported on Saturday.

One teenager was killed instantly on Friday in the school yard in the central highland province of Gia Lai, the Tuoi Tre (Youth) newspaper reported.

Another boy died later in hospital.

A doctor at the emergency section of Gia Lai's General Hospital said the injured children were still being treated.

In another accident, two scavengers died as a war-time bomb they were trying to saw for scrap metal exploded on Friday in the southern province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau, the Lao Dong (Labour) newspaper said.

Thai PM appeals for unity at bullet-riddled mosque

SUNGAI KOLOK, May 8 (Reuters) - Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra toured a bullet-riddled mosque on Saturday that has become a lightning rod for Muslim anger over his government's tough military response to an uprising in the restive south.

More than 30 people were killed when security forces stormed the Krue Sae mosque on April 28, the bloodiest incident in a day of carnage in which 108 militants died, threatening Thailand's image as a safe tourist haven.

"Let's start over," Thaksin told onlookers during a 10-minute stop at the mosque on the last day of a tour aimed at mending relations with the mainly-Muslim region.

Critics say the army used excessive force to stop the uprising, particularly in killing the militants, many of them young students, who were hiding in the mosque after a failed attack on a nearby police post.

In the past week, thousands of curious and angry Muslims have flocked to the centuries-old mosque to see the pockmarked walls for themselves.

Some have handed out leaflets condemning the "barbaric" Bangkok government, but there was no public protest against Thaksin on Saturday.

"Most people are happy that he came. No one is mad at the prime minister. But people are not happy that so many people were killed at the mosque," said Abdul Kolae Waedeleh, a 36-year-old fisherman.

Thaksin, who has promised to help relatives of those killed, is on a three-

day tour of the region, home to most of Buddhist Thailand's six million Muslims, many of whom are ethnic Malays, speak a Malay dialect and feel alienated by wealthier Bangkok.

He has not apologised for the actions of his security forces, but has launched an independent investigation into the violence at the mosque.

Muslim leaders are demanding Thaksin appoint non-partisan southern Muslims to the investigating commission, now made up mostly national-level Muslim judges, lawyers and academics.

"This should also boost confidence of local residents to come forth with information and minimise linguistic problems of communicating in the local Malay dialect," the Network of Muslim Organisations in Southern Border Provinces said in a statement. It also urged the government to order state agencies to release all information and photos of the mosque incident to investigators, and compensate the relatives of those killed in a wave of violence in the south since January.

"People are afraid"

Thailand's "CEO-style" leader has made development a focus of his three-day visit to one of Thailand's poorest regions, hoping promises of money and projects will defuse anger.

Thaksin told 30 business people in the southern town of Sungai Kolok on Friday night that he would create 100,000 jobs in the three southernmost provinces as soon as possible.



Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra carries a Muslim girl during a visit to the 17th century Krue Se mosque, where 34 militants were killed last week, in Pattani, 1,200 km (750 miles) south of Bangkok in the country's restive south, May 8. REUTERS

"Even though rubber prices are very good now, people are too afraid to go out to tap it. I've ordered every ministry to create 100,000 jobs urgently in the region," he said.

However, Bangkok's \$300 million development plan for the region remains in limbo after it was halted last month to seek more local input on how to spend the money.

"We haven't seen any project that the government has pledged to do yet," said Yarpa Wajanalardkul, vice president of Narathiwat's Central Islamic Committee.

Mystery still surrounds the mainly machete-wielding attackers, who launched a series of dawn raids on army

and police posts across three southern provinces, a severe escalation of four months of low-level unrest.

The government says they were drug-crazed and manipulated by extremists. Authorities are investigating whether religious schools, particularly privately run pondocks, are being used to recruit and indoctrinate young militants.

In his weekly radio address on Saturday, Thaksin said poverty and unemployment were the root causes of the violence.

"They are poor and have little education and no jobs. They don't have enough income and have a lot of time so it creates a void for people to fill," Thaksin said.

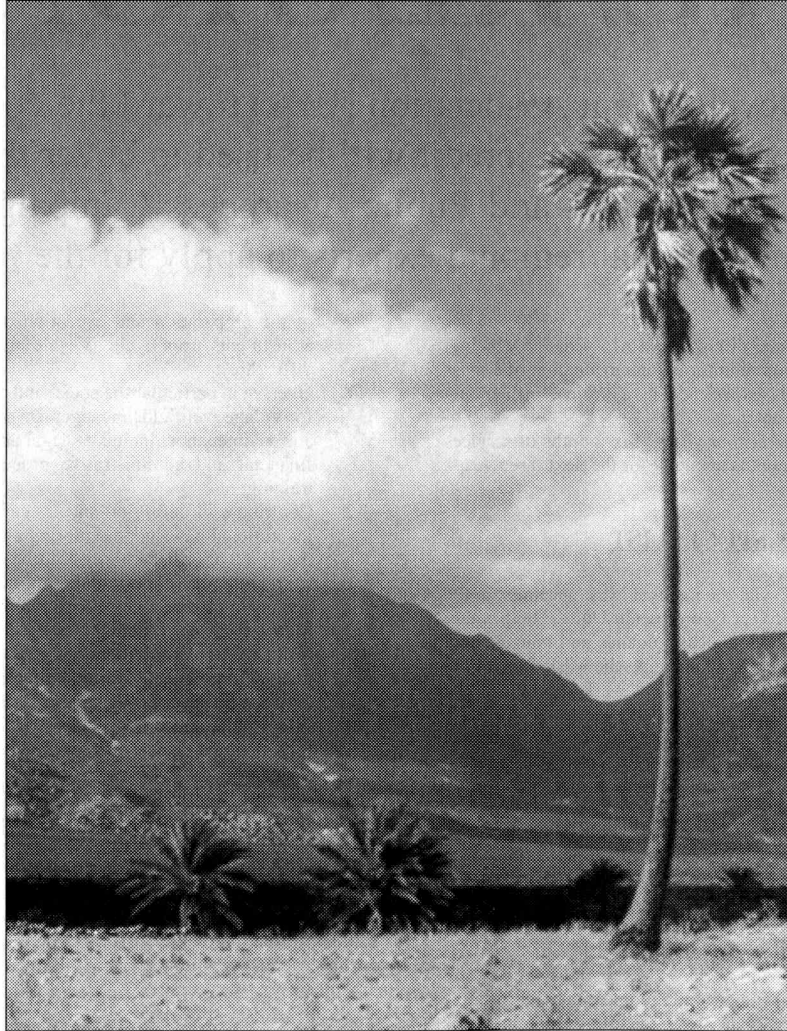
YT Business

The need to protect biodiversity for sustainable development

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Biodiversity in Yemen acquires a special importance for the researchers and the government that are interested in developing forests and natural plants as well as grazing areas and genealogical sources of plants, and for taking care of gathering and publishing information about plants and animals threatened by extinction.

Participants in a seminar on biodiversity in Yemen have asserted the importance of supporting researches and studies for the purpose of complet-



A scene from Socotra island where many rare plants species are found. Photo by Mohammed Saeed Nouman

ing aspects of knowledge in this area and also for paying attention to social, human and economic factors in development projects and activities pertain-

ing to protection of environment and safeguarding biodiversity.

For this reason the concerned parties do intend to pay attention and care to

Ecotourism and to work for defining the areas rich with biodiversity and also the presence of creatures threatened by perishing. The main aim is to protect them in coordination with all concerned sides and those having interest in biodiversity, such as governmental and non-governmental organisations and the private sector in order to safeguard biodiversity in Yemen.

The seminar has affirmed the necessity of enhancing the woman role socially, culturally and scientifically and also to enhance her capabilities in protection of biodiversity and its sustainable use. In addition, the goal is to work for building botany gardens aimed for keeping and safeguarding plants as well as animal ones to protect them against extinction.

The participants have considered the marine life biodiversity as playing an important role in nutrition and therefore should be taken care of and protected against traditional and random fishing. Dr Abdulkareem Nasher talked in a working paper he presented to the seminar about the great diversity of wild plants in the island of Socotra where there are 850 species of wild plants, among them 59 very rare species and 35 species threatened to perish. Dr Ali Khamis' working paper on the other hand affirmed that the number of plant species in Yemen reaches to 2000.

The participants in the seminar recommended the concerned parties to work for facing the causes that led to damage the biodiversity such as taking the cutting of trees as a profession and the random and unplanned building as well as random grazing and the use of harmful insecticides.



Private sector invests in agriculture

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

At last and after a long hesitation since Yemen embarked on implementation of the economic reforms in 1995, the private sector has made for using its money in the agricultural sector as it has realized that investment in this area would make it avoid many of difficulties and inconveniences investors would face in other sectors. Among the agricultural areas selected for investment by the private sector is the Wadi Al-Saeed in the governorate of Sa'da where a number of agricultural projects are being implemented at a cost of over YR 100 million.

The projects include new farms specialized in production of fruits, vegetables and cereals that have achieved high profitable results which urged capital owners to compete for it and reinvest their money in agricultural area. The Yemeni government encourages this kind of investment due to its contribution to supporting the national economy, the employment of hundreds of unemployed persons and alleviation of the sharpness of unemployment. This investment also helps increase agricultural production and increases in turn exportation to foreign markets especial-

ly in neighbouring countries. The private sector in this context intends to intensify its investments in the agricultural sector, especially in cotton plantation, and the establishment of research centers for development of agricultural products and animal wealth and developing their exportation.

These activities are given attention by the private sector for investment of its money in productive field guaranteeing the obtaining of profits, employment of cheap work force in addition to contribution to building water dams and barriers for storing and preserving waters.

The government expresses its willingness and preparedness to support investment in agriculture sector especially for realization of self-sufficiency of cereals and fruits. But that necessitates finding a solution to agriculture of the qat plant which a non-nutritious material. It is for that reason the government in Yemen is offering all facilities to investors in agriculture belonging to the private sector. Because development plans of the government are not able to prosper the agricultural production and that requires conducting more feasibility studies for investment in this area, the government thinks it reasonable to encourage the private sector in this field.

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.4100	184.6300
Sterling Pound	327.4600	327.8500
Euro	220.6700	220.9300
Saudi Rial	49.1700	49.2300
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.5400	626.2900
UAE Dirhem	50.2100	50.2700
Egyptian Pound	29.7400	29.7800
Bahraini Dinar	489.1600	489.7400
Qatari Rial	50.6500	50.7100
Jordanian Dinar	260.1000	260.4100
Omani Rial	479.0100	479.5800
Swiss Franc	142.0700	142.2400
Swedish Crown	24.1400	24.1700
Japanese Yen	1.6755	1.6775

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Important Announcement

The Ministry of Telecommunications & IT announces that it has taken steps to prevent international calls from passing illegally via the fixed and the GSM telephone networks as they are in breach of the telecommunications law. Therefore, citizens who receive international calls which appear as local numbers on their fixed or GSM telephones are requested to cooperate with the Ministry and notify the call center on free access number 170 at any time. The information required by the call center is purely the local or GSM number that appears on the customer's telephone display. The call center handling calls to 170 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

The Ministry would like to thank the public for their cooperation.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN - MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
SANA'A BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SBWMP)

VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT (INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL)

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the costs of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of the credit will be used to cover the eligible payments against the cost of the Project Management and Monitoring and the Information and Public Awareness Campaign (IPAC). Now the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) invites Qualified and experienced international/regional experts to apply for the following posts.

1- INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING SPECIALIST/EXPERT (International/Regional)

Working with the TS-SBC's institutional development specialist and with the TS-SBC's social development / WUA specialist, the ITS will help the TS-SBC to oversee the institutional development and capacity building component (Component 3). This will require him/her to work in close collaboration with the relevant existing and projected water management institutions, in particular (i) the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) and the NWRA Sana'a Branch (NWRA/SB), (ii) the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) and its sub-agencies including the MAI General Directorate for Irrigation (MAI/GDI), and including the MAI Sana'a Office (MAI/SO) and/or to the Northern Development Authority (NDA or SSHADA), and (iii) the Sana'a basin stakeholder organizations including water user associations (WUAs), water user federations (WUFs) and the SBC. More specifically, the PCU institutional Training specialist would be responsible for:

- ❖ General Overview and Direction of all training programs in collaboration with PCU's Sociologist/ Social Development Specialist, and line agency engineers
- ❖ In collaboration with all project staff, define the population concerned by the training program
- ❖ Design and coordinate the carrying out of a training needs assessment (this would be conducted as early in the cycle as possible)
- ❖ Define the training needs and the scope, type and source of training, in collaboration with the project management team
- ❖ Develop the various comprehensive training programs for each component including:
 - Training in Water Management for Irrigated Agriculture
 - Training in Water Control and Recharge Systems O&M
 - Training for Social Mobilization Teams
 - Training for Basin Water Resources management
 - Training for the Information and Public Awareness Campaign
 - Training for the TS-SBC and Line Agencies
- ❖ Define and cost the needed consultancy and education program, write terms of reference and prepare and advise on the procurement process
- ❖ Design quality control mechanisms, including post training evaluations and follow up reviews
- ❖ Design and help implement a training programming and monitoring system
- ❖ Help supervise training and report on quality and effectiveness
- ❖ (at the end of the project) prepare a full report on training effectiveness and cost effectiveness

Qualifications and Required Experiences

- At least MSc Degree in Administration / Sociology/ Economics/ Business/ Public Information or any related field, Business Administration/Economics, Public awareness, or related field of study
- Ten years experience of designing and conducting training programs, of which five in projects related to natural resource management

Duration: The ITS will be recruited for intermittent consultancy assignments totaling nine months over five years (2004-8) (3/2/1/1/2).

2- INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS SPECIALIST/ EXPERT (International)

Under the overall supervision of the PCU Director, and in collaboration with the national and international project staff, the IPAC Expert is required to:

- (i) Work with the NWRA/SB to identify, select, recruit and train the members of the IPAC team and then initiate and supervise the IPAC program, acting on a part-time basis either as an IPAC adviser or as an IPAC team director;
- (ii) Supervise, monitor and evaluate the work of the IPAC team, the effectiveness of the IPAC messages and methods, and the IPAC results;
- (iii) With NWRA/SB, revise IPAC messages and methods as warranted, and adapt IPAC processes accordingly, from cycle to cycle;
- (iv) Provide inputs to TS-SBC monitoring, reporting and decision-making related to the IPAC program.
- (v) Review and discuss with the relevant staff the strengths and a weakness of planned public awareness program, and suggest a strategy to make this program more effective, including prioritization of various actions.
- (vi) Help develop a comprehensive program of TV and Radio messages, which should be disseminated during 2004-2008 under SBWMP. In this context, the expert should help describe the contents of the messages, pre-test these messages with the target audience, and ensure complete production of these messages with the help of existing public/private production institutions.
- (vii) Propose a strategy to disseminate TV and Radio messages. The expert should elaborate on the mechanisms and institutional arrangement, which must be made to secure smooth implementation of the program.
- (viii) Help the national IPAC team to organize and implement in major rural villages and towns, in collaboration with the respective NWRA Sana'a Branch, MAI /GDI and Northern FU of GSCP a series of community meetings to discuss possible water management solutions and water related events and competitions (workshops, meetings, and seminars)
- (ix) Recommend a series of actions to strengthen the public awareness department, including the steps, which should be followed by this department to assume increasing responsibilities over the project years- perhaps without the help of external assistance.
- (x) The expert should provide assistance in setting-up the production unit with necessary equipment facilities to ensure in-house production of public awareness messages, and materials (posters, leaflets and calendars) and Billboards (with water conservation messages) at prominent locations. Moreover, the expert should provide assistance to the project in preparing technical specifications of the communication equipment; installation and testing of equipment procured by the project; and training of staff in utilizing the equipment.
- (xi) Provide an extensive on-the-job training to the staff of the Public Awareness Campaign in order to enable them to perform their functions independently or under minimum supervision; and propose a training program for key staff of the campaign in the form of short-term study tours to learn from experiences of other countries.
- (xii) The expert should provide assistance to NWRA in the production of films on water management issues and prepare TOR for their production, dissemination and publicity.
- (xiii) Design a procedure for evaluation of awareness campaign impact.
- (xiv) Provide inputs to PCU monitoring, reporting and decision-making related to (IPAC).

Details of campaign design are available in the project and will be sent by e-mail to the interested specialists.

Qualifications and Required Experiences

At least MSc Degree in media, sociology or related discipline with 15 years of which at least seven in a job involving design and execution monitoring and evaluation of a mass media or public awareness campaign. Previous experience in a project influencing behavior in natural resource management an advantage.

Duration: A contract of up to eighteen months over four years. Six months of services would be required in Year One, and about four months annually for the next three years. (2004-8) (6/4/4/4)

3- MONITORING & EVALUATION SPECIALIST (International/Regional)

The internationally recruited specialist will work with the national M+E specialist in the TS-SBC and will report to the Director of the Project Coordination Unit. The primary function of the specialist will be to provide methodological guidance and management support to the national M+E specialist in setting up and managing the M+E function in the project. In particular, the M&O specialist will help the national M+E specialist in the TS-SBC to:

- (a) Plan, organize and operate the project's M&E system and design, run, report on, and draw useful lessons and recommendations for project monitoring from a Monitoring and Evaluation System based on the project description and performance parameters and Targets Provided in the PAD and PIM
- (b) Design and install a suitable M&E system and upgrade skills in the design of indicators and reporting systems, socio-economic data collection, data analysis design a management information system (MIS) for the project and train the counterparts for the operationalization of this system and to integrate relevant project procedures into regular administrative activities and operations.
- (c) Design organize, direct, supervise and review M&E field works and investigations including participatory socioeconomic and financial baseline and subsequent impact surveys, special water resource monitoring programs and investigations, regular performance monitoring and spot checks, consultations with key partners and beneficiaries through individual and group interviews and meetings, etc.;
- (d) Analyze regularly the results from the M&E system, reporting major findings to the project management and formulate options and recommendations for improvements
- (e) prepare and Submit M&E reports to the Project Management, Financing Agency and line Ministries and participate in the preparation of the progress reports at the prescribed reporting intervals.
- (f) Monitor and perform evaluation of the cost-sharing arrangements adopted under different project components.
- (g) Monitor all the financial aspects relating to disbursement from the credit, replenishment of special account and liaise with IDA in this regard.
- (h) Advise his counterpart in regard to the data needed for the preparation of the Mid-term review.
- (i) Review the progress reports received from the related implementation institutions/ units, and report to the management of any deviations from the annual work plan.
- (j) Make frequent visits to the related implementation institutions/ units and Project areas to monitor the progress achieved and the constraints which may retard the pace of implementation and report to the project management with suggestions to overcome the short comings.
- (l) Provide on-the-Job training to national counterpart staff in the PCU.
- (m) Draw lessons from the project and formulate recommendations for improving the design and implementation modalities of the next project.

Qualifications and Required Experiences

The M & E Specialist shall have at least a MSc Degree in Agricultural Economist/ Economist or statistician with 10 years experience of which at least 5-10 years shall be in the field of M & E of Irrigation/agricultural/ rural development projects, which are externally financed. The M & E Specialist shall have managerial experiences, which enable him to advise and help the project management.

Duration: The M&E Specialist will be recruited for intermittent consultancy assignments totaling fifteen months over five years (2004-8) (4/2/3/2/4).

4- SOCIOLOGIST/ SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST (International/Regional)

The SSDS will work with the national social development/WUA specialist in the TS-SBC and will report to the manager of the TS-SBC. The primary function of the SSDS will be to provide methodological guidance and management support to the national social development/WUA specialist in overseeing the social mobilization function in the project. In particular the SSDS will help the national social development/WUA specialist in the TS-SBC to:

1. In collaboration with the national Sociologist and SMTs, conduct social assessment studies to assess the attitudes of the farmers towards implementation of Demand Management Component and Supply Management Component, and their impact on the traditional water rights to the beneficiaries located downstream of such structures in accordance with Article 27 to 45 of the Water Law and give his recommendation.
2. Conduct social assessment studies to assess the attitudes of the farmers and make recommendation for achieving stakeholders participation of farmers especially in the WUAs for management and conservation of groundwater and to encourage them not to expand the irrigation areas and not to increase cropping intensities in lieu of the subsidies on the modern irrigation systems to be provided to them.
3. Design the overall community participatory approach for the management and conservation of water
4. Review and assess the institutional structure at the community level (Stakeholders, Community relations with other local institutions, Water transfers and markets etc.).
5. Train National Consultant and Counterpart staff assigned to the PCU.
6. Coordinate the various involved implementation partners and processes involved in the social mobilization aspects of the project
7. Oversee and guide the process of identification, interview, selection, recruitment and assembly of the SMTs, and of their subsequent training.
8. Review and refine the methodological approach to social mobilization, test it, and reflect results in a continuous process of improvement of the approach
9. Oversee the process of assessment and selection of participating communities through definition and application of criteria related to socioeconomic characteristics, social and organizational readiness, and willingness of communities and water user organizations to assume both benefits and responsibilities relating to project interventions;
10. Overview the social mobilization, training and extension support processes, including coordination of inputs by the various partners (SMTs and consultants, and community groups and individuals), review and supervision

of the preparation and execution of work plans, and definition of process adjustments from cycle to cycle in response to encountered constraints and difficulties;

11. Oversee in particular the social and organizational development of the WUAs for village wellfields management and dam and recharge systems operations and maintenance, including legal and organizational establishment, setup of financial and administrative procedures, and corresponding management training;
12. Contribute to definition and execution of community social, economic and institutional baseline, monitoring and evaluation exercises, assess from these the level of satisfaction of water users, WUGs and WUAs with project-supported interventions and of the corresponding social benefits, and propose actions to be taken for needed improvements;
13. Mediate in and/or address as needed social difficulties that may arise as a result of project interventions, such as conflicts within and between WUGs and WUAs, between participating and non-participating WUGs and WUAs, between government agencies and local communities, etc.
14. Provide social and organizational development inputs to TS-SBC monitoring, reporting and decision-making related to Components 1 and 2.

Qualifications and Requirements

The Sociologist shall have at least MSc degree in Sociology or economics with specialization in Sociology with extensive experience of not less than 15 years in Socio-economic surveys, social and institutional assessment related to water / agriculture and irrigation projects. The Sociologist shall have experience in poverty assessment of land tenure and land use, water rights, participatory water management, stockholders assessment, formation of Water Users Groups and Associations etc.

Duration: The SSDS will be recruited for intermittent consultancy assignments totaling nine months over five years (2004-8) (3/2/1/1/2)

5- WATER ENGINEER PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (International/Regional)

Under the overall supervision of the Project Coordination Unit Director, and in collaboration with the national and international project staff, the experienced Water Engineer Project Mgt Specialist (WEPMS) is required to perform the tasks listed below. The WEPMS's main duties will be to provide assistance in the following:-

- (a) To assist with the coordination of all project activities and liaison with other organizations and Ministries, and to help coordinate, liaise with, guide and supervise the line agencies particularly in respect of operational procedures that they should follow for procurement, financial management, monitoring and reporting;
- (b) The Engineer shall provide overall direction to the project's technical interventions, and help ensure the overall technical quality of project-supported physical intervention investments, through guidance and review of designs and specifications for works and equipment, particularly with a view to their compatibility with local demands and needs, and through participation in and overview of implementation contracts preparation, evaluation and administration. The WEPMS will provide guidance for the investigations, detailed selection of sites for Dams, Spate, Bank Protection and Water Harvesting Works, designs, specifications, preparation of tender documents, bidding and bid analysis, and procurement procedures. The Engineer shall carry out supervision tours of the various project sites and areas to check the general progress of works and provide technical back up. The Engineer shall assist in preparation of semi-annual and annual progress report giving details of implementation progress highlighting bottlenecks in implementation, in addition to giving summaries of stocks of materials purchased under the project and works implemented.
- (c) The WEPMS will help program, budget and oversee the implementation of project operations, and particularly of procurement of major works and services, contracting implementation partners for major tasks, principal monitoring and evaluation tasks, and TS-SBC and project financial management, record keeping and general administration. The WEPMS will assist PCU in the management of contracts and works and provide technical back up to the national teams. The Engineer shall also assist PCU in the general supervision of activities of consultants, contractors, departmental works and the Field Unit.
- (d) Providing on-the-Job training to National Counterpart staff assigned to the PCU.
- (e) Check and verify annual estimates made by the related implementation institutions and departments and Field Unit for quantities of materials required for the annual implementation program.
- (f) The Engineer shall assist PCU in reviewing all major project and consultancy reports, through delegation to and reporting from staff as needed, and in preparing the mid-term implementation assessment report for mid-term review of the project for submission to Government and IDA.
- (e) The Engineer shall assist PCU in setting up a M&E unit for the project.

Qualifications and Required Experiences

The Water Engineer Project Mgt Specialist Advisor shall be a Civil/ Irrigation Engineer with a minimum of 10 years of experience in planning design, implementation, and operation and maintenance of irrigation projects in arid and semi-arid regions. He shall have administrative and managerial experience to enable him to assist the Project Management in the implementation of all project works. He shall have had experience with the design and implementation of buried conduits for the conveyance and distribution of irrigation water, in addition to spate improvement and water harvesting works.

Duration: The WEPMS will be recruited for intermittent consultancy assignments totaling twelve months over five years (2004-8). (3/2/2/2/3)

Competencies Required: - incumbents should have:

- Ability to produce quality outputs in a timely manner
- Ability to work under heavy pressure
- Excellent organizational skills and sound judgment
- Ability to communicate with different levels of targeted populations and Professionals
- Good knowledge of English language and knowledge of Arabic is an advantage.
- Computer Use: Windows, MS Office and related programs

Duty Station: Sana'a Basin area and in-country travel if necessary. Applications accompanied by CVs and supporting documents shall be delivered to the project address as follow (SBWMP- P.O.BOX11014) Rabat Street, Sana'a ROY Tel (00967-1-469159 / 7/ 6) Fax (00967-1-469158) E-mail (SBWMP@y.net.ye)

Latest Date is (May 23rd, 2004)

Job Vacancy

Yemen Soft is the software industry leader in Yemen. As part of our expansion plan, we are seeking to hire full-time calibers to occupy the following vacancies in Sana'a:

Sales Representative (Job Code: POS-SR-004)

Candidates may be males or females. They should satisfy the following criteria:

- A suitable degree (preferred in Accounting or IT field)
- Good communication skills
- Professional, committed, and able to take up challenging assignments.
- Perfect command of English and Arabic is preferred
- Minimum experience of 1 to 3 years relevant experience

Only qualifying candidate may apply in person to our office located in Hadda St. above Al Kuraimi Exchange Co. Tel: 503866.

Compensation packages will be defined according to qualifications and experience. Final date for accepting CVs is 19/5/2004.

وظيفة شاغرة

شركة يمن سوفت شركة رائدة في مجال تقنية المعلومات. كجزء من سياستها التوسعية ترغب في توظيف أشخاص لشغل الوظيفة التالية:

مندوب مبيعات (رمز الوظيفة: POS-SR-004).

على أن تتوفر في المتقدمين (ذكور أو إناث) الشروط التالية:

1. شهادة جامعة مناسبة (يفضل في مجال المحاسبة أو الكمبيوتر).
2. مهارات اتصال جيدة.
3. الالتزام، والمثابرة والقدرة على العمل تحت الضغوط.
4. يفضل من يجيد اللغة الانجليزية.
5. خبرة لا تقل عن سنة إلى ثلاث سنوات في نفس المجال.

فعلى من يجد في نفسه الرغبة تقديم السيرة الذاتية شخصياً إلى مقر الشركة الكائن في شارع حدة، أعلى شركة الكريمي للصرافة، ت. 503866. الراتب والعلاوات سيتم تحديدها بناء على المؤهلات والخبرة. آخر موعد لتقديم الطلبات يوم 19/5/2004.

Ship spills contribute to pollution Yemen's marine life needs better protection

By Ismail Al-Ghabri
Yemen Times Staff

There are many existential threats, which could be linked or attributed to polluting the marine environment. Such threats are directly associated with the use of ships for transport.

All kinds of ships, whether they are used for the transport of consumer goods, tourists, oil, etc. or are used for marine hunting constitute constant dangers to the marine environment simply in the event of a sudden collision or the inevitably sinking of a ship.

The loaded materials such as oil or other substances or the ships' fuels would subsequently be spilled directly into the water.

Furthermore, considerable amounts of harmful solid and liquid substances and spoiled and expired goods are frequently dumped into the

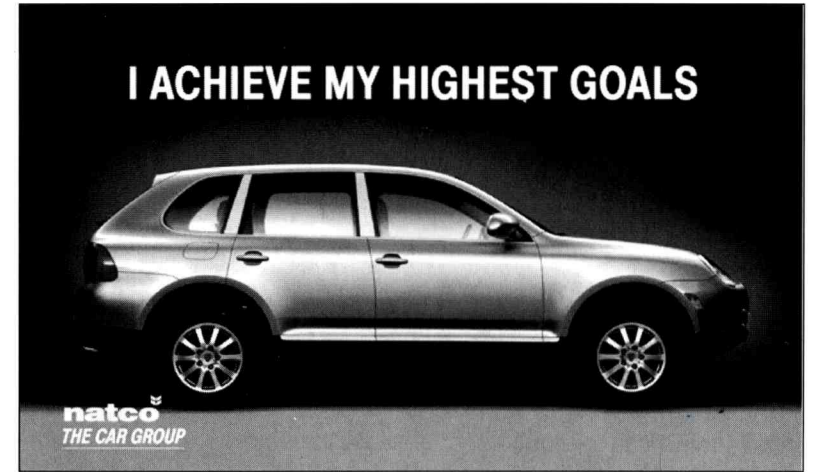
seas and oceans, legally or illegally.

Sometimes the waste of nuclear fuel is buried inside the seas and oceans, which is considered a time-bomb to the marine environment in case of leakage.

In addition, the increase of marine commercial activities lead to the transformation of critically vital coastal areas into tourists attractions, in order to lure more tourists without taking into consideration binding obligations to protect and preserve the equilibrium of nature.

Consequently the marine environment is threatened more.

The primary sources of pollution in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden do



I ACHIEVE MY HIGHEST GOALS

nateo
THE CAR GROUP

not come from the inland, but rather from ships, the exploration of oil and the transport of it, since these vital activities are the sources of economic revenues to the countries of the region.

In order to ease and to reduce the extent of pollution and threats of these operations, the demand on skillful special emergency rescue teams on oil spots, for example, has increased.

The countries on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden announced the formation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Authority in 1995. A regional agreement was ratified by Arab countries located on the Red Sea in 1992, but

the stipulated activities have begun only in recent years.

Serious discussions have been taking place to find correct methods to organize the marine navigation to reduce the risks to the marine environment.

In order to guarantee a safe marine environment, all the related authorities must work according to their specialties in all aspects.

And to work with each other in order to ensure the prevention of illegal practices and to impose the dominance of laws toward a safe marine environment free from any kind of pollution.





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EAST AND WEST

By JAMIL ABDUL KARIM
jamil@yementimes.com



When it's not "His will" ...

Why blame God?

It's Yemen's most worn-out, useless and, I'd say, harmful phrase that's no-doubt been used thousands of times across the country just today. Yes, it's, as you know, "insha'allah," or "God-willing."

I have nothing against deferring things in life that are out of our hands to the Almighty. In a sense, none of us really knows if we're even going to be around tomorrow. But when "insha'allah" is casually plunked into our conversation as a lame excuse for our utter failure to be honest with ourselves and others, we're mocking our own intelligence. We're also bringing dishonour to the character of God.



Canadian Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese, shown training medical students at the University of Sana'a, is just one example of a Westerner trying to make a difference in Yemen. But how much help do they get from a culture entrenched in "insha'allah" thinking? (Photo courtesy of Dr. Jean Chamberlain Froese)

New infrastructures

And now, with the help of other Canadians, she is creating a new organization called Save the Mothers International, which will help further bring safe childbirth practices to needy countries. It will do so through new societal infrastructures, by training professionals in health care, government, law, media and education.

As Dr. Jean notes "The solution is not just more medical people in hospitals or clinics. It's a multi-disciplinary approach where everybody in society becomes involved in women's health."

Now consider this. This past century, the world's brightest minds help beat smallpox and, most polio. Space was explored. Genetic codes giving clues to life itself were cracked. And in the last 100 years ago, maternal death rates in the west, which were once about as bad as they are here, improved because people found a proven formula: giving women better access to proper care and resources.

None of this is insha'allah thinking. In fact, it's the antithesis, the exact opposite.

I personally believe the resource-rich west could help the developing world more. We need more Dr. Jeans, or insert the name of any other ex-pat in Yemen trying to improve lives here. Nonetheless, Yemenis need to change their own culture's ways. Because, how can westerners care

for people in far-off places, if their own nationals don't? Any attempts at bringing change will be fruitless. Yet, in my observation, nationals here easily talk the talk of their culture's wonderful equal rights, when in fact they neglect, abuse, violate and turn their backs on their women - often leaving them in lives of perpetual fear - then shrug their shoulders and say, "It's God's will."

Gender and soul
God actually has a thing or two to say about how much He loves both the Sons of Adam and the Daughters of Eve, and how he wants us to treat each other. So, I bet He feels rather offended when he gets blamed for things that could be different if people just bothered to be more honest about the deeper attitudes and world-views that are like cancers in their society.

It's been said a society's culture is a reflection of its soul. Seems to me, then, a few more people here need to figure out just what is the matter with Yemen's soul, especially as it relates to gender relations. Because Mother's Day, whatever day of the year it's celebrated, should be a little more pleasant for women around us. Right?

Jamil Abdul Karim
(jamil@yementimes.com) is an editor at the Yemen Times.

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Main headlines

- Fears from widening dispute between Parliament and the government
- Yemeni-British serious measures concerning Abu Hamza
- During the past year,
- More than 145 thousand tourists visited Yemen
- Demarcation of Yemeni-Saudi borders finished
- Bajammal leads Yemen delegation to the Arab summit
- Yemeni-Saudi disagreement because of malaria
- GPC severely assails the Islah; JMP offers an initiative for political reform
- Trial of the accused of terror postponed
- YSP central committee decides postponing the party's conference, acts positively with reforms initiative
- Committee on a national initiative for reform
- American embassy antennas atop houses roofs in the capital
- Increased demand for disclosing his destiny,
- Ubeid's kidnapping before Egyptian court on 11 May
- Shelling, plunder and storming acts in Taiz, arrests in Udein and Sana'a
- Information on Saudi resuming the erection of security fence
- Explosions in Saudi Arabia, drastic change in armed groups strategies
- American ambassador negotiates with weapons merchants to buy explosives and qualitative bombs
- Armed clash between two tribes in Moudia
- Prison sentences and sacking among interior ministry officials
- 55 security officials proved to have been involved in crimes
- Kofi Annan: 17 journalists killed during the last three months
- Government sources warn about growing phenomenon of smuggling children and girls to Saudi Arabia
- Human rights minister denies postponement of trying the accused of terror
- YSP calls for canceling the price dose, postpones its conference for three months
- Yemen won't hand over Zindani, America do not demand for him
- Yemen religious scholars ask the state to protect its citizens
- Observing the 14th national day,
- Folklore festivals in the capital secretariat on 22 May morning
- The president: Yemen and Saudi security indivisible
- Received by Abdulaziz Abdulghani and Dr. al-Iryani,
- Mahathir Mohammed: Israel a terrorist entity committing massacres against the Palestinians

Al-Shoura weekly,
organ of People's Forces
Union of Yemen, 5 May
2004.

leaders of Iraq at a time they practice the ugliest crimes the world has to condemn.

Al-Sahwa weekly, 6
May 2004.

Main headlines

- While the Islah has condemned terrorist acts in Syria and Saudi Arabia,
 - The ruling party launches media campaign against opposition
 - Yemen's Students Union confronts attempts of hindering its elections
 - Official preparation for amending press law
 - Taxation authority deputy: Sales tax would not affect basic commodities
 - Gags smuggle them to Saudi Arabia for beggary.
 - International committee gets acquainted with conditions of children and women
 - Three workers die in Hudeidah sewage
- Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in his article our government passes in crises of its making or is party or cause in them. Whenever it comes out of one it looks for another to distract attention from the duties it has failed to do and to bring about a justification for not executing its promises and provide a cover to corruption.

The question of new prices dose is not ripe yet because it has no justification; the parliament is against it as the people are harmed from the ones before it and the scandal of selling oil has not stopped corruption but rather we have heard fiery statements threatening and claiming that the parliament has no right to monitoring an follow-up.

Meanwhile we are surprised by a new campaign against the opposition, particularly against the Islah and YSP aiming at stripping them of patriotism and the direct cause that angered the government is the Islah condemnation of latest blasts in Riyadh. That condemnation changed into a media and political topic preoccupied attention of leaderships and officials, pinning on it Yemen's economic loss, retreat of tourism movement and abstention of the rich world from investing in Yemen.

The question is for how long would this fabrication of crises continue?

Al-Wahdawi weekly,
organ of the Nasserite
Unionist Organisation,
4 May 2004.

Main headlines

- In protection of a military influential person wanting to confiscate some citizens land,
- Collective displacement and migration from Raudhat al-Hoban area
- Official source in the Organisation calls for reply to occupation crimes
- Military companies attack a village and arrest citizens in Ibb
- Yemeni Institute for Democracy Development issues a statement on the ugly violations of rights and dignity of the Iraqi POWs

- Arrests at the Grand Mosque continue

The political editor of the Wahdawi newspaper says the governing council in Iraq, an imperialist, occupational and aggressive making, does not possess any constituents of rule or legitimate characteristics and even does not possess a fait accompli. Any entity that comes out of aggression and coercion is null and rejected and is confronted with the legitimacy of the resistance till it is defeated and removed. Because the Arab rulers have pulled out of their sovereign and fighting will and from their popular support, are no longer able to reject the American demand for dealing with the governing council as reality and as a legitimate authority because such an authority should be recognised by the people. The interpretation separating between legitimacy and reality to justify dealing with the emergent case of Iraq is a kind of surrender that drops from its calculations and explanations the intention of resistance and the right to fight and the will of liberation.

Thus the reality with which the Arab leaders are dealing with the emergency case of Iraq contributes to let down the will of the Iraqi people and justifies the American occupation that is practicing immoral and inhumane acts against the Iraqi prisoners and the Iraqi people.

Al-Balagh weekly, 4 May
2004.

Main headlines

- Eritrean satellite channel received in Mahweet but not our 1st TV. Channel
 - Warning against a chemical substance used in shops selling fruit juices
 - American and Britons killed in an armed attack in the Saudi city of Yanbou
 - While the supervisor of writing the Iraqi constitution is a Jew,
 - Eight Jews supervise eight ministries in Iraq
 - On the May Day, workers and employees of Amran cement factory stage labour strike and demonstrate in the city
 - Queen Arwa University holds its seventh cultural week
- Editor in chief of the newspaper says in his article the United States of America alleges it is fighting terrorism and that it is "peace advocate" and moreover claims that its occupation of Iraq was for spreading peace and ending a terrorist regime. The U.S. has actually managed to remove the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq but the question is has it managed to destroy terror or establish peace in Iraq?

Iraq has changed into a volcano crater destroying Americans and Iraqis. Some Iraqis were being killed by the former Iraqi regime and now they are killed at the hands of the American occupation forces. Here the resistance has emerged to fight the Americans but the great difference is that the Iraqis killed in the resistance are dying for the liberation of their country from occupation and in defence of their country and honour

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By Samer A.

while the American killed at the hands of resistance does not bear any cause nor defending anything but the arrogance of America.

The American policy has led to sow terror seeds in the entire world and instead of destroying terror it is helping for its spread.

Al-Wahda weekly, 5
May 2004.

Main headlines

- FM: Yemen's initiative regarding Iraq would be discussed by Arab foreign

- ministers
- Education minister: 120 million dollars, support from the World Bank to education and building a factory for production of school requirements
- Field studied to discuss the health situation in the country
- More than 10 thousand traffic accidents last year

Columnist Qadriyah al-Jifri says in an article the republic of Yemen is among a few countries that adopted the way of democracy as an approach and followed it and implemented its articles. It has therefore announced the political and organizational plurality, the freedom of opinion and counter-opinion through

publications of various political parties. The civil society has also got established as a support for the political as aspect of democracy. The parliament and local councils have also been formed as an inevitable result of democracy, in addition to other things came within democracy.

All those developments have prepared Yemen to be among the democratic countries and the world has therefore welcomed it and recognised that and the clearest testimony is the convening of the regional conference of democracy that included many countries and attended by many heads of state from the world over.

By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

Looking for humour amidst Yemeni arms (1-2)

During the past few weeks official, private and party media have been speaking about the spread of arms in Yemen and how such availability of weapons leads to tribal and family feuds culminating with sad homicides all over the country.

Within this context I would like to refer to some of the lamentable and at the same time inevitably humorous incidents. It is known that the culture of raiding is a deep-rooted tradition practiced in the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula prior and following the advent of Islam (It was a regular practice prior oil discoveries in the Arabian peninsula but now is limited to some areas of Yemen).

Two ill-fated Egyptian teachers were victims of such public armament and revenge tradition, which is sanctioned by the state due to its impractical stance towards this issue by considering popular armament as an honor and an indispensable tribal tradition which ought to be maintained and now many weapon amateurs justify it by saying look at Iraq if Iraqis were armed the American mission would not have been that easy.

Anyhow, the two unlucky Egyptians had to work in the nomadic areas bordering both desert provinces of Yemen "Marib" and "Al-Jawf". The Egyptian teacher working in Marib was raided by assailants from Al-Jawf who killed him in the process.

So when the news spread about what had happened to their teacher the tribes on the other side vowed to take revenge. People then thought that they would for sure kill one of the assailants but instead everybody was astounded to hear that they killed another Egyptian teacher working in the assailants' area (a tit for tat) so as to settle scores just as is the case with the ongoing revenge and counter revenge.

In reality, people in Yemen do carry arms because of the judiciaries' total corruption as well as the lax governmental attitudes towards the rights and the security of the general population. A soldier cannot be rewarded if he dares to solve a problem on his own initiative and the government cannot guar-

antee his safety even if he is doing his legitimate duty let alone his bias with the aggrieved against a wrongdoer.

I still remember when a soldier dared to stop a minister who violated the traffic rules. The minister called the policeman names, thinking that in his capacity as a minister the policeman shall be intimidated but because the policeman thought he was acting right and not knowing that the transgressor is a minister the traffic policeman roughed him up.

Later the minister was consoled by the then prime minister and his cabinet and the poor policeman received his dues for half a year in jail. Unfortunately, at present our police and army strength can only serve influential people and this is the reason why most Yemenis find it necessary to keep arms because they do not trust let alone respect the state and its organs. I shall give two examples just to prove how a soldier tends to shy away from taking sides with regard to any daily public security incidents.

Almost two years ago I was a witness to a horrible incident where a man was killed in front of the presidential office downtown Sana'a and the office guards hid themselves behind the gate (opposite Taj Sheba hotel). After the assailant fled the soldiers were asked by the bystanders why they did not interfere and they are many they answered simply because we do not want to get involved for if we are to interfere we shall have to bear the consequences.

We cannot act on our own authority out of fear that we shall inevitably subject ourselves to retaliation. Another time a soldier at Sana'a Airport prevented a Chieftain and his bodyguards from entering the departure lounge.

After some time the Chieftain came in with many of his armed men. He entered the lounge forcefully and wanted to get rid of the credulous soldier who thought he was defending law and order. Luckily the soldier's commander had already given him a leave for six months and made him leave immediately.

Another Chieftain repeated the same

mischief but was faced this time by a resolute sergeant. This military man was slapped and humiliated by the Chieftain and his henchmen. Luckily, the humiliated soldier either hailed from the same area of the late Mohammed Abdullah Saleh (President's Brother) or was known to him.

When the late Mohammed Abdullah Saleh tried to teach that Chieftain a lesson he was discouraged due to many interventions by influential people who interfered with the president, who unfortunately later ordered the withdrawal of the soldiers who were besieging the wrongdoer's den-castle. This uncalled for weakness on the part of the government had later given the same Chieftain a license to kill. One day while he was prancing with his punch of ignorant convoy of bodyguards (illiterate tribesmen).

He ordered his bodyguards to gun down a cabdriver under the pretext that the said cabdriver was impeding the procession of his convoy and seemed to have bad intentions towards his highness.

The Chieftain later was frightened to know that the cabdriver came from a tribal area, so he hurried to reconcile that tribe and paid them blood money (in Arabic Diyah) immediately as they wished as a price for the slain cabdriver after convincing them that it was not his fault and that the thing was a grave mistake while because the other victim i.e. the passenger hailed from Taiz province a Yemeni region where tribalism has faded away long ago and as the state is unconcerned to interfere on the side of any aggrieved simple Yemeni citizen as is the case in other civilized nations, god only knows whether that sheikh did pay an equal blood money or none at all.

There are many similar incidents committed by chieftains against prominent governmental figures and governors and have gone unpunished. Actually, if there is a genuine will to affirm the state's standing, it is so easy to do, but as the Egyptian joke says "The Director would like it to be this way"!!?

Net worm arrests could crack cyber ring: experts

LONDON, May 8 (Reuters) - The arrest in Germany of two men suspected of writing crippling computer worms may be the biggest break yet in taking down the most prolific virus-writing group ever, security experts said on Saturday.

Since January, a group of crafty programmers going by the name "Skynet anti-virus group" have been flooding the Internet with a host of debilitating contagions, some capable of hijacking unwitting Internet users' PCs with the aim of using them to send out spam e-mail or attack Web sites.

But on Friday, German police made two arrests that security officials hope could ultimately expose the murky underground of virus-writers and hackers and crack into one of the most rapidly growing areas of cybercrime. German police on Saturday announced the arrest of an 18-year-old programmer from the state of Lower Saxony who admitted to writing the super-

potent Sasser computer worm.

Also, police in the southern German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg said they had arrested a 21-year-old man who confessed to programming another damaging outbreak known first as "Agobot" and later as "Phatbot."

German police said they suspect the two men were not working together. But they added they are investigating five other possible accomplices who may have lent their programming expertise to the 21-year-old's crafting of "Phatbot."

Valuable clues?



An unidentified person stands in front of the home of the suspected 18-year-old creator of the "Sasser" computer worm in the northern village of Waffensen near Bremen May 8.

experts said.

In confiscating computers, police could go through chat logs, e-mails and hard drives looking for recent conversations or shared code with other hackers and virus writers.

"It really depends on what they find on those computers," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos Plc, a British security firm.

"And, these guys will have a rude awakening this weekend. One way to save their bacon may be to spill the beans on the virus-writing underground," he added.

Even if the men had no direct ties to each other or the Skynet group, their computers may hold valuable clues to how deep the organisation goes,

I DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO PLEASE ANYONE ELSE



Security experts have suspected the author of Sasser, which preys on PCs running the ubiquitous Microsoft Windows XP, 2000 and NT operating systems, has some ties to the Skynet group.

The Skynet group has claimed responsibility for authoring the 30 Netsky computer viruses that have emerged on the Internet since February.

And, the most recent Netsky virus — Netsky.AC — contained references to Sasser.

The digital links didn't end there. Earlier versions of Netsky were programmed to knock out university and academic Web sites in Switzerland, Florida and Nieders%chsicher Bildungsserver, the latter of which was located in the state of Lower Saxony.

Continued from front page

"Yemen's government must listen to the people"

Not anti-Semitic

Mahathir also said that now more people realize that his speech at the OIC summit last year was not anti-Semitic, but rather constructive and based on the call to think.

"Now I think people are beginning to realize that I was not being anti-Semitic in my speech. I think that the Jews made mistakes. They can be wrong, and we have the right to criticize them."

He also renewed his criticism of the way the US has been supporting Israel by saying, "the USA continues to support Israel irrespective of what they do, even when they assassinated Sheikh Yassin and Dr. Rantissi. In other words, the US is supporting assassinations, and that is extremely dangerous because it is against International law."

So, the US must rethink its support for Israel. When you support Israel irrespective of what it does and against the Palestinians even when they want peace, then you are not helping the peace process."

Economy, stability civil society
When asked about the priorities of the

Yemeni government, Dr. Mahathir focused on the economy, saying that the government should focus more on how to utilize its resources and develop its human resources. He added that stability is also a must for the government to advance.

"You also need security and stability for investments to flourish. Without a stable country and government, you cannot carry out economic development policies. This is also a major priority as stability is necessary for economic development," he said.

About civil society, Mahathir focused on the importance of dialogue with the government and exchange of ideas and views. "The civil society should assist in finding ways on how to develop the country," he stressed.

He also noted that being part of the civil society, media also has a responsibility in this respect.

"Free and responsible media that is self-regulated to ensure they carry their professional duties in society should have a major role to play in your country's development. Media should enjoy a lot of freedom, because basically you are

committed to assisting the government in development of your country. Of course you have to criticize negative phenomena, and that is important, but it should be done out of care for your country and its development," he mentioned.

Yemen's growth not enough

Mahathir also added that even though Yemen was progressing, yet it is behind all neighboring countries in The Gulf. "By comparison to other countries in the region, especially oil-rich countries, Yemen's development pace is somewhat behind. Yet I believe that Yemen has the same potential as the other Arab countries, and should make better progress," he said.

He also noted that his visit aims at promoting Yemen-Malaysia cooperation in trade, training and other aspects. He expressed his hope in that there will be greater cooperation in the future between the two countries following the visit.

"I am here together with several businessmen and investors to explore the opportunities of cooperation and expansion of relations between the two countries."

Oil deal angers MPs

On the other hand, Bajamal said that sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani will not be turned over to the US whatever the evidence it gives.

The US Treasury Department added the name of Zindani to the list of suspected supporters of terrorism some months ago. It also said that it would request the UN to do the same.

Bajamal said in an interview with the military weekly 26 September Thursday that his government will never extradite Zindani to the US, adding that al-Zindani himself expressed his willingness to appear before any Yemeni court. "Therefore, the request to turn over an important person like Zindani is rejected. I will protect him as a government; they would find the same reply from the ruling party or president Ali Abdullah Saleh," he said.

However, the US has never so far requested the extradition of Zindani. The US ambassador Edmund Hull said earlier that they have accurate information on the involvement of the man in supporting terrorism and the role of his university, al-Eman in promoting terrorism in Yemen. They, at the moment, are interested in working to stop the flow of money to al-Zindani and his university.

Al-Suswa: No idea about trial postponement

Concerning the human rights record in Yemen, she said that her ministry is doing its best to improve it, dismissing the argument that the ministry was meant for decoration only. She said that it is for the first time that her ministry is now preparing an annual report on the situation of human rights in Yemen in collaboration with relative ministries and NGOs. Al-Suswa pointed out that her ministry is dealing seriously with human rights abuses just like the response to the human rights abuses perpetrated by some security men; she said they were prosecuted and indicted. Another important thing is that a new department at the ministry has been set up to receive complaints of citizens, whose rights have been abused, following up these complaints with the relative authorities.

The minister revealed some of the shocking facts about the trafficking of children to Saudi Arabia by some brokers. She confirmed the news that the police some time ago thwarted the trafficking of around 40 children at the border, pointing out that the "most important reason for this social problem is poverty." What is striking is the fact that parents push their kids with brokers to go to Saudi Arabia for begging. She said that investigations have found that some of the children were sexually abused by their brokers.

Al-Suswa said that she is working with the ministries of Justice and Legal affairs to harden the punishment against the perpetrators of such a crime which is not clearly defined in the Yemeni law at the moment.

On their part, the YJS demanded the abolishing of the imprisonment sentence against journalists as it does not fall in line with any democratic society or free media. The YJS expressed worry over the intention of the minister of justice to conduct amendments to the Press and Publication Law, demanding in a press statement that it should not be excluded from this potential amendment. The YJS called the government to end its monopoly over the ownership of electronic media. It expressed worry over the abuses and attacks the journalists have been going through in Yemen and the Arab world.

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Presentations at the competition.



Some participants at the two-day competition.

The 2nd ICPO of Turkmenistan took place in its capital Ashgabat between the 24th and 29th of April, with a major participation of 46 projects from 29 countries. The event was organised by the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan. The Robot Arm Project of Turkish International Schools students Nour Ali Shaban and Marwan Sami Zaid under the supervision of their computer Teacher Mr. Necip Celepci was selected by the Ministry of Education to represent Yemen in the international competitions.

The project involved the construction of a robot arm and the development of software controlling the robot with a computer. Engines and other pieces of old printers were used to build the robot arm and electronic equipment was collected from local shops to build the circuits connecting the robot to the computer. With the help of Engineer Dr. Alaadin Ekrekli from Seren Furniture Company in the metal construction, a 100% local robot arm was built by the students and teachers of the Turkish International Schools. The Robot arm has three step engines allowing it to turn and lift small objects through controls on a computer screen.

The event began with a ceremony at the International Turkmen-Turkish University with the presence of the Minister of Education of Turkmenistan and other senior officials. In his opening speech the Minister emphasized that the 21st century is going to be an era of sci-

ence and expressed his happiness for hosting 29 countries in such an important event. Later a letter from Saparmurat Turkmenbashi, President of Turkmenistan, addressing the ICPO was read. A live concert by a local orchestra and the introduction of the participating teams under their national flags was a memorable scene for all.

During the competitions students were required to give a presentation explaining the aim, use, software, hardware and development of their project. The jury, which consisted of all participant supervising teachers, scored the projects according to practicality, difficulty, originality, feasibility and presentation.

After two days of presentations by the competitors and a vigorous programme including festivities and cultural and entertaining trips to museums and other sights of Ashgabat, the Olympiads came to an end with the results being announced at a ceremony where several projects were awarded with gold, silver and bronze medals.

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المسائية	٤ - ٥:١٥	٥:٣٠ - ٦:٤٥	٧ - ٨:١٥

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