

Journalist challenges death threats

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Editor-in-Chief of the opposition weekly Al-Shura has received death threats for publishing reports and articles criticizing the political succession in Yemen.

Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani told Yemen Times that he will continue publishing such reports despite the threats. "We will continue our fight against corrupt crooks at the power center who are annoyed by the reports that have touched their interests," he said. He

emphasized that they have consulted lawyers regarding whether he has broken the law in publishing such stories; and that they were told that they had done nothing illegal.

Al-Khaiwani informed the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) on May 7 that he had received threats that he would be killed and that his children would be kidnapped. Al-Khaiwani said he was summoned by the National Security Organization in a gentle way. However, he said he could understand that in publishing such reports he "crossed the red lines, mainly in publishing things related to the President."



Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani

"I understood that a journalist can face death in any way either through a hit by mad man (concerned about his country) or by a speedy car," he said. He also said that he had received the death threats after publishing the first report criticizing the succession. "The calls came from anonymous people and private numbers; they insulted and badmouthed me with different bad titles. I thought that the people targeted by the reports wanted to drain off their anger. But the pressure was intensified by the request from a National Security Organization officer that I should appear before them." He said he holds the Yemeni

authorities accountable for his and his family's safety.

The YYS demanded in a letter to the Minister of the Interior, Prime Minister and other human rights and press freedom NGOs that the people behind the threats should be held accountable. "We hold you responsible for anything bad that happens to the journalist," it said.

Another journalist named Abed al-Mahthari, Editor of al-Diyar newspaper published in Sa'ada, received the same threats. The YYS took the same step, asking the Minister of the Interior to bring them to justice. The Editor accused some sheikhs in the area of threatening

him for publishing reports criticizing the situation in the governorate.

Al-Shura, mouthpiece of the Popular Forces Federation Party, has been publishing articles and reports critical of the government and the political regime, exposing common problems regarding the succession of military and government positions by the sons and relatives of the principal decision-makers. The paper published some of the names of the sons and relatives of the high ranking officials who have been put in important positions for nothing but nepotism, whilst other qualified people are jobless.

Yemeni parliament demands that human rights organizations visit Iraqi prisons

Monday, 10 May 2004- The Yemeni Parliament issued a statement regarding the development of the situation in Iraq and the suffering of Iraqis, especially regarding the situation of Iraqis in US custody, which reflects, according to the statement, inhumane and brutal treatment and the unethical values of US commanders in Iraq.

The statement indicated that the misbehavior of US troops removed the mask from the ugly face of the US occupation forces.

The Yemeni parliament confirmed the importance of halting this aggressive policy and of bringing those involved in committing heinous crimes to justice. It called on international human rights

Qaeda leader beheads US civilian in Iraq



A frame grab taken from website video footage May 11, shows a man, who identified himself as Nick Berg of Philadelphia (C) seated in front of his five masked captors moments before he was executed. REUTERS

DUBAI, May 11 (Reuters) - Al Qaeda's leader in Iraq beheaded an American civilian and vowed more killings in revenge for the "Satanic degradation" of Iraqi prisoners, an Islamist Web site said on Tuesday.

A poor quality videotape on the site showed a man dressed in orange overalls sitting bound on a white plastic chair in a bare room, then knelt on the floor with five masked men behind him.

"My name is Nick Berg, my father's name is Michael... I have a brother and sister, David and Sarah," said the bound man, adding he was from Philadelphia.

One of the masked men read a statement urging Muslims to seek revenge

after pictures were published of Iraqi prisoners being abused by U.S. troops at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad.

"Nation of Islam, is there any excuse left to sit idly by? And how can free Muslims sleep soundly as they see Islam being slaughtered, honour bleeding, photographs of shame and reports of Satanic degradation of the people of Islam, men and women, in Abu Ghraib prison?" the statement said.

organizations to visit the prisons in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo in order to examine closely the conditions of prisoners, which violate basic human rights.

The statement called on the Arab countries who have previously signed bilateral agreements with the US not to render the US soldiers to the International Criminal Court to cancel those agreements. The parliament called

for ending the US occupation of Iraq and to introduce an international peacekeeping force under the supervision of UN in order to assist the Iraqi people in determining their destiny freely.

The statement stated that US and British practices violated human rights and cancel totally their claims to be the defenders of freedoms and human rights.

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US embassy journalists workshop winds up

Mohammed al-Qadhi
Yemen Times Staff

Organized by the US Embassy in Sana'a, the 6-day training workshop for Yemeni journalists concluded on 11th May. The event was attended by over 30 journalists, including some females representing government-run, party and independent newspapers. During the 6 days, Prof. Sherry Ricchiardi of Indiana University School of Journalism and a senior writer for American Journalism Review magazine gave lectures on different topics including news writing, investigative reporting, media ethics, writing headlines...etc. Dr. Sherry was very lovely in her interaction with the journalists who were very happy with that and were very much responsive. The course was a kind of practical study.

The event was inaugurated by H.E. the US Ambassador Edmund Hull, who emphasized their concern with the

development of an objective and professional media in Yemen. He said his country would continue supporting the media, which is a very important part of a democracy.

Journalists were given some translated materials on how to improve their journalistic skills.

Dr. Sherry is to fly to Aden to do a similar workshop for journalists there. Another American expert will arrive in Yemen by the end of this month to run a photojournalism workshop for cameramen in Yemen.

What was very clear is the enthusiasm of journalists to attend such workshops which expose the US media experience, despite the thwarted attempts of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to impose an embargo on the activities of the US embassy. "This is very silly. Why should they do that and when are in need of knowledge. The workshop was wonderful and fruitful and we need more," one of the participants commented.

Yemenis in Exile Appeal to UNHCR

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of Yemeni citizens in exile since the 1994 civil war appealed to the UNHCR office in Cairo to re-settle them in non-Arab countries as they no longer feel safe after the disappearance of Ahmad Salem Obaid, a reliable source told Yemen Times.

The source said that around 120 citizens in exile wrote to the UNHCR, stating that they want to go to any European country, as they feel afraid after the sudden disappearance of their friend Obaid. They pointed out that Arab countries cannot even protect the rights of their citizens and are not in a position to protect politicians in exile and their families.

The source confirmed that exiled people in Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia are concerned over the future of their families and that the UNHCR promised to study their case and

respond to them.

Besides, the criminal court of Cairo accepted the case file by some human rights NGOs in Egypt concerning Obaid, who disappeared from Cairo two months ago. The first hearing was scheduled for May 11. The Socialist Party holds the Yemeni authorities responsible for his life. A leading opposition member showed surprise at why "the authorities are concerned with the arrest of Abdulsalam al-Hilah in Afghanistan and never did anything to address the Obaid problem."

Obaid held different positions in the South Yemen prior to unification, including Minister of Information and Defense, and after the unification he was a military advisor to the President until the civil war. After that he left for exile in Egypt.

Declaration of the Association of Economic Media Journalists

Twenty one journalists announced in Sana'a last week the formation of the Association of Economic Media Journalists. The Association aims at providing specialized media in the field of economics.

The presidium board was elected with Mr. Hamoud Al-Bukhaiti as President, Mr. Faisal Adam as Secretary-General, Mr. Mansour Al-Ghadrah as Social and Economic Official, Mr. Mustafa Naser as

Governor of Abyan referred the 2nd book of corruption to COCA

Eng. Fareed Majwer, Governor of Abyan, referred a book, prepared by a group calling itself, "Supporters of President Saleh in fighting corruption", to the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA).

In a statement to Yemen Times, Mr. Salem Shumailah, said that the book detailed the corruption cases taking place at the Division of Plantations Protection, affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture in the governorate, where the entrusted officials are embezzling public funds and are using expired fertilizers harmful to plants and soil. He hoped that the book would not receive the treatment of the first book on corruption, which until now has not been fully reviewed.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think that the recent beheading of the American civilian in Iraq can be justified?

- No, it can never be justified
- It may be justified only once as a warning to deter the US from committing further crimes
- Yes, it is always justified as long as there is US occupation

last edition's question:

Do you think that Rumsfeld will eventually resign or be sacked?

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| No, he will never | 73% |
| Yes, he will resign | 17% |
| Yes, he will be sacked | 10% |

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

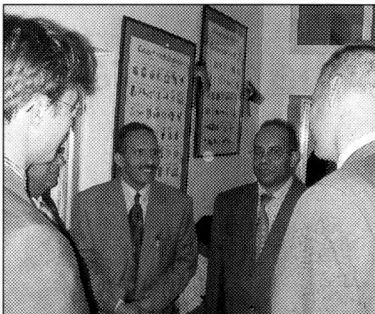
Inauguration of Library at the German House

Celebrations took place at the German House for Cultural Cooperation in Sana'a on the occasion of the inauguration of the library at Goethe Institute.

H.E. Mr. Frank Marcos, the German Ambassador to Sana'a, said in his speech at the opening ceremony that the institute comes within the framework of expanding cultural activities in the Middle East and Arab region. The

opening also coincides with several local cultural activities being held in celebration of Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004. The German Foreign Ministry presented these activities through the institute in order to deepen dialogue and offer more information about the German culture.

Mr. Johanz Arbert, Director of the Goethe Institute in Cairo, confirmed that the institute facilitates dialogue



when the world becomes more and more complicated. He indicated that the library has books translated into Arabic as well as internet facilities.

Mr. Jeed Witbitch, Director of the German House in Sana'a, confirmed that the house provides services to students and researchers through lectures, films and German language lessons, and that the library has many valuable books about German culture.



Professional thieves using anesthetic before robbing victims

TAIZ BUREAU

A gang of professional thieves and conmen continue to thrive in Taiz city because of the fertile susceptibility of many citizens to the various schemes of the gang. Amongst others, they lure the victim into having a drink with an anesthetic drug in it.

The gang carefully selects its potential clients who either come out from a bank, an exchange office

or a jewelry store. A member of the gang would claim to be an old acquaintance of the victim or to a member of his family, depending on the situation, before luring the victim to join him for a drink with anesthetic in it.

Incidents have taken place in Taiz, in which victims would wake up with only an empty pocket or with the just the receipt for jewelry he had earlier purchased.

Yemen hosts regional conference on Islam and terrorism

An official source announced last Sunday that Yemen would host a regional conference on Islam and terrorism in the middle of next July. This is a postponement of the original date announced, due to security measures.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Islamic Endowment and Guidance, Mr. Yahya Al-Najar previously stated on May 9, 2004, that the conference would be held in the middle of June 2004. He also said that a big number of Arab and Muslim intellectuals would participate in the conference with working papers, headed by Sheikh Mohamed Tantanwe, Sheikh of Al-Azhur.

The participants in the conference will discuss 14 points during the four days of the conference. Mr. Al-Najar, pointed out that the subjects would

include dialogue in confronting terrorism, the definition of Jihad in Islam and its stance toward terrorism, the mosque and its status and message throughout history, the position of scientists and their role in the society, the horizons of renewing Islamic thought, the role of Islamic corporations in guiding the community and in the progress of economic development, the principle of dialogue in Islam and the solutions to contemporary issues facing the Arab and Muslim worlds.

He added that the conference aims at crystallizing an Islamic vision towards the issues of terrorism with guaranteed mechanisms to confront them clearly, in addition to forming a unified message for the Muslim community through the Islamic corporations to reach a point to

determine the religious rhetoric whilst avoiding creating differences in the community.

Mr. Al-Najar emphasized and welcomed the possibility of surrounding extremist ideas, which have no connection to Islam, through the Islamic education of youths and fortifying them against the ideas of globalization, which aim at wiping out the identity of Arabs and Muslims.

The Golden Oasis

In today's furious and highly competitive world of business and socializing, there is an "Oasis" amidst the chaos where one can savor at leisure the very best in cuisine and service. Sana'a's famed fine dining restaurant at The Taj Sheba Hotel, The Golden Oasis, has steadily evolved in concept over the years and in its new form promises to make any evening memorable. It offers you a vast variety of cuisine coupled with impeccable service designed to delight any culinarian. A delectable fare is in the offering fine tuned and prepared to perfection by the finest chefs. The only fine dining restaurant in the city that has live entertainment, making it the perfect venue for power entertainments - business or social. Go ahead and indulge yourself !!! Call 272372 extn 157/ 138 for reservations.

WFRT organizes a training course for journalists

It is expected that the Women Forum for Researches and Training, in cooperation with the Canadian Development Program, will organize a new training course for workers in the various media organizations in the field of developing their skills in exploring opinion polls in the field of human rights. It will take place from 15-16 May 2004 at Haddah Ramadah Hotel.

WFRT, in cooperation with the Danish Embassy in Riyadh, will organize another course in the field of

the development of the journalists' skills in documenting and monitoring human rights issues, to be held during 19-20 of the same month at the same place.

In addition to these fora, WFRT issued this month two books in the series, "Human Rights Studies", under the title, "Ten obstacles of human rights in Islam", by the Mohamed Saif Al-Odine and "Woman and Crime", by Dr. Najeeb Ali Saif Al-Jameel, Assistant Professor in Criminal Law, Aden University.

A citizen accuses the department of Criminal Investigation of kidnapping his wife

The citizen, Ismail Ali Abdullah Mukarum, has accused the Department of Criminal Investigation in Sana'a Secretariat of kidnapping his wife from inside his house, aiming to pressure him to sign blank papers and financial account documents already prepared in favor of his adversary.

He said, in a petition sent to the General Prosecution and General Judicial Inspector, and seen by Yemen Times, that his opponent has bribed members of the Criminal Investigation in return for a plan to humiliate him. He

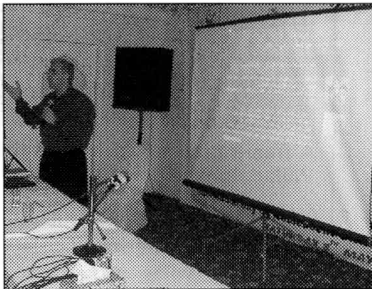
claimed that after they have failed to get their objectives through beating and mental and physical abuse, they kidnapped his wife illegally without any warrant from the prosecution.

The citizen explained in his petition that the law determines legal procedures for settling issues, but not through kidnapping. He concluded his petition by calling on the judicial inspection authority to intervene and to form a field commission of inquiry, and for the immediate release of his wife and payment of fair compensation for his ordeal.

Teenage Girls Press Conference

Saturday, 8 May 2004- UNFPA in cooperation with the Women's National Committee and the Women's Forum for Research and Training and the UN Information Center organized on 8th May a press conference at Taj Sheba Hotel about the teenage girl, "The reality and horizons".

During the conference, several excerpts from regional and national reports on population were identified and reviewed. In addition, several related speeches were delivered and the report about Arab girl teenagers was reviewed before a "Rainbow" tape consisting of testimonies of boys and girls teenagers in Lebanon. A film was also shown about girls' issues and health productivity as well as review-



ing the issue of early marriage in Yemen.

The conference consisted also of discussion rings about the issue of female teenagers, participated in by a number of young teenagers of both genders.

Trying to deal with surging population

A training session regarding the population problem, health productivity, family planning and the stance of Islamic legislations toward these things, including the issues of youth, women, freedom and information rhetoric concluded recently.

A total of 40 representatives of official and independent various media organizations took part.

The four-day session, organized by the Public Information and Population Contact Program in cooperation with United Nations Fund (UNFPA) and the General Secretariat of the National Population Council, aimed at recognizing and defining the population problem and

its negative effects on future economic, social, and cultural development programs.

In addition to identifying the health productivity and its service components and women and youths' issues, which are considered of the most important and complex issues the Yemeni society is suffering from.

Minister of Information, Hussein Al-Awadhy, called on all working in the field of information to collaborate and to deal with the national primary issues decisively and with objectivity separately from any political quarrel or any other considerations.

The International Humanitarian Law

A joint technical team from the Ministry of Education and the International Committee of the Red Cross continues its field visits to several secondary schools in 8 governorates involved in an experiment regarding the international humanitarian law definition program, which has been implemented by the Ministry during the past three years at some selected

schools.

The technical team paid a visit last Sunday to Al-Adeeb Al-Saban Secondary School in Sayoun, Hadramout, where the team was briefed on the progress made on the subject of the definition of international humanitarian law, which has been taught since the beginning of December 2003.

In Brief

Cooperation agreement signed between Sana'a and Tehran

Monday, 10 May 2004, in Tehran An agreement for cooperation between Sana'a and Tehran and the executive program of the agreement were signed in Tehran, Iran, by the Minister of State and Mayor of Sana'a, Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Al-Kuhlani, and by the Mayor of Tehran.

The agreements came as the conclusion of the official talks between Yemen and Iran toward strengthening the brotherly cooperative relations between the two countries.

Military checkpoint permits the passing of smugglers and not security forces

Military checkpoint affiliated with 33 Brigade allowed the passage of the vehicles of smugglers and not of the security men.

The checkpoint, located on the asphalt road connecting Taiz and the coastal city Mocca, permitted the passing through of vehicles belonging to the security forces only after obtaining permission from the military commander of the region. This flagrant interference has led to a feeling of discontent and dissatisfaction among the security forces.

Plan for Population Activities at the National Population Council

Monday, 10 May - The National Population Council during its meeting on Monday discussed plans and working population activities in the governorates of the Republic for the year 2004-2005. The objective is to connect the plans and population activities with the national strategy to ease poverty through installing a unified information system for the committees involved. An awareness campaign will be also held in Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhala and Amran and others in the first and second phases of the campaign.

Member of Abyan local council regarding 400 jobs Aden Bureau

Mr. Mohamed Ageel, member of the local council in Abyan Governorate, in a statement to Yemen Times, said that the speculation about the sale of 400 jobs at the Ministry of Education through a broker, outside the jurisdiction of the constituency of the local council and Education Ministry, did not receive any attention from the local council and that it was discarded by the council. The council did not even bother to form a commission of inquiry.

Safe Childhood Center is ...

A refuge in the storms of childhood

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

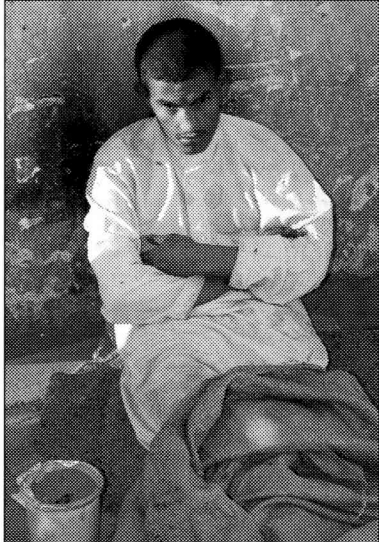
It was midnight in the capital. A white, unmarked van patrolled slowly and cautiously the neighborhoods. Three men inside attentively searched in every nook and cranny on quiet side-streets and alleys. By 1:30 a.m. the van was packed full, and heading back to it's Sana'a base.

These were not officers searching for suspects or criminals roaming the street at night. They were employees from the Safe Childhood Center out to offer homeless children a safe, comfortable place to sleep.

The 11 children taken to the center that night, who were between nine and 12 years old, were found sleeping in what could be considered makeshift bedrooms. Most were lying on pieces of cardboard boxes with tattered blankets or old burlap sacks used to protect themselves from the cold.

"We go out to help them at least once a week," said Wadah Shugaa Al-Deen, Deputy Director and Financial Manager at Safe Childhood Center who was part of the team out that night. "We never force them to come to the center. Instead we offer to take them, asking if they want a place to sleep and have good food in the morning. These are things they do not have."

The most recent study carried out by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Social



Homeless child after waking up on a street in Sana'a (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

dren leaving villages and coming to the cities to earn a living to children who come from unstable families full of violence and abuse.

"It is very difficult to live on the street. But if some prefer to live on the street instead of living at home, there must be something very bad at home," said Al-Deen.

One child at the center was beaten regularly by his father. The father also aimed his gun at his son and threatened to kill him. Another child was a victim of rejection. His mother left her husband, claiming he was crazy, and

sleep with the freedom to come and go as they please.

It also provides schooling - since most are lacking in basic education and are illiterate - vocational training, healthcare, and the staff works with the children to be able to integrate fully into society.

Along with offering a safe place for homeless children on a daily basis, the center focuses on trying to get the children back home if possible. Its social workers research both the children and their families in specific cases to learn if they can live with their families again. If it is not possible, the center can house them permanently.

"At the center, they learn about the problems of a child," said Afrah Al-Ahmadi, Head of Health and Social Protection Unit at the Social Fund for Development, which offers financial and technical assistance to the center.

"The goal is to send the child back to the family. But if problems continue to develop in the family and it is not suitable for the child, the final solution is for the child to stay at the center."

The Social Fund has plans to continue to develop the program. Ongoing training for the staff will continue, and consultants from NGOs dealing with homeless children in other Arab countries will come to assist in the training process.

"The center has a committed staff and the team is very sincere," said Al-Ahmadi. "It applies a flexible management system and has had a good start with the knowledge on how to deal with issues. We will continue to build on what has been done while learning from experience."

The program is also in the process of expanding. Last year, a center was established in Aden, and it has plans to open centers in Taiz and Hodeidah in the near future. The center in Sana'a will move to a new and larger building in six months which will increase the number of beds from 30 to 100. After the move, the center will be able to develop two separate facilities - one for children staying for a short period while the other will be for those who will stay permanently - and it is planning to set up facilities for homeless girls.

But what the Safe Children Center needs is more support. Most of its help comes from the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Social Fund and Al-Shariqa Associates, an NGO out of the United Arab Emirates.

Recently, the responsibility of paying salaries for the staff at the center moved from the ministry to the Sana'a province during the government's decentralization process. The governorate has not come up with the money to cover salaries since last December.

moved in with her family. Her family refused to accept her son, so the child decided to live on the street instead of staying with his unstable father.

The Safe Childhood Center, established a little over two years ago, is the only shelter for homeless children in Sana'a. The center has an open-door policy: Homeless children can come and have healthy meals and a place to



A homeless child asleep on a street in Sana'a (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

Affairs showed that there are approximately 28,000 homeless children in Yemen, with 4,000 in the capital. Unlike many children working during the day and going back home at night, these children have no home to return to.

According to Al-Deen, there are different reasons why children end up living on the street. It ranges from chil-

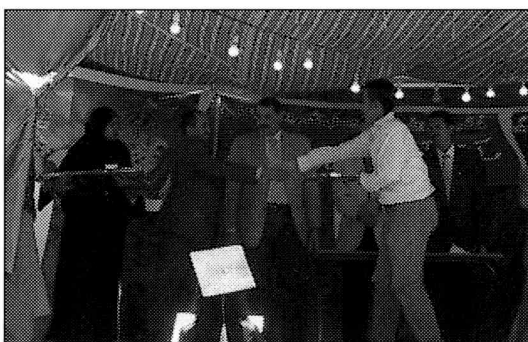
The British International School's 2nd bazaar

The British International School inaugurated its 2nd 2-day Bazaar last Thursday, May 6th 2004. The Bazaar included a variety of activities that reflected educational and cultural background of the school students: Historical plays, songs, dances and other sketches and shows. At the beginning of the Bazaar there was an awarding party sponsored by His Excellency Mr. Hussein Al-Awadi minister of information who has already played an important role in honoring the school's best teachers and outstanding students.

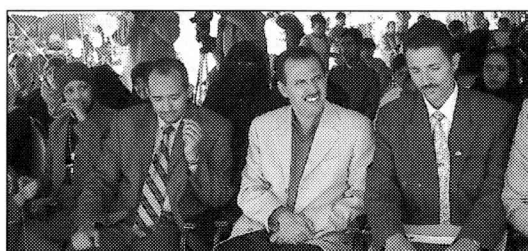
This event was sponsored by many companies that offered free gifts to the students and the audience. Part of the bazaar profits will be donated to local charitable and Palestinian associations. The activity was supervised by Mr. Mohammed Najeeb the Broad of Governors and the school principle Mr. Hussein Ahmed Sagaff.



Students performing on stage



Awards handed to winners



From left: Mohammed Najeeb, GM of the school, Hussein Al-Awadi, Minister of Information, Najeeb Askar, Activities' Manager in the Education office

First Exhibition of Thai Products in Yemen



Sunday, 9 May 2004- In light of the economic liberalization adopted by the Republic of Yemen under the leadership of H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic, an agreement to establish the first exhibition of Thai products in Yemen was signed on 9th May. The agreement was signed by Mr. Tawfeeq Al-Nahme, Director General of the Apollo International Exhibition, the organizing company, and Mr. Sotesak Luhash Youn, the Representative of Thailand Ministry of Trade and Director of Foreign Trade at the Thailand Trade Center (Dubai), affiliated with the Ministry.

The exhibition will be participated in by more than 100 Thai companies working in various fields. The exhibition is considered the start of efforts to enhance joint cooperation between the chambers of commerce

of the two countries, within the frame of enhancing economic ties between the two countries. Preparations are underway to hold the exhibition next June, which will be the first Thai exhibition in Yemen.

Mr. Tawfeeq Al-Nahme said that the exhibition would be a new launch within the frame of economic cooperation. It would be accompanied by the holding of several meetings between Yemen and Thai businessmen in order to exchange expertise in the economic field and an opportunity to conduct commercial deals and contracts between the two sides.

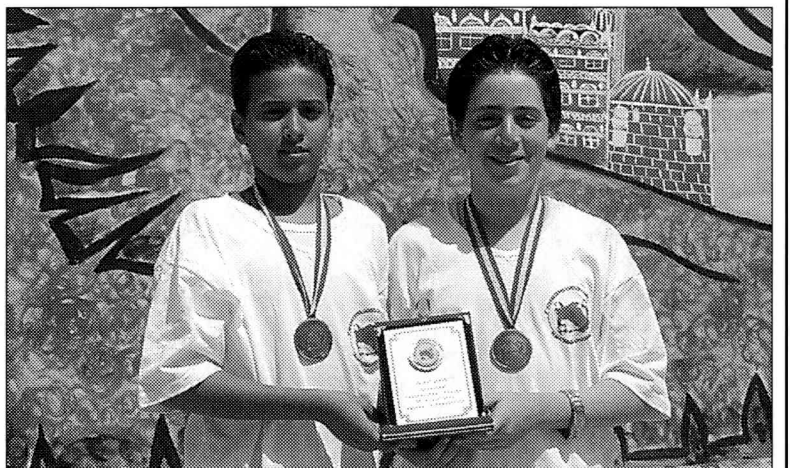
The signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Jazem Ahmed AL-Najar, Director of Foreign Trade at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Mr. Ali Jubari, Director of the Chamber of Commerce in Sana'a.

After winning the bronze medal in the ICPO event in Turkmenistan:

International Turkish Schools' students explain their experience

After its students won the bronze medals in the Second ICPO, the International Turkish schools held a celebration on this occasion to congratulate the winners and wish them a successful academic career. The Robot Arm Project of 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.

To know more about the project and the competition, and to learn about the impact the win had on the students, Yemen Times met them and filed the following interview.



Q: Can you explain why you think the project deserved the award?

A: We believe that our project deserved the award because it was based on both hardware and software applications. Moreover, instead of using components manufactured by software companies, we chose to use local materials and parts of old computers, so the project was original and fully built by our team.

Q: How were your preparations?

A: We were well prepared for the participation, since we designed the robot arm project ourselves with close monitoring of our teacher and we spent a lot of time on it. However after the competitions we felt that we could have done better, after all this was the first time we participated in any competition. We gave two presentations on the project. We had to get up early at 6:00 a.m. and prepare our projects for presentation. In the end when we got the medal we felt it was all worth our effort.

Q: What was the influence of the

school on your success?

A: The school administration and teachers cooperated with us in every possible manner. They provided us all the materials needed as well as the technical expertise required for this project.

Our computer teacher Mr. Necip Celepci has always tried to instill a curiosity for computer applications. The school also gave us every possible help in arranging visas and tickets for travelling. Without the help, support and encouragement of the school we wouldn't be able to accomplish our success.

Q: What message do you want to convey to other students who may want to participate in the competition?

A: We believe nothing is impossible, although Yemen may not be as developed as other countries, but students have the potential to bring back gold medals in the future. If you have a curious mind, apply your knowledge and work hard for the achievement of your

targets, success is sure to follow.

Q: How was your stay and did you benefit from your interaction in Turkmenistan?

A: We had a highly informative and entertaining stay in Turkmenistan. We learnt a lot about computers by studying the projects of other countries. By interacting with people from other countries we learnt a lot about their countries and cultures. The people of Turkmenistan and especially the organizers of the event were very nice to us.

Q: Any comments you may have?

A: We are extremely happy at being able to put Yemen in medals table in an international computer Olympiad for the first time. We have received a lot of praise and encouragement from our school and the Ministry of Education. We will continue to work hard to bring back more success for Turkish International Schools and our beloved country Yemen in the years to come.

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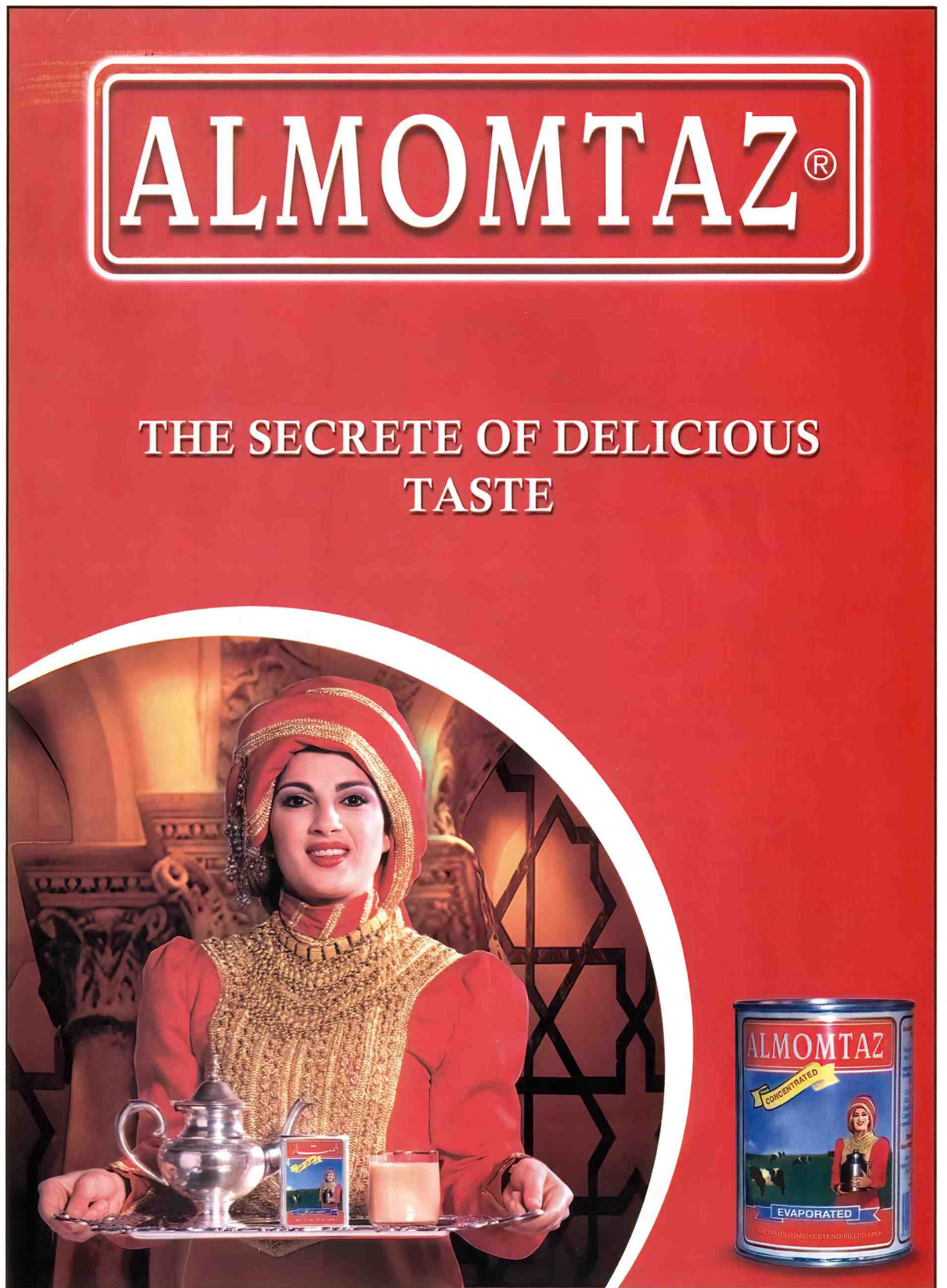
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Iraqis protest against Shi'ite militia in Najaf

NAJAF, Iraq, May 11 (Reuters) - Hundreds of Iraqis marched in Najaf on Tuesday calling on militant cleric Moqtada al-Sadr to withdraw his fighters from the Shi'ite holy city.

It was the biggest and most public display yet of mounting local exasperation with an uprising launched last month against the U.S. occupation and follows a U.S. crackdown on Sadr's Mehdi Army, which says it plans to open up new fronts in its war.

Overnight, U.S. forces said they killed 13 militiamen and captured 14 at Kufa, near Najaf. Spurred on by rival Shi'ite leaders, U.S.-led forces have reasserted their presence in many southern towns and established a cordon around Najaf, where Sadr remains — for now — out of their reach on sacred ground. Scattered violence around Iraq, some of it against foreigners, underlined continuing lawlessness as the United States prepares to return sovereignty to Iraqis in seven weeks.

A civilian supply convoy was attacked on the main highway to Baghdad from Jordan, the U.S. military said. Several of its 21 vehicles were destroyed and several people are missing. Details of the incident, near Rutba, remained sketchy, however.

Russia urged its citizens to leave the country a day after an engineer was killed and two others taken captive near the power station where they were working. The body of an unidentified American civilian was found in Baghdad on Monday.

A bomb exploded in a crowded market in a Kurdish neighbourhood of the northern oil city of Kirkuk, killing three people and wounding around 22, Iraqi police said. Two foreign engineers were shot dead in the city a day earlier.

oil exports hit

Iraq has the world's second biggest reserves of oil after Saudi Arabia and getting it back on stream after a decade of sanctions and war under Saddam Hussein is key to rebuilding the economy. Sabotage and other violence continue to hinder post-war reconstruction.

Officials revealed that oil exports had



Iraqis carry the coffin of Iraqi policeman, Sarmad Abdul-Fattah, who was killed during a firefight between U.S. forces and militiamen, loyal to radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, in the southern holy city of Najaf, May 11. U.S. troops killed 13 members of rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi Army in skirmishes near the Iraqi city of Kufa overnight, a senior U.S. military official said on Tuesday.

been cut by a third since a bomb blew up a pipeline in southern Iraq. They hoped to resume full flow within a day. But experts were sceptical.

The crowd in Najaf marched to the central shrine area of the city before dispersing peacefully. Some Sadr gunmen fired in the air towards the end of the march, but most demonstrators had dispersed by then, witnesses said.

The protest, organised by Sadr's political foes, followed a smaller one on Monday and reflected increasing pressure from Shi'ite elders on Sadr to move his men out.

A bigger demonstration is planned for Friday, the Muslim day of prayer, said an official of a rival Shi'ite organisation, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

Sadr, wanted in connection with the murder of a rival cleric last year, is

opposed by much of the mainstream Shi'ite religious establishment. Aged about 30 and drawing authority from his late father, who was murdered under Saddam, he has a wide following, especially among the young urban poor.

Thousands of fighters across the long-oppressed Shi'ite south seized town centres, police stations and other key sites last month. But U.S. and allied troops have been driving them out, claiming to have killed dozens of guerrillas.

U.S. commanders say they do not want to push into the shrine area, which they know would cause outrage among Shi'ites, but General John Abizaid, who is in charge of U.S. forces in the Middle East, said on Monday his patience was wearing thin.

Washington would dearly like to see local Iraqi pressure put an end to Sadr's uprising without a battle in Najaf.

A senior aide to Sadr in the city told

Reuters on Monday the Mehdi Army planned to widen its offensive, however.

market bombed

In Kirkuk, police said the bomb attack occurred at around 9:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) when the market was packed with shoppers. Kirkuk, a city claimed by three ethnic groups — Kurds, Turkmen and Arabs — has suffered serious unrest of late.

Kirkuk police chief Shirko Shakir said five of those hurt in the blast were seriously wounded.

In the southern town of Samawa, a Dutch soldier was killed and one wounded by a grenade, the Dutch Defence Ministry said, confirming the first death among 1,200 Dutch troops in Iraq.

At least 63 troops from allied nations have been killed in action, 20 of them from Britain. At least 562 Americans have been killed since the invasion 14 months ago.

Militants set demands to return Israeli remains

GAZA, May 11 (Reuters) - Palestinian militants said on Tuesday they were keeping body parts of six Israeli soldiers killed in a Gaza ambush hours earlier and would pose demands for their return to Israel.

"We possess the remains of your bodies that were thrown into the streets of Gaza. We have our demands to hand them over to the Zionist occupier," said a joint statement by Islamic Jihad and the al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. It did not list conditions.

The six Israeli soldiers were blown to pieces when their troop carrier ran over a powerful, improvised explosive during a major Israeli army raid into Gaza City targeting militants.

A masked Palestinian gunman displayed what he said were soldiers' body parts in a blood-stained plastic bag as Palestinian onlook-

ers shouted "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest).

Israeli forces cordoned off the densely-populated neighbourhood, a Islamic militant hotbed, after the killings to allow an intensive search for body parts.

"We are searching house-to-house, every roof, every balcony to find pieces of the personnel carrier and the bodies ... Our commitment is to bring them to burial in Israel," General Dan Harel, commander of the Gaza theatre, told a news briefing.

Recovering the bodies of Israelis killed in violence is of extraordinary importance to the Jewish state.

In January, Israel freed 400 Palestinian and 31 Lebanese and other Arab prisoners in return for an Israeli businessman and the remains of three soldiers killed in a border raid by Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrillas in 2000.

Three killed in bomb attack in N.Iraq city Kirkuk

KIRKUK, Iraq, May 11 (Reuters) - A bomb exploded in a crowded market in a Kurdish neighbourhood of the northern Iraq oil city Kirkuk on Tuesday, killing three people and wounding around 22, Iraqi police said.

Colonel Ahmed Slamrz said the attack occurred at around 9:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) when the market was packed with shoppers. Kirkuk, a city claimed by three ethnic groups — Kurds, Turkmen and Arabs — has suffered persistent unrest in recent months.

Shirko Shakir, the commander of

Kirkuk's police, said five of those hurt in the blast were seriously wounded, suggesting the death toll could rise.

Another police official said the bomb had been made of gas canisters and hidden near a road leading through the market.

The blast brought down power cables, setting wooden stalls at the market ablaze, witnesses said.

The city's largely Kurdish police force has been the target of frequent attacks, as have the officials and offices of Kurdish political parties in the city.

Six Israelis killed in worst Gaza ambush since 2002

GAZA, May 11 (Reuters) - Palestinian militants blew up six Israeli soldiers riding in an explosives-packed troop carrier during a raid in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday in the deadliest ambush against Israeli forces in 18 months.

The militants struck while troops and tanks backed by helicopters stormed a neighbourhood of Gaza City, killing six Palestinians, including at least three gunmen, and wounding more than 100.

Israel responded to the bloody ambush within hours with a missile strike on a car in another part of the densely populated city. Medics said an 18-year-old was killed and five people were wounded. Their identities were not immediately known.

The fresh cycle of violence followed a May 2 vote by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's rightist Likud party against his plan to pull out of Gaza, where 7,500 Jews live in settlements amid 1.2 million Palestinians on land captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

The armoured troop carrier — loaded with explosives for demolishing weapons workshops, a key target in the raid — ran over a powerful, improvised mine and was "blown to pieces", a senior military official said.

It erupted in a massive orange fireball that mushroomed above buildings in the Zeitoun district, a Hamas stronghold that lies north of the heavily guarded Jewish settlement of Netzarim.

The militant strike was likely to drive a deeper wedge between Israeli hardliners who say a Gaza withdrawal would be a "reward for Palestinian terror" and a majority of Israelis who see the fenced-in Strip as a costly liability that should be abandoned.

Sharon planned to convene his security cabinet later on Tuesday to consider a response to the ambush, his office said.

torn a part

The troop carrier was blown up as invading Israeli forces battled gunmen in the crowded neighbourhood.



Palestinians chant anti-Israeli slogans as they carry a piece of an Israeli military vehicle after it was blown up in Gaza May 11, 2004. Palestinian militants blew up an Israeli military vehicle in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, killing six soldiers during a raid in which troops shot dead four Palestinians, witnesses said.

The military wing of the Islamic group Hamas said its fighters ambushed the vehicle, stopping it with an anti-tank missile at a spot where militants had previously planted bombs.

"The vehicle blew up and caught fire, and all the Zionists inside were killed," Hamas said in a statement.

A masked Hamas gunman displayed what he said were soldiers' body parts in a blood-stained plastic bag as Palestinian onlookers shouted "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest).

Witnesses said Israeli forces intensified gunfire and shelling after the soldiers were killed.

Tuesday's ambush will remind many Israelis of the high cost of Gaza's hard-to-defend settlements. A new poll reaffirmed that most Israelis were willing to give up the impoverished coastal strip.

Palestinian militants want to give the

impression they are chasing the Israelis out. But Sharon is apparently seeking to bloody militant groups as much as possible before any pullout to prevent them claiming victory.

Hamas, the main group behind suicide bombings against Israelis, may get a boost in credibility among Palestinians after 50 days had passed without a major revenge attack for Israel's killing of its spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

fierce gunbattles

The army said it had struck at the "terrorist infrastructure" in Gaza behind a series of attacks, including the killing of a settler and her four daughters on May 2.

"Israel does not want calm," Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie told reporters. "Every time we try to restore peace they strike back with mili-

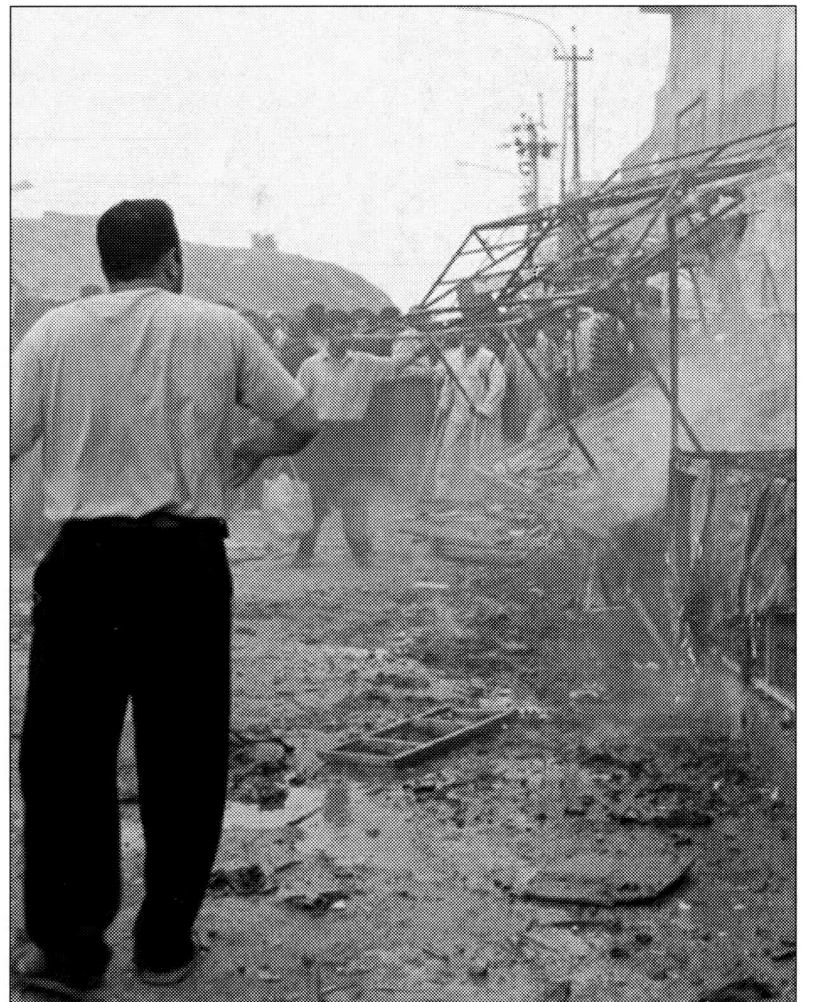
tary actions."

The new fighting came as Sharon tried to salvage his plan to withdraw from Gaza and four of 120 settlements in the West Bank. He has told his divided cabinet he will have a new plan in three weeks.

The army said troops in Zeitoun found 32 welding machines it said were used to make rockets used by militants against settlements in Gaza and towns in southern Israel.

Tuesday's ambush was the deadliest against troops in Palestinian areas since November 2002, when nine soldiers and three settlers were killed in the West Bank city of Hebron.

Militants have also blown up several of Israel's Merkava battle tanks — symbols of the Jewish state's military prowess — with roadside bombs and mines during 3-1/2 years of conflict.



Iraqis survey the scene of a bomb explosion at the market in the northern town of Kirkuk, May 11. A bomb exploded in a crowded market in a Kurdish neighbourhood of the northern Iraq oil city Kirkuk on Tuesday, which killed three people and wounded 22, Iraqi police said.

REUTERS

U.S. senators grill military on prison abuses

WASHINGTON, May 11 (Reuters) - The abuse of Iraqi prisoners reflected a failure of leadership in the U.S. armed forces, the general investigating the growing scandal said on Tuesday.

Asked directly in "your own soldier's language" what had caused the abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison, once the feared symbol of Saddam Hussein's dictatorial rule, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba recited a litany of ills.

"Failure in leadership, sir, from the brigade commander on down, lack of discipline, no training whatsoever and no supervision. Supervisory omission was rampant," Taguba, the author of a Pentagon report on the abuse, told the latest Senate hearing on the scandal.

The hearing followed an all-day grilling of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Friday, at which Rumsfeld apologized for the abuse but said he would not step down simply to appease his political enemies.

At the Pentagon's insistence, Under Secretary of Defense Stephen Cambone, who is in charge of intelligence, and other Pentagon officials also appeared with Taguba to testify on the scandal that has sparked international outrage and calls for Rumsfeld's resignation.

Democrats on the committee were irked that the Pentagon balked at plans for Taguba to testify by himself, calling it an "attempt to dilute Taguba's testimony," a Democratic aide said. "Taguba is known as a straight-talker."

The abuse scandal, which U.S. officials acknowledge has threatened to undermine their policy goals in Iraq and the broader Middle east, broke as public support for the Iraq war was already declining.

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll released on Monday found only 44 percent believed the war was worthwhile. In a poll taken a month ago, 50 percent said it was worth going to war in Iraq. A year ago, 73 percent thought the war was worthwhile.



U.S. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), left, and John Warner (R-VA), right, listen to U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Stephen Cambone testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee to answer questions about the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq by U.S. military personnel while on Capitol Hill, May 11. REUTERS

Bush's own approval rating dipped to 46 percent, down from 52 percent a month earlier.

In his report, completed in March, Taguba cited the "systematic and illegal abuses of detainees," and said between October and December 2003, "numerous incidents of sadistic, blatant, and wanton criminal abuses were inflicted on several detainees."

"The despicable actions described in General Taguba's report not only reek of abuse, they reek of an organized effort and methodical preparation for interrogation," said Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the committee's top Democrat.

"These acts of abuse were not the

spontaneous action of lower ranking enlisted personnel," Levin said, adding that the "attempts to extract information from prisoners by abusive and degrading methods were planned and suggested by others."

Taguba's report and photographs shown around the world of naked prisoners stacked in a pyramid or positioned to simulate sex acts at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad have shocked Americans and set off an international scandal that has posed a serious setback to U.S. efforts to stabilize Iraq.

Congress is now preparing to see a new set of photographs and a video that Rumsfeld warned may be even

more shocking.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner, a Virginia Republican, asked the Pentagon to hold off on delivering the classified material until legal questions are answered on how it could affect criminal investigations, privacy protections and other issues, his spokesman said.

There also are questions on how the handover of the materials to the Senate would affect their classified status, said spokesman John Ulyot.

"Before the Senate comes into receipt of this material, it needs to examine all of the implications," he said.

Kerry says Bush ignoring plight of small business

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 11 (Reuters) - Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry accused U.S. President George W. Bush on Tuesday of risking jobs by failing to address soaring health insurance premiums, one of the biggest problems facing small businesses.

Despite the uproar over the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, Kerry is trying to focus this week on the crushing cost of health care in the United States. Health insurance premiums for small businesses have risen 47 percent in three years, according to the Kerry campaign.

In prepared remarks to small business owners, he said: "We can't just stand back and pretend that they aren't struggling. We have to help them cover these costs."

With dire warnings about the nation's "badly broken" health care system, Kerry shifted the focus of his attacks on Bush from ignoring the plight of families to doing nothing to help small businesses cope.

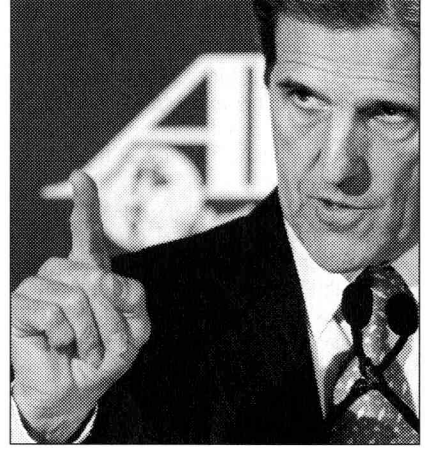
The Massachusetts Democrat wants to offer tax credits of up to 50 percent to help small businesses provide coverage for their low- and moderate-income employees. This credit would cover up to 50 percent of the cost of employees' premiums.

Kerry will focus later this week on the impact of high health care costs on older Americans and veterans. The push comes in a week when public attention is focused not on health care, but on the widening Iraqi prison abuse scandal and whether it will cost Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld his job. A new USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll found Bush's approval rating dropped to the lowest of his presidency after the scandal broke.

Rising insurance premiums

Kerry has called on Bush to take full responsibility for the scandal and for Rumsfeld's resignation.

The senator came to Louisville armed with new state-by-state estimates of rising insurance premiums, with the goal of



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry. REUTERS

stoking an electoral backlash against the centerpiece of Bush's health care agenda — legislation adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare.

The Republican president had hoped the new program would shore up his standing with retirees, a critical voting bloc in November's presidential election.

But since signing it into law last year, it has been embroiled in controversy, from bribery allegations to revelations it will cost one-third more than the \$400 billion anticipated.

This month's roll-out of the administration's new prescription drug card program has likewise been marred by criticism that the discount cards are confusing and offer few savings.

Kerry has blasted the program as inadequate and is calling for cheaper drugs to be imported from Canada.

Bush is backing so-called Association Health Plans, a concept that would let small businesses or other groups join together to purchase insurance. That idea has found support among House Republicans, but it has languished in the Senate.

Kerry said those plans would only make matters worse for most small businesses by increasing costs and removing consumer protections.

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Japan troops' area in Iraq remains "non-combat"

TOKYO, May 11 (Reuters) - Japanese troops in Iraq should be on guard after a grenade attack killed a Dutch soldier nearby, but the government still considers the area they are in to be a non-combat zone, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said on Tuesday.

Japan, a close ally of the United States, has sent some 550 ground troops to Samawa in southern Iraq as part of a reconstruction and humanitarian mission that is the country's riskiest military deployment since World War Two.

In line with Japan's pacifist constitution, a law enabling the dispatch limits troop activities to non-combat zones — a concept critics say was meaningless from the start and has become more so given the deterioration in security conditions.

Dutch media said on Tuesday that a Dutch soldier had been killed and another injured in an attack in the town of Samawa. That would be the first casualty among foreign troops in the area.

Koizumi, asked whether he still regarded Samawa as a non-combat area, told reporters: "There is no change. I think it's necessary to take sufficient caution on safety."

Top government spokesman Hiroyuki Hosoda also told reporters: "I think there is a need to strengthen vigilance... I think there is a need to do the utmost for safety measures."

Japanese troops in Samawa resumed their reconstruction and humanitarian work last week after halting last month due to security concerns.

Radio Netherlands, on its Web site, quoted the Dutch Defence Ministry as



A Japanese soldier takes notes of some needs of a primary school in Iraq's southern city of Samawa May 11. REUTERS

saying hand grenades were thrown at patrolling soldiers as they crossed a bridge over the Euphrates. Newspapers said the attack was on Monday.

Some 1,250 Dutch soldiers are based near Samawa.

The attack followed several recent incidents in the area.

Last month, there was a mortar attack near the Japanese troops' base camp. A shell also landed close to the nearby Dutch military camp and, in a separate incident, Dutch troops exchanged fire with insurgents near Samawa.

The Japanese public is deeply divided over the deployment.

In the latest survey by public broadcaster NHK, 47 percent of respondents said they were opposed to Japanese troops remaining in Iraq, while 44 percent supported the mission.

Among those who were opposed, the biggest factor cited was their opposition to the U.S.-led occupation, NHK said.

Afghan blasts injure election workers, peacekeeper

KABUL, May 11 (Reuters) - Three Afghan election workers and a foreign peacekeeper have been injured in explosions in eastern Afghanistan and in the capital, Kabul, officials said on Tuesday.

The election workers were wounded on Monday when their car was hit by a blast on a road about one km (half a mile) from the newly established election commission office near Asadabad, capital of the eastern province of Kunar.

The foreign peacekeeper was hurt on Tuesday in an explosion at a base of NATO-led troops on the eastern outskirts of the Afghan capital, said Lieutenant Richard Scarth, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

The cause of the blast at Camp Warehouse on the Jalalabad Road was not known, he said. "We are investigating the cause of the explosion. Only one person has suffered minor injuries."

ISAF, which is about 6,500 strong, has come under periodic attack since its deployment in 2001 after the overthrow late that year of the conservative Taliban militia by U.S.-led troops.

In January, a Canadian and a British peacekeeper were killed in separate suicide attacks in Kabul, while four German soldiers were killed and 31 wounded in another such attack last

June. Afghan authorities have blamed such attacks on Taliban remnants, their al Qaeda allies and followers of renegade former prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Asadabad has been a focus of militant activity and the Taliban have vowed to disrupt the September national elections.

The election workers had been visiting a village to prepare for the start of voter registration there.

"The blast happened on the same road they had used hours earlier," Engineer Sher Khan, head of the provincial election commission, told Reuters, adding that it was likely caused by a newly set remotely controlled device.

Security worries and slow voter registration have already delayed the polls, which were supposed to be held in June, but Khan said the attack would not stop his commission's work.

On Saturday, a driver from the election commission was slightly hurt when his car was hit by a blast from an improvised explosive device outside the eastern town of Jalalabad.

A week ago, two British security experts and their Afghan translator were killed in the eastern province of Nuristan while helping the United Nations prepare for the elections.

Anti-king strike brings Nepal to standstill

KATHMANDU, May 11 (Reuters) - Nepal came to a near standstill on Tuesday when a strike called by the Himalayan kingdom's main political parties to press the king to restore democracy closed down businesses and public transport.

Five political parties have been demanding that King Gyanendra, who sacked an elected government in 2002 and replaced it with a royalist administration, return power to the people.

Weeks of sustained and sometimes violent protests led to the resignation last week of the royalist prime minister, Surya Bahadur Thapa, but the parties have vowed more protests to press the king to set up a multi-party government.

"Protesters must not be pushed to the wall," said Madhav Kumar Nepal, chief of the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) party. "The king must set aside his arrogance and sit with political parties to resolve the crisis."

Public buses and taxis were off the streets in the normally crowded capital, Kathmandu, while tens of thousands of students stayed home because schools

and colleges were closed. Thousands of activists have staged rallies since dawn as riot police watched protesters burn tyres and set up road blocks but did not intervene.

Banks and government offices were open but attendance was thin.

"This is only a rehearsal," one party official said. "We will launch tougher protests if the king does not relent."

The protesting parties, which controlled 194 of the 205 seats in the dissolved parliament, have rejected a fresh offer by the king for talks aimed at ending the long-standing crisis.

They want the 56-year old monarch to appoint their nominee to replace Thapa as prime minister. The king has ignored the demand.

The stalemate has raised tensions in a country already struggling to contain a revolt by Maoist rebels, who have been fighting to end the constitutional monarchy and replace it with a communist republic.

The rebels are not aligned with any opposition party but are seeking a joint front against the unpopular Gyanendra.

Malaysia's Anwar lawyers say sodomy trial invalid

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia, May 11 (Reuters) - Lawyers for jailed former Malaysian deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim argued on Tuesday for his sodomy conviction to be thrown out as a mistrial.

Anwar has vowed to fight on for political reform in Malaysia regardless of the outcome of his final avenue of appeal.

The prosecution's changes to charges against Anwar had caused legal irregularities in the trial process, said Karpal Singh, one of the defence lawyers and an opposition member of parliament.

The defence had not been able to submit a notice of alibi, meaning Anwar was not able legally to make his defence

during the 1999 trial, he said.

The former rising star of the ruling Malay party was sacked and jailed in 1998 on abuse of power and sodomy charges after falling out with then prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad.

"He has been deprived of a fair trial," Karpal told reporters outside the courtroom, adding that the whole process should be declared null.

Defence lawyers were due later in the day to make their latest application for Anwar to be freed on bail pending a judges' decision.

Speculation has swirled that Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who swept to victory in a March general elec-

tion after Mahathir retired in October, might call for Anwar's release to show his political strength.

Abdullah has said it is for judges to decide Anwar's fate, a stance the ex-deputy says evades the issues in his case.

Anwar has voiced his doubts about the chances of success both for his appeal and for bail.

"We will insist, whatever it's worth," Anwar said during a break in proceedings, referring to his right to apply for bail.

Anwar wore a neck and back brace for a spinal injury he says was made worse by a police beating. He told reporters on Tuesday he was in pain and would seek

steroid injections next week to ease his discomfort.

Mahathir's former deputy, who drew crowds of tens of thousands of followers after he was sacked in September 1998, has seen his star wane with the pro-Anwar Keadilan party losing four of its five parliamentary seats in the recent election.

Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Anwar's wife and Keadilan's sole member of parliament after the March polls, said the appeal had long since gone beyond legal issues.

"The Anwar case has stopped being a legal case, it's a political case," she told Reuters in the public gallery.

Pakistan showdown looms as ex-PM's brother returns

LAHORE, Pakistan, May 11 (Reuters) - The Pakistani government deployed crack police units in the eastern city of Lahore to stop opposition rallies in support of the planned return from exile on Tuesday of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's younger brother.

Shahbaz Sharif plans to return from nearly three and a half years abroad on Tuesday afternoon in the biggest opposition challenge to President Pervez Musharraf since he overthrew the elder Sharif in a bloodless military coup in 1999.

How the authorities will respond to Shahbaz's bold plan remains unclear, but he faces charges of murder and the prospect of arrest if he sets foot in Pakistan.

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told a private television channel that Shahbaz would not be deported, but did not specify the government's response.

In the days before Shahbaz boarded his flight back from London via the United Arab Emirates, police raided offices of Nawaz's faction of the Pakistan Muslim League and detained hundreds of activists to prevent them rallying to the cause.

Party leaders say more than 2,000 have been rounded up. Government officials say the number is far fewer.

Shahbaz, a former provincial chief minister for central Punjab in his brother's administration and the president of his party, was defiant before leaving London on Monday evening.

"This might be my last opportunity to address the people of Pakistan," he told a news conference. "If they wish to incarcerate me, that is up to them; if they wish to deport me, that is up to them."

Clashes expected

Clashes between police and Sharif supporters appeared almost inevitable, with a rally planned near one of Lahore's main thoroughfares and some party leaders vowing to go to the Allama Iqbal International Airport to greet their hero when his flight touches down at 6.20 p.m. (1320 GMT).

Police carrying helmets and riot shields were deployed on approach roads to the airport and members of the Punjab police elite force were stationed at the terminal. Checkpoints have been set up on main roads around the city.

Shahbaz is accused of involvement in the murder of five Islamic militants during his time as chief minister of Punjab. He denies the accusations, saying they are politically inspired.

Tehmina Daultana, vice president of Nawaz's party, said the authorities were planning to arrest Shahbaz.

"That is what they are planning," she

said. They will arrest our people but we have to have democracy in this country.

"The army does not have the right to sit on us. The general came to power through a coup and we are going to oust him."

Only last month a court sentenced Javed Hashmi, acting president of Nawaz's party, to 23 years in jail for defaming the military and trying to incite a mutiny.

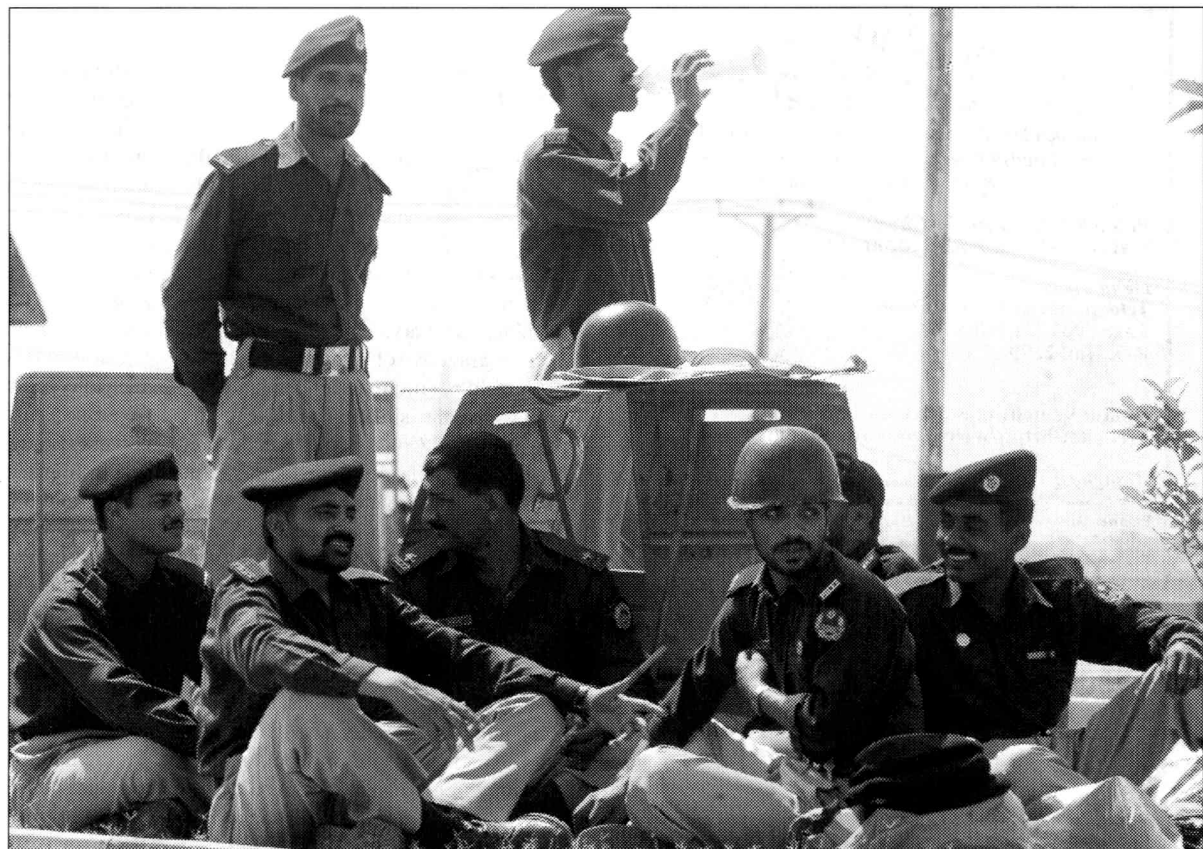
A capable administrator, Sharif won respect through his efforts to develop Punjab, the richest of Pakistan's four provinces.

By daring to come home while his elder brother stays in exile in Saudi Arabia, he is showing both courage and political acumen, political analysts say.

They see it as a last-ditch bid by the Sharif family to break back into politics while Musharraf is seeking to unite disparate factions of the Muslim League to build a power base.

Musharraf, who came to power condemning corruption that flourished under Nawaz and his predecessor Benazir Bhutto, has promised to stand down as army chief by the end of the year, a move that could herald his entry into party politics.

Benazir, who also faces arrest if she returns to Pakistan, has vowed to come back several times but has never said when.



Pakistani police wait near a checkpoint on the road leading to the Lahore Airport prior to the return from exile of Shahbaz Sharif, May 11. The Pakistani government deployed crack police units in the eastern city of Lahore to stop opposition rallies in support of Sharif, the younger brother of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. REUTERS

Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models, either. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator. The children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mix with bad company.

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

OUR
OPINIONA helping hand
for the President

“Yes, he is our president and the president of all Yemeni people. We should be one with him, assisting him in all aspects we can, coming out to him with ideas and advice, and ensuring him that we are behind him on the path of development.” said Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarib, one of the prominent Yemeni politicians who had served his country for many years.

This comes as a direct response to a pioneering initiative to establish a committee led by Yemen Times and formed of a number of prominent and qualified Yemeni entrepreneurs who have pledged to do their best in helping the president see the problems of the country, work with him to find solutions, and bring him closer to taking decisions that would indeed help Yemen become a modern country.

The committee is established to show the President that we are one team, and we all have the same fate.

Our president is a good man. He had a vital role in achieving stability in former North Yemen. He was able to achieve unity of the two Yemens. He pushed for reform and development. And today, he has ambitions to make Yemen a modern state. Why then shy away from extending a helping hand?

There are thousands of Yemenis qualified in their own fields and who have proven to be successful in their businesses and careers. Those are also loyal to their country and feel responsible towards their country. That is why the expressed eagerness to participate in Yemen's development through whatever means they have.

Those people are not doing this for the sake of pleasing the President, neither for their own businesses. They are doing it for the sake of the country's future, and to build a modern country that our next generations would live happily in.

It is important here to say that those who have praised the President on every occasion, claiming that he has done remarkable achievements and resulted in tremendous progress, and that he is the knight of Arabs who had achieved unity and made Yemen quite modern and prosperous, and so on and so forth, are in fact not doing him any good any more.

This is the time when the faithful Yemenis need to come up to the President to explain to him the realities. They need to enable him to see with regular citizens' eyes, walk in their shoes, and live the way they live. People participating in this initiative have one and only one objective in mind: establishing modern Yemen. But that can only happen if the President is aware of the problems and seriously and responsibly sits with the people connected with the people to listen to what they have to say.

The now famous quote of Dr. Mahathir Mohammed, “The government must listen to the people,” must be echoed once and again because it has a very important meaning. It signals the importance of maintaining a strong bond with the public. This is why it is essential that this initiative comes from the people and those who are connected to them.

The figures who want to participate in this campaign have great confidence in that the President would listen. This is what they want him to initially do; just listen. Apart from that, the President is free to accept or take those words into action.

Our President is probably going to be grateful to the ones who took this initiative, as he will be able to know about things for the first time.

I am sure President Saleh will seize this opportunity to open up to the hearts and minds of Yemeni people.

I am sure he will not let us down.

The Editor

Regarding Waiting for Godot /Jehovah

American
Evangelicals, not
Jews, are real
power brokers

By Jason Vaught,
jsnv19@yahoo.com
For the Yemen Times

Salaamalaik. I am an American who reads the Yemen Times from time to time. I've been reading it more often as of late because I am preparing to move to Sana'a. As to your article on Kerry and Bush and who “loves Israel” more, I would like to offer a few comments if you would indulge.

Your main point on the influence that Jews have in America is well taken. Their political power in Washington is immense, no question about it. The American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has so much power that it is known in D.C. as simply, “the lobby”, and anyone who challenges it risks their very political lives.

It funds congressional members in both the Senate and the House of Representatives on both sides of the “isle”, ie. Democrats and Republicans, so that no matter which party is in power, the “power behind the throne” is always right there.

That being said, I think that you missed on a key factor (and I need to tell you that I don't know if you have addressed this in the past or plan on doing so in the future), which is the “Religious Right” - the Christians. The Christians are the true scourge of the Palestinians - not the Jews - and they are the chief supporters of Israel, politically, financially, and morally.

This is because while Catholic Christians are the single biggest body of An-Nasara fii Amreeka, they do not hold the true power. The true power is held by Protestant Evangelical Christians. This is the perpetual death blow for the poor Palestinians.

In America, the only people aside from the Arab and other Muslims that puts forth a steady and respected voice for Palestinian rights and self determination are, in fact, Jews. There is absolutely no sympathy for the

Palestinians from the Christian Right. None, whatsoever.

You mentioned the political power and influence of the Jews in Washington and, again, you are correct, but, look at the power of the Christians. There are about 5-7 million Jews living in the United States, and they are mostly a Democratic Party voting block.

The Evangelical Christians, under the leadership of such figures as Billy and Franklin Graham, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and other radicals, are a block of 75 million people and over 45,000 churches. These religious figures that I have mentioned are the most prominent, the most powerful - not forgetting Ralph Reid who is another leader and a top political operative for the Bush administration - and they have all spewed vicious lies and propaganda against Arabs, Islam, and the Prophet Muhammad.

Around 70% of these people are Republicans and they support Israel 100% in all matters, regardless of what the situation is and regard the Palestinians as a totally unworthy people, undeserving of statehood or any degree of self determination.

They are absolutely identical to the Likudniks, no doubt. They believe that every inch of Palestine belongs to the Jews - given by God - and that the Palestinians should be treated just like the Canaanites were in the Old Testament book of Joshua who were mercilessly wiped out of the land by the ancient Israelites.

So why this staunchly uniform support for Israel by the powerful Evangelicals? For this answer we must turn to Protestant eschatological belief. As a former Protestant myself, I know a little about this, and it's frightening. You see, even though the Evangelicals love and blindly support the state of Israel, they don't care a wink about the Jews. They believe the Jews are doomed in fact, within the greater Christian context that anyone who doesn't believe in exactly what they

believe in will burn in hell, end of story.

Christians believe that in the end times Jesus will return to the earth - kind of like the Muslims, but not really - and usher in the “Kingdom of God”. The sticking point though is that this is not possible until the great ingathering of all the dispersed Jews everywhere in the world back into Israel. This is critical to understand.

The massive Christian support of Israel in America - which in my opinion is far, far greater than any Jewish influence - has nothing to do with any particular affinity for Jews, or for the modern concept of “Israel” as a Jewish homeland for that matter when you get right down to it.

Rather, they want all the Palestinians either rounded up in concentrated areas or driven out of the West Bank and Gaza altogether and replaced by all of the Jews from all over the world so that the return of Jesus will be possible.

Here's the kicker for the Jews though. They'll be wiped out of existence, at least according to some Evangelicals. They believe - fervently - that when Jesus returns there will be a great apocalyptic battle at a place called “Armageddon” which, I think, is somewhere around northern Israel/southern Lebanon, and one interpretation of the end result is that in this battle 2/3 of the world's Jews will be killed and the remaining 1/3 will be converted to Christianity, thus ending them as a people, entirely.

So Jewish influence is, as you said, profound, but the real enemy, the real engine behind America's ridiculous and shameful support of oppression vis-a-vis this issue, are the Evangelicals. Bush is the most outwardly religious Evangelical Christian President this country has ever seen, ferociously dedicated to his religion. Kerry is a very moderate and liberal Catholic. So I don't know which of the two “loves Israel” more, but I'm pretty sure I know which one Israel loves more.

Stepping down
is the right thing

By Dick Durbin
USA TODAY

Donald Rumsfeld should resign for one simple reason: Our troops will not be as safe and the success of our mission will not be served if he continues as Defense secretary.

The tragedy of Abu Ghraib and Rumsfeld's failure to understand the gravity of the situation and keep the president and Congress informed were, in my view, the deciding factors. But these are not isolated incidents; they are the culmination of a series of serious miscalculations, poor planning and mistakes in the war in Iraq for which the secretary must accept responsibility.

The Pentagon's failures in Iraq began in the earliest stages, when the secretary ignored the warnings of top military experts that success would require far more troops and that we would meet with active, long-term resistance, not parades and flowers. As a result, our soldiers have been overextended and overburdened, and we don't have suffi-

cient military personnel to stabilize the security situation.

It's also becoming clear that we went into Iraq without an exit strategy. There are now reports of senior military officers questioning whether the mission can be accomplished under current plans and suggesting that we face the prospect of American casualties for years to come.

Our troops went into combat without adequate personnel and vehicle armor or proper defensive systems on helicopters. Some estimates indicate that one in four U.S. combat deaths in Iraq might have been avoided if the Pentagon had just provided basic armor for the Humvees. How can we explain this failure to protect our troops when the administration has received every penny it asked for in Iraq?

In Abu Ghraib and elsewhere, our troops were assigned missions without proper leadership and training. After setting the tone for the mistreatment of prisoners by downplaying the Geneva Conventions, Rumsfeld and other Pentagon officials failed to address conditions in Iraqi prisons, though reports of mistreatment emerged a year

ago. Despite repeated requests from U.S. administrator Paul Bremer, the International Red Cross and even Secretary of State Colin Powell no one took the steps necessary to correct the problems.

Now the situation our troops face in Iraq is more dangerous and the prospect of winning the war on terrorism is more uncertain because of this scandal.

I've known Don Rumsfeld for nearly 30 years. Calling for his resignation is not easy. But today, the genuineness of our apology for the situation at Abu Ghraib is at issue.

The secretary should step down to show that we are changing course. His departure would signal to our citizens and the world that America believes in accountability and we are committed to the ideals we espouse. In the years I've known Don Rumsfeld, I have always known him to be a patriot. Stepping down under these circumstances would be the highest form of patriotism.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., is a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Back to Friedman
Cursed by Zionism!

Of course all of this clamor that has been going on over the “abuse” of Iraqi prisoners (60% of whom are said to be innocent by the admission of the occupation forces) would not escape the wise pen of Thomas Friedman of the New York Times. But, alas Thomas Friedman would only find the horrendous abuses of the occupiers a simple entry point for Friedman to unleash his true hatreds and double loyalty, with his Zionist inclinations highlighted to the maximum.

On May 6 Friedman shows his horror at the “loss of honor” he detects in the abuses. First of all these are not merely “abuses”. These are crimes against humanity, which are absolutely inexcusable, just as inexcusable as the war that is creating them!

However, I would like to say that I began to think that Friedman was really speaking words of wisdom by all the obvious displeasure he found in all the talk about the cruelty of the occupiers and the obvious harm that these vices by the “occupation” coalition are causing to the image of the United States: “I have never known a time in my life when America and its president were more hated around the world than today” is how Friedman assesses the whole issue of prisoner humiliation and torture of Iraqi prisoners. Now that is what I call powerful editorial commentary. I even began to have second thoughts about my suspicions of Friedman.

He then impresses me more with a comment later in the same article: “It is hard to partner with someone (i.e., the “Arabs and Muslims”) when you become so radioactive”. Again, we have powerful commentary here of nuclear dimensions!

However my rising hopes about the celebrated writer were thrown off the wall by Friedman's article of May 9, 2004 suspiciously titled: *Cursed by Oil*. In fact the writing style proved his evil inclinations from the start. This article, unlike the earlier one, was a whole lot of mumbo jumbo that started in Tokyo, passed through Korea, Taiwan and China, then zoomed through Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain, Dubai, Morocco and Tunisia in one sweep, taking a break in Falluja, with a sigh of grief in Saudi Arabia and transit flight to India as we go back again to the Far East with the addition of Singapore to the former Far Eastern countries mentioned.

Through all this tiring journey, Mr. Friedman sought to impress us with his “man of the world” image that allows him speak with authority, when he is ready to lash out against the “Arabs and Muslims” of the world, as if almost to say, “I had no sympathy for those tortured Iraqis”, we almost thought he seemed to feel sorry for. No, the earlier article was just for show, just to introduce the article of the 9th. In the latter, his true self will be manifested more to the point with the pretension that he was advising the “Arabs and Muslims” on the right path: “It's time for the Arab World to grow up - to stop dancing on burning American jeeps and claiming that this is victory for Islam”. Such rhetoric is absolutely Zionist in words and feelings that only a fool would not fail to realize the evil implications before Friedman's seemingly innocuous blab-blub. This kind of style is classic Zionist propaganda which is found in almost in all the literature produced by Zionist American sympathizers. As if he is not shooting all this blab out of an empty mouth, but rather from first-hand knowledge, Friedman points out that, notwithstanding the prisoners tragedy in Iraq: “But here's what else I know from visiting Iraq: There were a million acts of kindness, generosity and goodwill also extended by the individual US soldiers this past year ... There are plenty of Iraqis and Arabs who know that.” He did a lot of counting. He also talked to many Arabs - the likes of Ahmed Shalabi - who reassured him about how Arabs think, steal, and lie!

This is classic double loyalty in its meanest manifestation and ethnic slurring: “One thing about countries like Singapore, Korea, Taiwan and Japan, they may not have deserts (of course the ethnic implications are that the Arabs and deserts go hand in hand), but they sure know the difference between the mirage and oasis (back to subtle and devious ethnic slurring) - between victories that come from educating your population to innovate and “victories” that come from a one-night stand by suicidal maniacs like 9/11.” There it is folks; all the Arabs are guilty by association for 9/11. Funny, how Mr. Friedman is not carefully surfing on the web. He will find to his surprise - and to his horror - that there hundreds of web-sites that are trying to educate the American people and the international public that 9/11 was actually a product of Zionist scheming, engineering and conniving, and these are sites actually operated by genuine good real loyal Americans, who see something awfully fishy about what has been transpiring in the United States and in the whole world since George W. Bush and the Cheney gang took over the helms in Washington and all transparency and accountability got thrown out the window! The obvious bonds between this gang and the international Zionist establishment, of which Friedman is a bona fide member in good standing has not escaped, even the blind. Sharon is courageous, Rumsfeld is courageous and now Friedman wants to join the lot of the courageous by continuously manifesting his prejudice and ethnic chauvinism by lashing out against the Arabs and Muslims (though the whole world spells it “Moslem”, but Friedman knows that Moslems are not happy with his spelling version of it because it connotes the heretical Black Muslim movement of the Nation of Islam of the late Elijah Mohammed). We read you well, Friedman and see through your obvious prejudice and double fealty.



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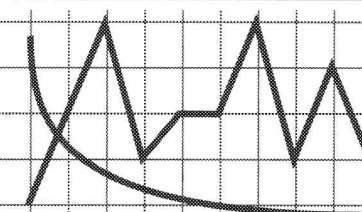
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YT Business



In a regional workshop,

ILO evaluates technical and vocational education

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Participants in the regional workshop on implementation of joint recommendations of the UNESCO and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in the areas of technical and vocational education and training confirmed that the Arab region was still facing great challenges in the aspect of work culture and despising some professions and traditional handicrafts.

The participants were unanimous that vocational and technical educations was in need of knowledge, economic, cultural and social accumulation in order to effect the aspired for progress and development of all societies.

The UNESCO contributes to preparation of the national map of technical and vocational training in Yemen and its linkage to the labour market and exchange of expertise and trade between the states that took part in the workshop.

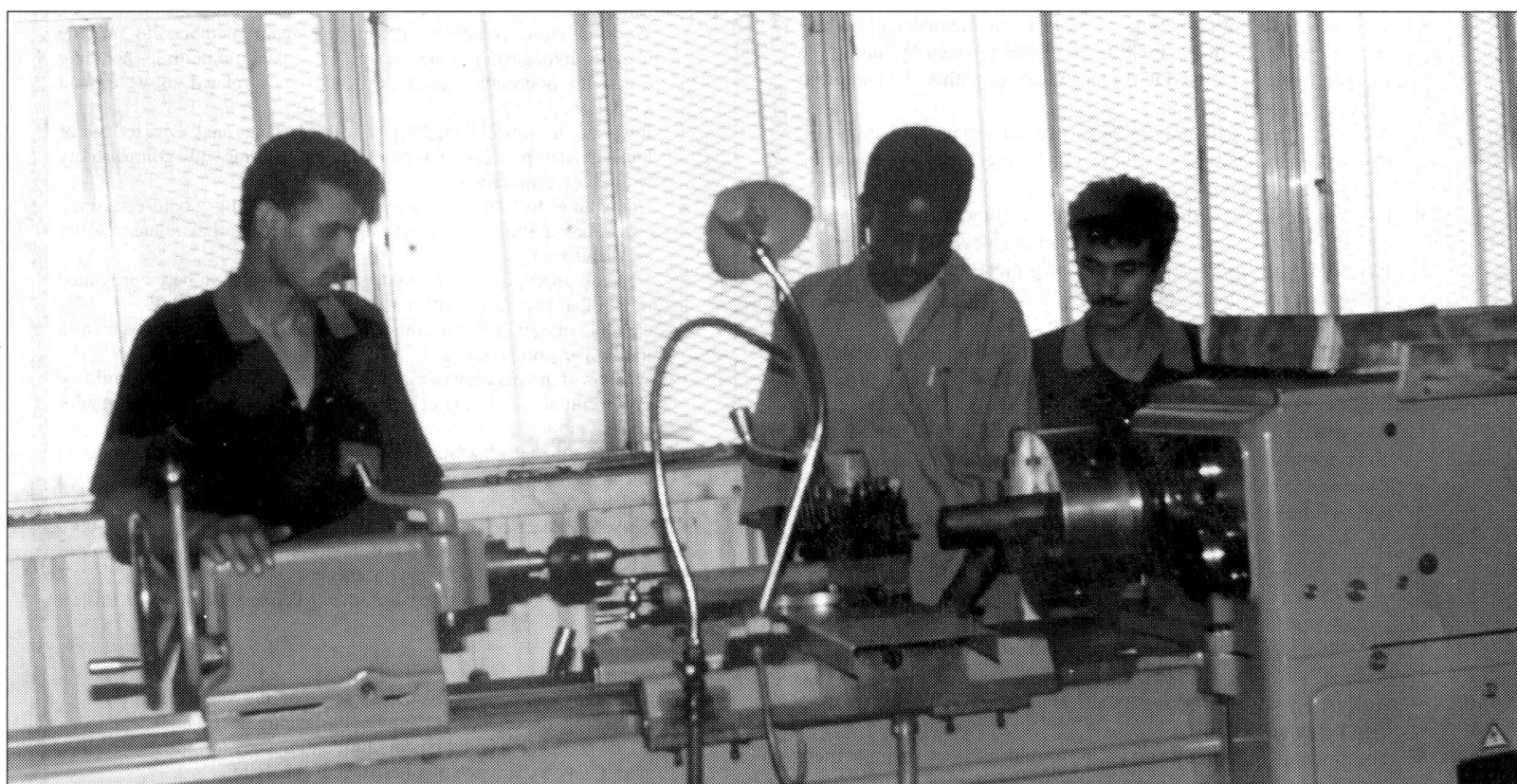
The Yemeni strategy in the area of technical and vocational education aims at attaining a proportion of accommodation by 15% of the general education

and expansion in programs of continuous training and education concerning upgrading efficiency and transformational programs that include traditional professions and industries.

The workshop focused in its premises on defining the content and objectives of the criterial document and developing common work mechanism in this area in addition to the use of the document's articles for facing the challenges and variables in aspects of knowledge and the world of work.

The participants in the workshop recommended the application of joint recommendations in the Arab countries, supporting initiatives of generalization of the document among establishments of education and training and finding a mechanism of following up among groups of the Arab countries.

The workshop has also called for building capacities of educational and training establishments and activation of their role in planning programs and technical and vocational specializations as well as specification of suitable mechanisms for the Arab countries to exchange expertise and growing them in the framework of the institutions and centers participating in specialized networks.



Students receiving vocational training at an institute for technical education

The establishment of a market for development, As new ideas for fighting poverty

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government maintains its efforts aimed at adoption of principle and approach of partnership between the state and non-governmental organisations and in cooperation with the World Bank and other donor organisations and countries for the aim of achieving development.

In this context the ministry of planning and international cooperation has organised a program on development market and knowledge forum in association with the UNDP, which is considered the first event in Yemen and the first of its kind in the Middle East.

The market aimed the encouragement of innovated development ideas through an early funding to beginnings of such ideas and linking small projects

owners who have ideas on fighting poverty to the partners who possess resources for the purpose of giving them assistance in the realization of their vision.

The market also aims at encouraging the developmental society via partnerships for finding solutions to development challenges through the work with new methods and attracting the citizens and establishments with their various trends and goals. Deputy Premier, the minister of planning and international cooperation Ahmed Soufan has stressed that the significance of Yemen's hosting of this market is represented in forming the developmental ideas and encouraging them to support the state's efforts for fighting poverty and unemployment.

The more than 3500 civil society organisations have been granted an opportunity for enhancing the performance of the market and the forward push

of economic activity wheel as well as supporting the state's development and social efforts. Deputy President of the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa region has explained that goals of the development market program which was organised by a world competition and knowledge forum were to get acquainted with new ideas for being applied to combating poverty and ways of implementing them.

The program began in 1988 with encouraging the created developmental ideas through appropriation of \$28 millions as awards and incentives to successful ideas in 61 countries and in allocating \$165 thousand for the market of development in Yemen. The World Bank granted the Yemeni 7 organisations and societies winning in the competition the sum of \$165 thousand in return for what they had offered of ideas for fighting poverty in the country.

Rate of conversion industries grows while, Agriculture sector growth rate recedes

By Yemen Times Staff

The sector of converting industries has achieved stability in the proportion of its development at a rate of 5% from the Gross Domestic Product at a time the goods production sector has achieved an increasing growth reaching 3.9% in 2003 as compared to 2.2% in 2002, due to increased growth of agriculture production from 0.8% to 3.1%.

Depending on figure issued by the ministry of planning and international cooperation, the non-oil goods production sectors have contributed to structure of the GDP by 25%.

The ministry reported that the sector of conversion industries is depended on for effecting a qualitative shift in the structure of Yemeni economy and that could only be achieved after surmounting hindrances of investment and restructuring some supportive sectors for the growth of the industrial sector.

Contribution of the sector of building and construction proportion of contribution to the GDP in 2003 amounted to more than 4% and growth rate of 5.4%.

Government investment spending has expanded and resulted in a positive effect on the infrastructure of the construction sector against a steep drop in the private sector spending and that was owing to treasury bonds, deposit certificates, an increase in price rates of building materials and abstention of banks from investment in the area of housing.

Those indicators explain that the construction sector is in need to pursuing suitable economic policies contributing to its development, because of its importance in the structure of the GDP. The ministry of planning figure confirmed that extraction industries contribution to the GDP was between 29 to 36% of the GDP of which oil constituted a rate of 90%.

To sum it up, the value of GDP of 2003 amounted in the current prices to

11.35 billion dollars where the agriculture sector and forests had the bigger share and that was by 14%, registering a retreat by 1%.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

| 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

Vacancy

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Sana'a and the Yemeni authorities have agreed that support to the education sector has high priority. In that context there is a vacancy for the position of a:

Senior Programme Officer Education

Who will have the following responsibilities:

- Provide professional input into programme development by keeping up to date with developments in education in Yemen.
- Monitor and manage a part of the portfolio of on-going projects.
- Contribute to the emergence of a sector-wide approach in education, i.e. achieving a balanced approach to all sub-sectors in education.
- Support the First Secretary Education in the formulation of new interventions that support education sector in a programmatic way.
- Advise on the implementation of the support programme for post-secondary education implemented by NUFFIC.
- Develop and maintain a database of Yemeni and regional education professionals.
- Participate in one or more thematic teams within the Embassy (e.g. on public finance management, civil service reform or gender) in order to achieve the Embassy's strategic results in these areas.
- Replace the First Secretary Education during her/his absence.

Requirements for the position are:

- At least a Master's Degree in education or closely related field.
- At least five years working experience in development co-operation, preferably in a managerial position in education, either in Yemen or abroad.
- Fluency in English and Arabic (writing, reading, speaking).
- Excellent computer skills.
- Ability to work both independently and as a member of (a multi-cultural) team.
- Initiative and result-orientation.

Applicants should submit their typed CVs and application letters BEFORE 20 MAY 2004

to First Secretary Education.
Royal Netherlands Embassy.
P.O.Box:463.
Sana'a.
Fax: 421035.

Please note that only those candidates selected for an interview will be notified. Applicants who have not been approached by 20 June should consider themselves unsuccessful.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL POSITIONS WITHIN UNDP PROJECT

"WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION IN MASILA, HADRAMOUT"

UNDP Yemen and Canadian Nexen Petroleum Inc. have agreed to cooperate under the UN's Global Compact programme to work closely with the Government of Yemen, the Governorate of Hadhramout in particular, to improve water and sanitation conditions for the country's rural population in a project known as the "Water Resources Management, Community Water Supply and Sanitation in Masila, Hadramout". This project will initiate the development and demonstration of a model approach to the management of rural water supply and sanitation coupled with essential measures for water conservation and environmental protection. The community of Ressib is has been selected for implementation of this pilot initiative.

Job Title:

I. Field Coordinator-Community Development

Full-time assignment in Ressib, for the whole duration of the project

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all Team members under the specific guidance of the Field Coordinator assisted by under the specific guidance of UNDP Project Manager with assistance from the International Advisor.
- Assist the Team with gaining access to, and an understanding of, the Project communities while serving as the Team's main liaison with Project communities.
- Provide the Team with community development insights, socio-economic and cultural knowledge, and language skills.
- Provide insight and linkages to related projects in the Project area.
- Provide or coordinate all required Team logistical support for field activities.
- Assist the Field Coordinator with preparation of Prepare all UNDP-required financial management activities, progress reports, monitoring and other administrative activities.
- Assist with preparation of Prepare detailed Work Plans for all Team members, domestic members in particular;
- Provide Project continuity, including liaison with stakeholders, between major Project missions and activities.
- Assist with selection of domestic Team members following agreed Project procurement procedures.

Qualification and Experience

- MA/MSc Degree in development field, environmental or social science.
- At least 5 years of working experience in Development field.
- Good computer skills.
- The incumbent should have profound project management experience, including experience in preparing work plans, managing project budgets, procurement of goods and services, and most importantly in managing staff activities. Proven leadership qualities are required, and experience working with UN project implementation rules would be an added advantage.
- The incumbent should be fluent in both Arabic and English with excellent report writing capabilities.

Job Title:

II. Gender, Socio-economic Specialist

Several short to mid-term assignments in Ressib, totaling 18 months over the duration of the project

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all Team members to provide insights into gender issues in the Project communities, including access to household conditions and issues related to water and sanitation.
- Integrate the work of the Project with other national, District and/or local gender policies and programmes ensuring full compatibility with Project initiatives.
- Contribute to the assessment of all existing socio-economic conditions in Project communities particularly as they relate to water and sanitation.
- Develop appropriate gender integration strategies to be incorporated in all other Project activities.
- Conduct on-going Project-related awareness sessions with women in the Project communities.
- Assist with preparation of all proposed training and capacity building programmes and materials ensuring integration of gender considerations.
- Assist with delivery of training and capacity building courses to ensure gender issues are adequately integrated and equal participation is achieved.
- Provide Project Team gender sensitivity training at Project start-up.
- Contribute to the preparation of monitoring and progress reports as required by the UNDP Project Manager.
- Liaise with the Team to ensure timely delivery of required Project outputs.

Qualification and Experience

- At least a BA degree in social science or any related field.
- Working experience in community-development (gender-related).
- The incumbent should be committed to the advancement of women and have experience in all aspects of this field.
- Significant experience in development of appropriate training strategies will be required.
- Experience in working with donor-funded projects, and familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage.
- The incumbent should be fluent in both Arabic and English with proven communication and training skills.

Job Title:

III. Management, Accounting Training Specialist

Several short-term assignments in Ressib, totaling 6 months, over the duration of the Project.

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all Team members and particularly with the International Water and Sanitation Specialist and Training and Capacity Building Specialist to coordinate activities and ensure timely delivery of required Project outputs.
- Assist in completing an assessment of existing management and administration systems and available skills and capacities.
- Assist in the design of appropriate management and accounting procedures and provide local insights to other Team members.
- Assist in the preparation of management and accounting training strategies, course materials and delivery mechanisms.
- Assume the lead role in the organization and delivery of related training and capacity building programmes.
- Contribute to the preparation of monitoring and progress reports as required by the UNDP Project Manager.

Qualification and Experience

- BA degree in Accounting or related field.
- Very good Excel and Word processing.
- 5 years of working experience in the management of a public utility, either water or power, and must have a thorough understanding of basic accounting and bookkeeping requirements of such a utility. Significant experience in development of appropriate training strategies will be required.
- Experience in working with donor-funded projects, and familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage.
- The incumbent should be fluent in both Arabic and English with proven communication and training skills.

Job Title:

IV. Health and Hygiene Training Specialist

Several short-term assignments in Ressib, totaling 5 months over the duration of the project

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all Team members and particularly with the International Water and Sanitation Specialist, International Training and Capacity Building Specialist and Domestic Gender Specialist to coordinate activities and ensure timely delivery of required Project outputs.
- Assist in the assessment of existing health and hygiene awareness and existing community, District and/or national programmes addressing these issues.
- Assist in the preparation of an appropriate water and sanitation-related health and hygiene training strategy at community and District levels.
- Prepare detailed training material and delivery mechanisms, including local input and guidance into the preparation of the PHAST materials, or equivalent.
- Assume the lead role in delivery of health and hygiene training.
- Coordinate public health training activities with training activities of other Team members to secure the timely realization of outputs planned under the component.
- Contribute to the preparation of monitoring and progress reports as required by the UNDP Project Manager.

Qualification and Experience

- BA degree in Public Health/Hygiene of related field.
- 5 years of working experience in public health, particularly at the community level. Significant experience in development of appropriate training strategies will be required.
- Experience in working with donor-funded projects, and familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage.
- The incumbent should be fluent in both Arabic and English with proven communication and training skills.

Job Title:

V. Water and Sanitation Engineering Specialist

Several short-term assignments in Ressib, totaling 8 months over the duration of the project

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all Team members and particularly with the International Water and Sanitation Specialist to ensure timely delivery of required Project outputs.
- Work in close collaboration with all Team Training Specialists, including in particular the Domestic Water and Sanitation Training Specialist to develop appropriate programmes.
- Advise on the structure and operational procedures of locally appropriate community-based water and sanitation maintenance and management systems in support of sustainable operation of the infrastructure systems.
- Provide insights and/or linkages to other water and sanitation Project experiences in Yemen.
- Advise on the proposed integrated hierarchy of infrastructure management roles and responsibilities through the various levels of community and government organizations.
- Advise on appropriate alternative technical designs and implementation strategies for community-based Water and Sanitation infrastructure. Assist with evaluation of alternatives with an emphasis on ensuring long-term sustainability of all proposals.
- Assume the lead role in the preparation of all technical designs, construction contract documents, infrastructure sub-contracts, tenders, and construction contract management procedures.
- Assist with the preparation of appropriate Water and Sanitation management (including maintenance) training materials and operational manuals.
- Contribute to the preparation of monitoring and progress reports as required by the UNDP Project Manager.

Qualification and Experience

- The incumbent should hold a degree in water and sanitation engineering, or a closely related field.
- 5 years of working experience in the water sector.
- Significant project management experience is required, including experience in operations and maintenance of a water utility, and in coordinating staff activities.
- Experience in working with donor-funded projects, and familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage.
- The incumbent should be fluent in both Arabic and English with proven report writing capabilities.

Job Title:

VI. Water and Sanitation Technical Training Specialist

Several short-term assignments in Ressib, totaling 6 months over the duration of the project

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all Team members and particularly with the International and Domestic Water and Sanitation Specialists and the International Training and Capacity Building Specialist to coordinate activities and ensure timely delivery of required Project outputs.
- Assist in the assessment of existing water and sanitation technical capacities particularly at the community and District levels.
- Assist in the preparation of an appropriate water and sanitation technical training strategies at community and District levels with an emphasis on operation and maintenance.
- Prepare detailed training materials and delivery mechanisms.
- Assume the lead role in delivery of water and sanitation technical training.
- Coordinate training activities with those of other Team members to secure the timely realization of outputs planned under the component.
- Contribute to the preparation of long-term operation and maintenance manuals.
- Contribute to the preparation of monitoring and progress reports as required by the UNDP Project Manager.

Qualification and Experience

- BA degree in water and sanitation or closely related field.
- 5 years of working experience in water sector.
- The incumbent should have experience in technical training in water and sanitation utility implementation, operation and maintenance. Significant experience will be required, specifically in operations and maintenance of a water utility.
- Experience in working with donor-funded projects, and familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage.
- The incumbent should be fluent in both Arabic and English with proven report writing capabilities.

The project is expected to last from 1st June 2004 to 30th November 2006.

Interested candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background for the above mentioned positions may submit their applications indicating the title for the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

The deadline for receiving applications is Tuesday, **25th May 2004**

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a, Fax: 448841

E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)

For further details for our vacancies you may visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm>

Coffee from Al-Makha and tea with milk from Aden

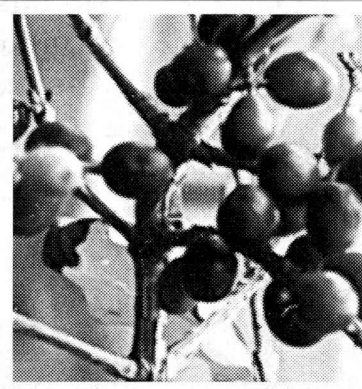
By SHABIB ABDULKADER
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In 1616 A Dutch visitor to Al-Makha, Peter Vander Broecke, noted a caravan of 1000 camels carrying goods including fruit, cloth, spices, dyes, pottery and, most importantly, coffee, the latest craze in Europe, grown in the Yemeni mountains.

Yemenis were also first who commercialized the product. Two years later the English and Dutch built Al-Makha first coffee factories. They were soon followed by other Europeans and by Americans. By the 1630s coffee rose to such heights that Yemen was unable to meet the demand. Prices soared, bringing prosperity to the coffee merchants of Al-Makha, who built beautiful villas in the city. During those years Yemen had a virtual monopoly in the beans and the trade name "Mocha coffee has survived to the present day. Coffee is still grown in the mountains of Yemen. Much efforts vacuum pack of "Yemen coffee" makes also a nice souvenir. It is available as whole beans or ground. Yemenis mix a fine grind with boiling water and let it sink to the bottom of the cup.

Traditional café's:

Conveying from the time of memories traditional café's in Yemen are everywhere, often at rest stations or places for daily meetings with friends with hobbies such as sports and playing cards. Such are above sociable gatherings for lively people and poets for exchanges in life often second world war, in particular. In café's one finds also another group of visitors and guests preoccupied with images of heroes from legends and adventures. They are fond of stories of Alzeer Salem, Al-America that Al-Hema, Hamza Al-Bahlawan, Antar Al-Absy and Saif Ben thi Yazen. In many traditional café's the flavor of



Coffee twigs of coffee tree which grows in abundance in mountainous regions of Yemen

the past is still kept alive.

To start with, let us go to Aden and visit the traditional café's of Aden. The traditional café's in Aden still hold the memories of the generation during forties and fifties of this century. The beginning of traditional café goes back to 1930. The first traditional café used to be the Alsewaid café. It was located in Al-Mydan, (The Square) in Crater near the Cinema. It dates back to 1908, has seen caravans and camels loaded with fire wood and fodder. One has a good chance to meet one of the elders, born in 1898 in Crater. He spent most of his life as sailor. He has his own memories of the sea. He said, he knew Aden when it was merely a town of cats, saints' monuments and the Hadith mosque. But the most outstanding

mosque, the Al-Askani mosque was destroyed and replaced by buildings. Thus the café's in the days of Uncle Salem Hammam Al-Sayad used to be a place away from troubles, a refuge shelter for strangers, lodging for travelers and a bank for a share holder. How many café's surely in Aden witnessed troubles, also incidents, though they surely also witnessed happiness and blessings, remains to be told. Some of the most important café's still remembered by many. Zako café in Crater, Al-Gelhy café in Moalla da-ka Al-Greek café in Al-Shaikh Othman and Al-Dubee café in Al-Towahi. In addition to the famous café in Al- Moalla known as Al-Somal café as most of its visitor is Somalians. They mix sweets and fruits of different tastes such as bananas,

melon, Att, Hegeb and Abasy, our local delicious fruit is from the gardens of Lahj, and Abyan. The first time visitor to our traditional café's should try Al-Mali, a delicious drink. It is consumed usually with bread. Sailors and tourists take it during mornings. The tourist, who visits our town for the first time, will find in cafes all what he or she desires to see and writes about us, traditions, manners, ways of life, and gossips of café's cheerful sessions. From traditional café's we wish to mention Zako café. It is located in the heart of the long market west of Al-Jazeera Hotel at the square. At the Zako café they offer mint ten with fresh flavor in addition to teas of different brands, and recipes such as:

tea with Al-Malie made of fresh

skimmed milk mixed with red tea,

Albegs tea heavy tea without sugar.

The Al-Garo tea, of strong tea mixed with little milk.

Al-Osamali tea which is red light tea.

Tea with Al-Zakab made of little amount of tea and a lot of milk.

The Nos Al-Double tea.

The camel double tea. They invent a new name for the Al-Selali tea. They call it Double Al-Double with much milk.

Visiting the Zako café for the first time may be a surprise. The café is full of inharmonious sounds. One of the café's regular visitors used to be is Doctor Hamama. He used to abuse his friends with worst offenses. His funny jokes about the local and world politics made everyone laugh.

Reasons behind the low-level learning of students

By MOHAMED ZAID
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The reasons for the low-level learning of students are many. The environment, the negligence of parents of their children at homes and their failure to follow up the performance of their children during the school year are a few from the top of the list.

It is the wrong approach of some parents in order to improve the ability of their children to learn and to comprehend difficult subjects and the use of violence or extreme measures such as kicking out the male children from their homes, harsh beating and degrading them instead of seeking peaceful approach to make the children like

school. This practice leads many students to either drop out of school or to neglect their duties in schools.

The large number of students in each classroom and the short time does not allow the teacher to interact effectively with all students nor does it allow him to explain well and to discuss difficult topics over and over again due to the heavy burden imposed on him. Consequently, the students are unable to absorb lessons and continue to pile up lessons that are not understood very well.

The absence of discipline and monitoring of private schools is another factor. Since parents are paying high tuition fees for their children, they expect that their children would have to pass each school year. Schools end up passing the

students, even those who do not deserve to pass, in order to avoid financial losses from withdrawing of the losers from their schools. Parents would not blame their children for not passing, but rather the schools.

The alternative approach to the improvement of students begins at homes. Parents should never resort to violence since violence is counterproductive and sometimes leads to negative consequences such as total dismissal of interest in school by violently mistreated students. Parents should consider a more patient method to encourage their children to enjoy going to school and even to want to learn more and not to lead them to drop out or to neglect their schools.

The parents of students should always

follow up the performance of their children constantly throughout the school year. They have to encourage them and motivate them when they do well. The roles of schools and teachers must expand to provide good examples for the students. The school administration and teachers are supposed to set examples for the students in terms of their involvement in ensuring the appearance of the school, in the selection of qualified teachers, the regular carrying out of various sports and cultural activities and continuously interacting with students. The school should be concerned also with the physical condition as well as the mental and academic skills of the students. Each school should also include a social worker to guide and advise students disturbed for whatever

reason, at home or school. Schools should not neglect the importance of having a first aid kit installed in schools for emergency cases, which would provide a sense of safety for students.

Finally, the Ministry of Education must contribute to having better education principles by providing periodical updated curricula and ensuring the imposed and required obligations of schools are fulfilled by private schools. The Ministry must always monitor the activities of private and public schools at all the times, and most of all, the Ministry must exert efforts to build more schools in order to avoid having many crowded students in each classroom where neither the teachers nor the students can actually get the maximum learning and teaching benefits.

CHANGE She Wrote

Blurred image of liberators and terrorists

By SADAF SHAH
MSADAFSHAH@YAHOO.CO
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

For anyone watching the Iraqi fiasco as an impartial observer must now be extremely confused as to who the civilized liberators are and who the hell are the insurgents/terrorists? The lines that bordered between humane and inhumane behavior are so blurred that it is impossible to even locate where they were originally drawn. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions are a thing of the past or they only apply to certain people from a certain place, the United States and Britain only. Yes, we do not need any monitoring of the troops wreaking havoc in Iraq or Palestine or even Chechnya! No, for they are doing a 'splendid job risking their lives' for the sake of their countrymen. That was the broken record being played over and over again at the U.S House Committee Hearing by the destructive arrogance of Donald Rumsfeld and his top military officials. General Richard Myers, U.S Joint Chiefs Chairman, said the pictures depicting abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib showed "sadistic activity" and that "This is failure of individuals." General Peter Schoomaker, U.S Army Chief of Staff said he had never seen anything like this and that "we're dealing with actions of just a few." Unbelievable! Amnesty International and the International Committee of the Red Cross had prepared reports since last year detailing prisoner abuses occurring not only at Abu Ghraib, but all of the prisons being used by the coalition forces. So, Mr. Rumsfeld, no matter how many times you say you did not know about the abuses or that 'these are isolated instances', will do no good. The truth of the matter is that Rumsfeld and his top military officials were full aware of the abuses, but did nothing to stop them. Why? Maybe because Rumsfeld thought that since the insurgents/terrorists treat the coalition troops so ruthlessly, so if the troops treat the prisoners ruthlessly, it does not matter. Call it 'tit for tat' policy.

However, what Rumsfeld failed to comprehend is that in the eyes of the international community, the American and British troops should have shown their better, more humane side in order to justify their war on terror. Even better would have been their support from the Iraqi people had the people of Iraq seen the difference between their previous leader and their now occupiers. Apologies came from Rumsfeld all the way to Jeff Hoon and Tony Blair in the wake of increasing Iraqi insurgency. The debate now has shifted towards whether or not more pictures should be released. For some observers, the question is not why the abuse took place, but why pictures were taken? Some analysts have drawn a much more grotesque image of the human psyche to answer this obvious question. These pictures are released to further fuel Iraqi insurgency, which will in turn justify coalition response of collective punishment and in the long run, the support for the war on Iran. Since Shiite support of the insurgency will be linked to Iran, and that would ultimately justify overthrowing Iranian authority and dismantling the country so that "democracy can have a chance to flourish" – the same mission Rumsfeld outlined for Iraq before the House Committee. The world should now be prepared to see more disgusting pictures and more horrifying images of war yet to come.

Killing without justification

On Tuesday, May 11, 2004, Amnesty International released a report charging British troops of killing civilians, including an eight-year-old girl, without just cause. Our world has become a playground for arrogant, and disillusioned leaders playing out their childhood 'Cowboys and Indians' game with no rules to adhere to and little concern for the cost of human life lost. The British government has responded by saying that they will investigate. Please investigate and find out why that little girl was killed. In the meantime, brace yourselves for the "worse is yet to come."

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الف الف مبروك وعقبى للفرحة الكبرى

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نغم

جعلها الله قرة عين والديها، ويبارك فيها

وتهانينا الحارة "أبا نغم"

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 6 May 2004.

Main headlines

- Integrated military sports city in Sana'a
- Seizure the biggest forgery case in Yemen
- Yemen receives 14 wanted persons from Saudi Arabia
- Regional workshop on technical and vocational education

The newspaper's political editor says in his article for this week that crimes of torture committed by the American-British coalition forces in the Iraqi prisons and jails that have been recently disclosed by media were not but little examples of the occupation scandals perpetrated against the people of Iraq. That policy has rendered complete cities and areas in Iraq to prisons and jails where large-scale torture is practiced against the people, as happened in Falluja and is happening in Najaf and Kerbala so that the Iraqi children, women and elderly people have become target and subject of collective torture and killing.

The difference is that the publication of pictures by the American CBS network on what is happening in Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad and the British Daily Mirror newspaper of pictures depicting practices of British soldiers in the south, drops the last part of the fig leaf behind which the American and British justifications were being hidden for launching the war on Iraq. Those pictures describe not only the morals and ethics of soldiers and officers of occupation who have directly committed those crimes but also the morals of the political leaders and military commanders who have taken the decision of waging the war and occupation without taking into consideration any humanitarian principles and values, returning humanity to the law of the jungle by disregarding the will of the international community and its legitimacy.

Does what happened in Abu Ghraib represent the freedom the Americans have voiced and told the Iraqis about and does the torturing of the prisoners represent one of the aspects of the Greater Middle East project and values of freedom and democracy promoted by the American administration for change in the region? What has happened represents a mark on the forehead of the United States and all the values it has alleged.

Al-Isbou weekly, 6 May 2004.

Main headlines

- In the YSP session al-Zindani is accused of issuing fatwas of infidelity
- Political security deploys troops in Sana'a University in precaution of a wave of clashes
- An Islah leader: Terror must not be a field for political dispute
- Yemenis in Saudi Arabia face prospects of bankruptcy and deportation

Columnist Mohammed Abdeh Qassem says in an article that we are bewildered between a change coming from abroad on board of the F-15 warplanes or under pressures we are not capable of bearing them of to suffer the waiting under the rule of regimes that have exhausted all what they own of capabilities and insist on keeping their claws deep in our chests. Our shoulders are weighed down under these years if waiting for the day of change when the sun of freedom, transparency, rights and duties and justice. But between change from inside and that from outside extends a space of peoples eager for a certain change of their reality that has been mummified for a long time. Between that and this there are spots of blood and surrenders from those who are not able to impose the change from inside and accept its coming from outside after adding some suitable cosmetics. Thus the change becomes deformed. If they insist to have the change coming from outside in content the victory would render into blood and the change into occupation, as is the situation in now in Afghanistan and Iraq. between the

For the purpose of covering as many as possible articles and analyses published in Yemeni weeklies, representing the Yemeni political spectrum, particularly those articles and analyses expressing various political trends of the political parties, the Yemen Times is pleased to inform its reader-

ship that the local Yemeni "Press Review" would be confined to Thursdays issues of the newspaper. The new arrangement would begin from next week. The new title would be "Yemen Local Press...A Week in Review".

Press Review Editor

Main headlines

- MPs demand Bajammal be summoned before the parliament to discuss his accusation of them as "opportunists"
- Sana'a receives comprehensive reform project from the United States and the G-8
- YSP calls for struggle against the price dose
- Bajammal: We won't hand over Zindani, America practices pressures on us
- Opposition parties, opportunists
- Trade of children and women from Yemen to Saudi Arabia flourish
- National security summons al-Khaiwani
- Romanian team of surgeons in Yemen
- PM: New reforms won't form any burdens for the citizens, they would benefit from them,
- We want to be partners with our brethren in the Gulf
- Arab foreign ministers fix the final date of the summit and its agenda
- Saudi interior minister: We are in a state of war with terror
- Yemen chief of general staff receives the Iranian ambassador
- Daughter of a Jibla Hospital victim request mitigation of the killer's death sentence
- Its first phase capacity 50 thousand barrels,
- Signing agreement on implementation of Mukalla oil refinery

change from inside and that from outside there would extend spaces of years of waiting and agonies of labour. It would be a born child whose features would appear in the light of victory of rulers or a neo-colonialism or their both agreement on a compromising solution or a political action and an open horizon.

Al-Nahar weekly, 6 May 2004.

Main headlines:

- President of Sana'a University calls on the Islah to allow practicing democracy inside al-Eman University
- 17 million riyals embezzlement from Aden physicians union
- Presidential report determines the fate of a number of ministers
- Training course on asylum law concluded
- Regional symposium on challenges facing civil society organisations in the Gulf and Yemen
- Memorandum of understanding between human rights ministry and UNHCR

An article published by the newspaper says with the beginning of the era of unity in Yemen on the 22 of May the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) had led the first movement of dividing the trade unions when it clung to the two entities of the Yemeni Republic- the union of teachers and the students union of the 5th session-as two frameworks for the employees in the scientific institutes and their students. It refused implementation of the unity agreement that stipulated integration of each trade unionist entity that as existing in one of the two parts of Yemen with its counterpart in the of the part. Behind this situation and support from the GPC grew the political conflict that erupted after the unity.

After the end of the war of 1994 summer and after the victory of the GPC-Islah alliance the GPC jumped to inherit the union of teaching profession and integrated by force the two unions into the union named the union of educationists. Thus the teachers union remained receiving support from the Islah. Following recovery of the political life the talk returned anew about the

importance of independence of trade unionist work and to keep it away from partisan conflict. But the treatment was not different in the nature from what is standing, for instead of the parties taking their hands off the unionist work the parties forming the JMP agreed on organizing elections of the students union after they have shared the seats of the preparatory committee and the GPC boycotted the elections and refused to recognise its results. Thus the students remained in some universities as a partisan framework for the opposition and the others as a framework for the ruling party.

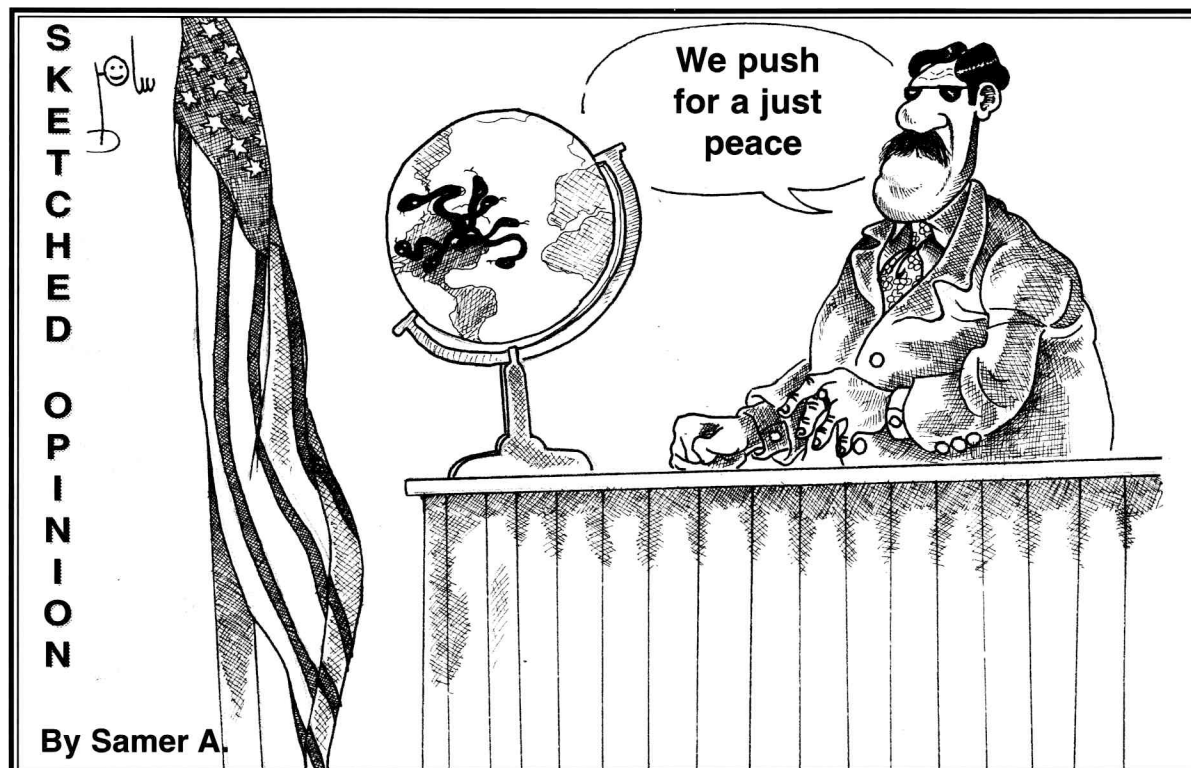
Al-Shumou weekly, 8 May 2004.

Main headlines

- Employment of officials relatives in posts opens the way to terror
- After Sana'a University agreement with political parties leaderships,
- Dr Basura tells Shmou the preparatory committee illegal
- Role of press in achieving development and contribution to remove corruption
- Rumsfeld acknowledges his responsibility for the scandal of Iraqi prisoners

The newspaper's editorial says it is no strange to find the political regime in Yemen targeted by an alliance of forces outside and from inside. It is a matter that has been expected for a long time. Also it is not something new to find the political system itself required to pay the price of mistakes committed by others from various forces and groupings in the country. Against all that it has become obvious that the attack that is more violent against the political regime is about to be complete and in its final scenes.

Back to the more important variables that have become indicating to the presence of a danger against the political system first and the homeland unity and its sovereignty and independence. The attack is not separated from what is planned for the region and factors of targeting have become a common denomination between the foreign colonialist forces and those inside that are looking for a political role on the Yemeni map.



By Samer A.



By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

Looking for humor amidst Yemeni arms

Revenge and carrying Arms is rampant in Yemen due to the State's policy of pampering petty chieftains and the ongoing CHIEFTAINIZATION of an ever increasing number of would be Sheikhs.

It is not surprising to notice in the streets, restaurants and markets, people wearing all types of pistols, machine-guns even pistols with silencers. Homicides in Yemen are for sure the highest but are neither covered by the private nor official media. If one is killed his clan has to follow up the affair or else he is to be forgotten forever.

During past months there were clashes between tribes in Al-Haima, in Yareem and in Tuwaiti areas and the state just ignores it. There are pending revenge cases in Khamir, Amran, Jawf, Marib and in Riashia between Jahmi and Tairi clans (some of which are more than forty years old).

The state media and our con-artist responsables are abiding by the Nazi propaganda top man's wisdom "lie until people believe you". The problem here is that they have themselves believed their own lies and none on the local or foreign levels believe any of their claims on issues such as security, equality, prosperous economy and other social aspects. Simply if a normal citizen approaches a police station nowadays to report a theft or a crime etc. he shall not be listened to, unless he pays an amount of money.

In fact I know someone who used to be a manager of a police station and when I asked him why he left his position he told me that he was overthrown because he was not bribing his superiors for he should rip normal citizens off and give his superiors their share in order for him to remain in his position. This bad state of affairs at the police, investigation and security sectors permits crimes and criminals to act fearlessly.

Investigation officers are downright corrupt and do sell criminal records as well as release some criminals in return for large amounts. Now, let us mention some incidents, which are lamentable and funny at the same time.

One day a son of a sheikh hit a normal citizen's son. The normal citizen decided to first complain to the Chieftain (in Arabic Sheikh). The chieftain reprimanded the man and told him that his son was wrong and how dare he fight a small Sheikh and asked his henchmen to chuck him savagely out of the gate.

The man returned to his small shop sulking and feeling helpless. He had one thing in his mind and that is how to return this offence? He thought about going to the police station but because he knew that they would not help with this situation, he decided against it.

Incidentally he remembered cases where the underpaid disrespected soldiers were bribed and then they fulfilled their duties to the letter. So he approached the police station, spoke with the manager and agreed to pay him an advance payment and the remaining sum after the mission had been accomplished.

The Station officer accompanied by his soldiers approached the Sheikh's house and asked the Sheikh to go out. The Sheikh just like all the sheikhs of Yemen are paid salaries and most are PSO agents. Their children have the priority of promotion and some of them are ministers and ambassadors just because they belong to a sheikh family. In brief Sheikhs are pampered by the state together with their children and kin. Hence, he told the officer don't you know who I am and mumbled some words which were understood by the officer and his men as mockery and disdain from the soldiers and whom they represent so the officer retorted the same slander.

The sheik angry at the insolence went down and slapped the officer (slapping someone is a grave offence according to traditional Yemeni customs) and in the process of tit for tat the sheik killed the officer so the soldiers killed the sheik and there were casualties on both sides.

The regular citizen was later asked how did he develop this brilliant idea? He answered: "Well you know, that I am just a poor regular citizen and "an Iron power" such as that of the defunct sheik could only be mitigated with the same kind!". Also another incident took place during a marriage ceremony. The celebrator fired in the air and then put the pistol back next to his Djambiyya (a traditional Yemeni curved dagger). Mistakenly the trigger was pulled and the poor man's genital was obliterated forever, so the ceremony ceased and the victim was rushed to the hospital.

There are many incidents where, believe it or not, babies and toddlers killed their parents just because they pulled at the trigger of pistols laying carelessly in any given corner of a regular Yemeni House.

Another incident took place during a marriage ceremony in Hajjah where mortar shells were fired and one mistakenly killed many celebrators. While the Ultrashiits in Wadi Nashoor Saadah instead of whipping themselves like normal Shiites or as practiced by Christians in the Philippines and elsewhere, they celebrated last Ashoorah with firing of different arms and shot at effigies and targets standing for the Three Sunni Caliphs Omar, Abu Bakr and Osman. During their last festival they killed thirteen individuals of their lot.

So now let us have a brief outlook at

different aspects of tribalism and the Yemeni Rulers' policies towards this social Yemeni stigma..

Different regimes in Yemen dealt with tribes and chieftains according to their own whims and interests. The British during their occupation of south Yemen turned Sheikhs into Sheikhdoms, Emirs into Emirates and Sultans into Sultanates. This British approach was applied in Southern Yemen as well as in the other remaining parts of the Arabian Peninsula. Imams in northern Yemen dealt with sheikhs according to Islam in that Sharia has superseded tribal traditions and so sheikhs used to act only as mediators whilst the real power was within the hands of the Judges as per Islamic Jurisprudence. At the time of President Sallal and Iriani, both tried to attract tribes so as to defend the newly born Republic against the then theological royalist imams. While President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi was the one and only Yemeni president who successfully tried to assert the dominance of the central government, applied equality of opportunities, justice, law and order. Unfortunately, he was assassinated after three years of his ideal remarkable governance, which was considered by his detractors as "brinkmanship". His successor was president Alghashmi who only ruled for six months during which he showed boundless affection to tribalism and tribalists. He was assassinated through a well-designed southern Yemeni plot. After the Assassination of President Ghashmi a new president took over. The new president was none other than the current president who seized power on July 17, 1978.

During the first years of his rule there were continuous tensions with the then "PDY" which was pro-soviet. He utilized and manipulated Tribalists and Islamists successfully in his attacks against the "Democratic National Front" which was run by the recently slain prominent YSP Assistant Secretary General as well as in the 1994 civil war. Unfortunately, nowadays there is no need whatsoever for the tribalists nor there is any need for the Islamists and both are now a burden on the state's security and treasury. Serious measures ought to be taken in order to curb the influence of both who are now entertained with state positions, prestige and are a menace to law, order, investment and Tourism. So, can we hope for a reverse policy? Unfortunately as seen from the day-to-day findings the current rulers are extremely happy with the status quo and would like others to copy it out, to the extent that some have suggested exporting such expertise to other nations particularly American occupied Iraq.

NOKIA 6230

تستمتع بها.



سرعة،

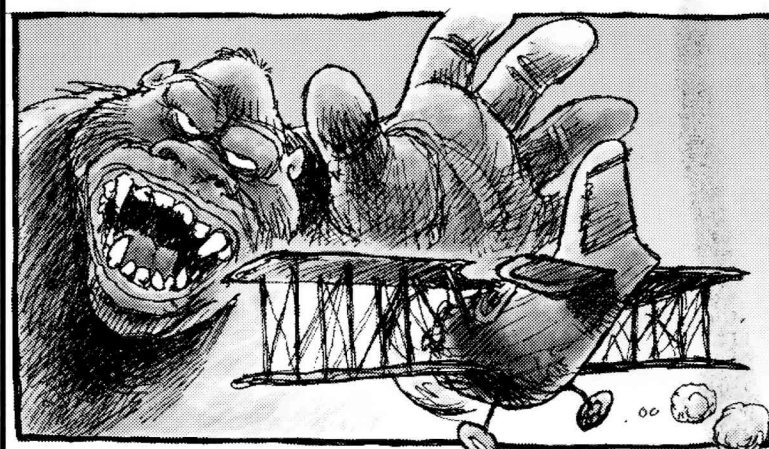
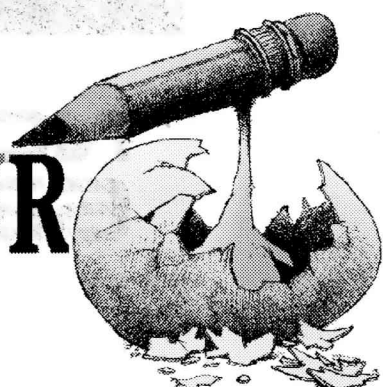


احصل على سرعة عالية تصل
حتى ٢٣٦,٨ كيلوبايت في الثانية
في شبكات EDGE، مع بريد
إلكتروني وتحميل فيديو كليب.
إنه يمنحك الراحة والتلاؤم مع
التكنولوجيا اللاسلكية Bluetooth،
كل ذلك في رزمة أنيقة ومصقولة.
إستمتع به.

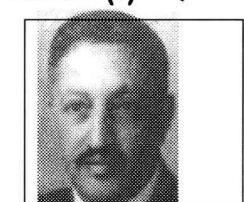
NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

NON SEQUITUR

by Wiley



Separate Contest on Common Names & Symbols



Who is he and what do you know about him?

Ans cont (4)
Amatalaleem
Al-Sosoah
Minister of Human
rights
Winner



Abdullah Al-Sharabi

Contest No. (13) مسابقة رقم

إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer

الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز لكسфорд في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا

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تخفيض ٣٠% في نظام الدبلوم (إنجليزي أو كمبيوتر) مع ضمان الوظيفة للأول

شريطة إصطحاب كوبون المسابقة عند التسجيل ودفع الرسوم مقدماً



مسابقة سهلة وجوائز لجميع المشتركين

The Contest المسابقة

صل الكلمات بمعانيها:

Match the words with its meaning:

- | | |
|------------|------------------------|
| 1. harvest | a) put |
| 2. Place | b) put in tightly |
| 3. remove | c) small glass bottle |
| 4. pack | d) take from the trees |
| 5. jars | e) take out |

أقطع كوبون المسابقة وأرسله بالبريد إلى المصنع مرفقاً بعشرة ملصقات من مياه الخير الموجودة على القارورة :
العنوان - مجمع وادي سهام الصناعي الجديدة ص ب ٥٢٥٩٥ ، ي هذه المشاركة سوف توهلك للاشتراك في المسابقة الكبرى القادمة التي سوف تنشر في صحيفة يمن تايمز على جوائز نقدية وعينية ضخمة.

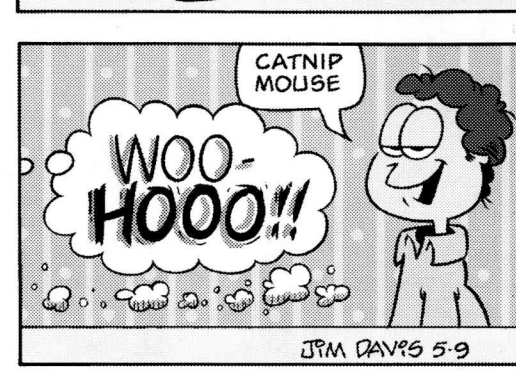
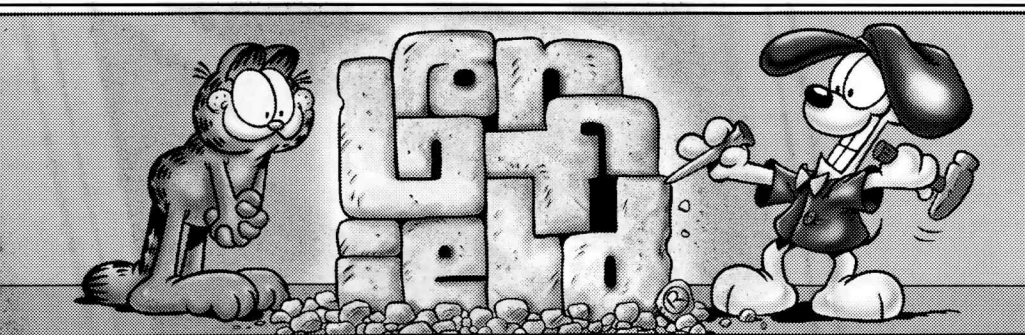
Ans. Cont. 12

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Lair | 5. Exit |
| 2. Remote | 6. Large |
| 3. Refute | 7. Insec |
| 4. Knot | 8. Blouse |

Winner



Soltan Al-Ashari



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



BY Eugenia



Aries
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)

You will be in a position to do something special for someone you have known for some time. Looking back and reflecting on your past will help you move forward with confidence today.



Taurus
(Apr 20 - May 20)

A partnership will make a difference to how you proceed with a project that is of great importance to you. Love will be prominent today.



Gemini
(May 21 - Jun 20)

You will appear to be desperate if you try too hard. Take a back seat and watch to see what everyone else is going to do. Someone is probably trying to sabotage your plans.



Cancer
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)

Children may play a role in your life today. Plenty can be learned by listening to them. An opportunity to meet someone unique will surface through an activity you take part in.



Leo
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)

You may want to double-check whatever you plan to do around your residence before you proceed. Some opposition may occur if you don't follow proper protocol.



Virgo
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)

It's time to get on top of things and decide what it is you really want to change. If something isn't working out with someone, consider moving on or at least addressing alternative solutions.



Libra
(Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Stay on top of what's going on professionally and you will be able to take advantage of a deal that will lead to your advancement. Grab the support you need.



Scorpio
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Focus on how you can turn your talents into a viable commodity. This is the perfect day to do something special with or for someone you love. You will be in a passionate mood.



Sagittarius
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You may be a little careless today, so do the proper safety checks around the house before going out. Electrical problems may develop. This is not the day to take chances.



Capricorn
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)

The more interaction you have with friends and family, the easier it will be to find solutions to any problems you face. This is the perfect day to resolve issues and to make changes.



Aquarius
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Consider an unconventional professional direction that will hold your interest. Goals that you have yet to achieve will haunt you. Follow through with old plans today.



Pisces
(Feb 19-Mar 20)

Get busy making changes. Start with yourself, then make your surroundings more comfortable and efficient. You will need to alter your life in order to feel good about your future.

■ مطلوب (١): مدرس للفلسفة الإنجليزية ،
مدرس جامعي عالي ، خبرة جيدة ، أسلوب
مميز في (١٢) ، مدرس علوم كمبيوتر
مدرس فياضل ماحسوب برمجة جامعي و
خبرة (٣) سكرتيرية شرط ان تكون على
الاقال حاصله على التاتوير العامة ، حسنة
المظهر ، ولايشترط الخبرة (علما ان هناك
الطلب للزيرير على
والكمبيوتر) للعمل في المعهد الأمريكي
الأكاديمي
للتواصل احضار الشريعة الذاتية في مقر
الفرع عصرا الى الساعة حدة جوار
الرياض للصرافة
٧٩٨٠٠٠٠٢٠٠٢٠٧٩٨٠٠٤٢٠٤٢
■ مطلوب (٢): مدير مبيعات أو تسويق
يجب ان يكون حاصل على شهادة جامعي
وارجاء اللغة الانجليزية بطلاقة واستخدما
الكمبيوتر وخبرة سابقة في هذا المجال ،
مدير حسابات يجيد استخدما النظام
المحاسبي وحاصل على شهادة جامعي
وخبرة سابقة في نفس المجال (٢٠) مدير
مالي يجيد اللغة الانجليزية واستخدما
النظام المحاسبي وحاصل على شهادة
جامعي وخبرة سابقة في نفس المجال ،
(٤) أمين صندوق حاصل على الشهادة
جامعي وخبرة سابقة في نفس المجال ،
(٥) موزعين حاصلين على شهادة جامعي
وخبرة سابقة في نفس المجال ، (٦)
سكرتارية تنفيذية تجيد اللغة الانجليزية
بطلاقة وارجاء استخدام الكمبيوتر طباعة
وخبرة سابقة في نفس
المجال(٧)مهندسين الات تصوير -تلفون
سابق حاصل على شهادة جامعي وخبرة
سابقة في نفس المجال

٧٩٨٣٣ : التواصل
(٥/٦)

■ **مطلوب** : سكرتيره عاديہ بديلم
سكرتاريہ و سكرتيره تنفيذيہ تطبيق المحادثۃ
والاخباريہ و مراسلين من حله الثانوية العامہ ،
عمل في مكتب سكرتيري للتعامل الاداري و الأمن
الحراسي في متن
(٥/٦) ٣٣١٧/٨٩

■ **مطلوب** : مدرسي كميوتور ، مدرسي الكروتونيات

مطلوب : مؤتمه قضاءه و القدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي
للأخ / رزيق
و أفراد أسرته بوفاة المفور له بإذنہ تعالى

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To tackle a serious problem in its society: Yemen in world congress Against Child Labor

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

As part of its attempt in tackling child labor problems, the Yemeni government has facilitated the participation of a Yemeni delegation to a 3-day international congress against child labor that started in Florence, Italy on May 10.

The participants include 14-year-old Yemeni girl Zamzam Qassim Mohammed along with Chaperone Akram Al-Junaid, who is a health expert with significant contributions in promoting rights of children.

Zamzam Qassim had a history of suffering as a child. Both her parents died in a young age, leaving her with little hope and a dim future until she found refuge at the Center for Rehabilitation of Working Children. According to the Center's Manager, Mr. Isam Al-Fadhly, Zamzam worked in selling basic simple goods in the streets.

Her father died many years ago and she enrolled to the rehabilitation center in January 2003.

Mr. Al-Fadhly said that "Zamzam gets a monthly allowance to cover her expenses in compensation for the money she used to earn from working. Her mother had died



Zamzam, Yemen's child representative speaks at the congress in Italy



Opening session of the congress with children from all over the world

recently after leaving work due to illness and hence resulted in difficult economic conditions that made Zamzam become a child worker before she enrolled in the center."

A number of difficulties could have jeopardized the participation of the Yemeni delegation. But the quick action by the Italian embassy in Sanaa enabled the delegation members to get their visas and fly to Italy for this important event.

Zamzam's statement at congress

In a statement to participants at the congress in the first day, Zamzam said she

insisted on participating in the event even though her mother died three weeks ago because she wanted to tell her story and focus on the child labor problem in Yemen.

"I started working after my father died. I urge all families to ensure that their children remain with them as I have suffered tremendously for not having a family by my side," she said.

"Children who leave their homes and schools end in the street, which is a very dangerous place for any child. I have seen many children having to leave their homes and find jobs so they can support themselves and continue their studies.

I started working at an young age to support my family and to continue studying. I hope that no more children would suffer like I did."

At the end of her statement she appealed to the world and to the international community and civil society organizations to "help working children pursue their studies to have proper education and learn a skill that would enable them to survive."

Yemen suffers from an acute problem of child labor. With roughly more than half a million working children, the situation of child labor in Yemen is considered one of

the worst in the world.

It is hoped that the conference could help Yemen focus more on this issue, and drive attention of the international community to the plight of a significant portion of the Yemeni population, i.e., working children.



Attendees of the congress

17

إسكاي ترافل
براش للسفريات
أوربت للسفريات
المنار للسفريات
النسيم للسفريات
الجزيرة العربية
الأشطل العالية
الهريش للسفريات
تريم للسفريات
اليمن بين القارات
إلياس للسفريات
الأفاق للسفريات
المنصورة للسفريات
السرهي للسفريات

إسكاي ترافل
براش للسفريات
أوربت للسفريات
المنار للسفريات
النسيم للسفريات
الجزيرة العربية
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