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## Potential trial of terrorism suspects this week: al-Alimi

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Minister of Interior, Dr. Rashad al-Alimi said Wednesday that the trial of some terrorist suspects will kick off this week.

Al-Alimi who was responding to inquiries of MPs last Wednesday at the Parliament said that the number of arrested people on charges of terrorism are 195 including suspects of some terrorist operations against the USS Cole, Limburg, Hunt Oil compa-

ny helicopter, medical convoy in Abyan, explosion of al-Qadisyia in Sana'a as well as the attempted assassination against the US ambassador and bombing of the friendship bridge in Sana'a.

He denied information that there is pressure exercised on Yemen by the US administration not to start the trial of the USS Cole bombing suspects. He said that 43 suspects have been referred to prosecution while 95 others were released last year and 92 this

year. He said only 86 are still in custody and that dialogue conducted by some clerics with them is going on.

The minister said that 20 wanted Yemenis were turned over to Yemen by some countries in addition to one of the Guantanamo bay detainees. He added that police forces arrested some 81 persons whom he called 'trouble-makers' inside mosques in different governorates and that they were set free upon giving guarantees that they would stop their 'troublemaking' acts.

## After extradited by Egyptian authorities Politician Obaid released

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The well-known Yemeni politician Ahmed Salem Obaid was released Saturday after his disappearance from his exile in Cairo for around three months, an official source said.

Obaid, a former minister of information and education in the former South of Yemen, disappeared in Cairo where he was living with his family and a number of the Yemeni Socialist Party leaders since the civil war of 1994. His family appealed to the Yemeni and Egyptian authorities to find out his whereabouts.

Continued on Page 7



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Causing more frustration for Yemen's tourism industry:

## New warning to US citizens

By Peter Willems

The United States issued a new warning last week for US citizens who consider traveling to Yemen.

The travel warning from the US State Department focused on possible terrorist threats from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network which is believed to be trying to establish a new base in a country outside of Afghanistan.

"The security threat to all US citizens in Yemen remains high, due to continuing efforts by Al-Qaeda to re-constitute an effective operating base," said the State Department. "This could lead to possible attacks by extremist individuals or groups against US citizens, facilities, businesses and per-

ceived interests."

The warning also said that US citizens planning to travel to Yemen should "consider carefully the risks of travel to Yemen."

The new travel warning renewed a similar statement issued by the US government on August 20, 2003, which recommended to US citizens to put off unnecessary travel to Yemen. A year ago the State Department ordered non-emergency staff at the US Embassy in Sana'a and family members to leave Yemen, stating it had reliable reports that there were plans of terrorist attacks against US interests.

Last month, the Yemeni government declared that it had made successful progress on fighting terrorism. Abdul Karim Al-Ariani, former Yemeni Prime

Minister and advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, said that around 90% of Al-Qaeda cells in Yemen had been dismantled. Hundreds of militants have been rounded up and key Al-Qaeda members have been captured since Yemen joined the United States to fight terrorism. The last major attack on foreign interests in Yemen was the bombing of the French oil tanker Limburg in 2002.

"The Yemeni government has done an excellent job of fighting terrorism," said a foreign diplomat based in Yemen. "But if Al-Qaeda is still planning attacks, there are challenges ahead for Yemeni security."

Some in the Yemeni tourism industry are angry over the new US travel warning. Although oil is the dominant player in Yemen's market - taking up around 70% of export and government revenue - many believe that the growth of other sectors, like fishing and tourism, can give a big boost to Yemen's struggling economy.

"US travel warnings affect our tourism industry," Executive Director of Tourism Promotion Board Taha Al-

Mahbashi told Yemen Times. "These warnings also affect our overall economy and it doesn't seem fair."

Al-Mahbashi said that the number of tourists coming to Yemen increased in 2003, especially visitors from the Middle East and Europe, but sporadic terrorist attacks in the Arab world and elsewhere have scared many tourists away from traveling to the Middle East.

"Terrorism around the world has had a major effect on the tourism industry," said Al-Mahbashi. "And many people see travel warnings which create even more effect on tourism."

It is stated in the latest US warning that the US Embassy in Yemen might close or suspend public services temporarily for security reasons. According to a US official stationed in Sana'a, the warning did not change the Embassy's position on security.

"Nothing changed at the US Embassy when the warning came out," said the US official. "We will continue tight security at the same level. We have been very vigilant and will continue to be vigilant."

## Yemen blocks attempt on US Ambassador's life

Yemen Times Staff

Yemeni security thwarted a terrorist plot to assassinate US Ambassador Edmund Hull, said Yemeni Interior Minister last Wednesday.

Interior Minister Rashad Al-Eleimi mentioned the plot when he was speaking

to the Parliament, but he did not add more information about Yemeni authorities foiling the plot to assassinate the US Ambassador.

An official at the Ministry of Interior told Associated Press, however, that the terrorists were arrested before they could carry out their plan and that it took place in the second half of last year.

Yemen Times contacted the US Embassy in Sana'a, but a US official referred all inquiries about the alleged plot to assassinate the Ambassador to the Yemeni government.

While addressing the Parliament, Al-Eleimi said that 195 terrorist suspects are being held in custody by Yemeni authorities for the bombing of the USS Cole and



US Ambassador to Yemen, Edmund Hull

the French oil tanker Limburg and planning to assassinate Hull.

Al-Eleimi said 43 terrorist suspects have been handed over to the state prosecutor to possibly face charges.

The USS Cole was bombed in October 2000 while refueling at the port of Aden. Seventeen American sailors were killed, and Al-Qaeda was blamed for the attack. Two years later Limburg was bombed off the Yemeni coast near Mukalla.

The Yemeni government joined the United States to fight terrorism soon after terrorist attacks on US soil occurred on September 11, 2001.



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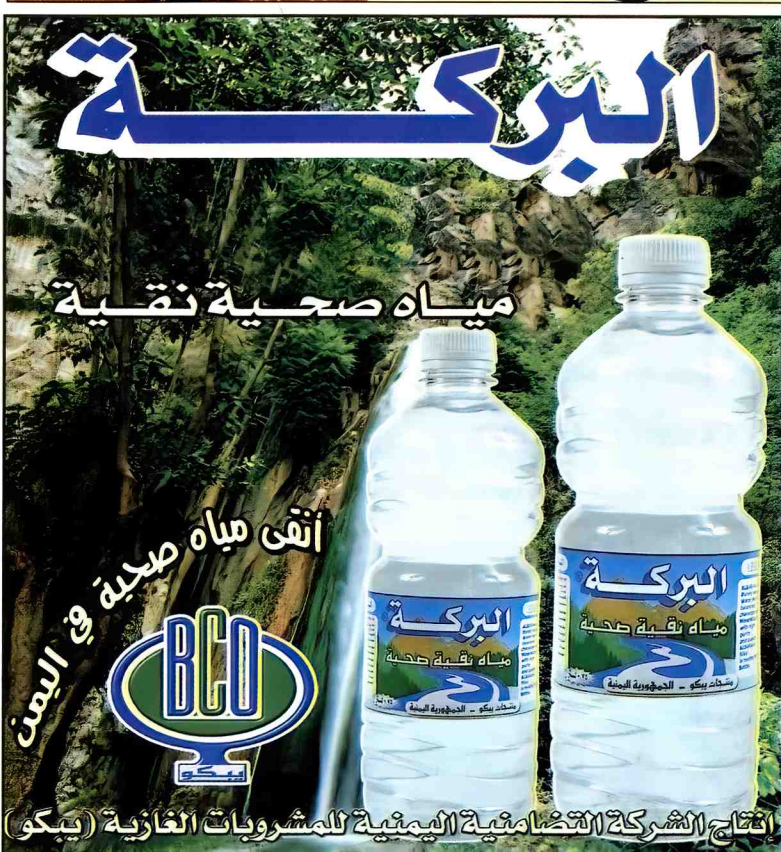
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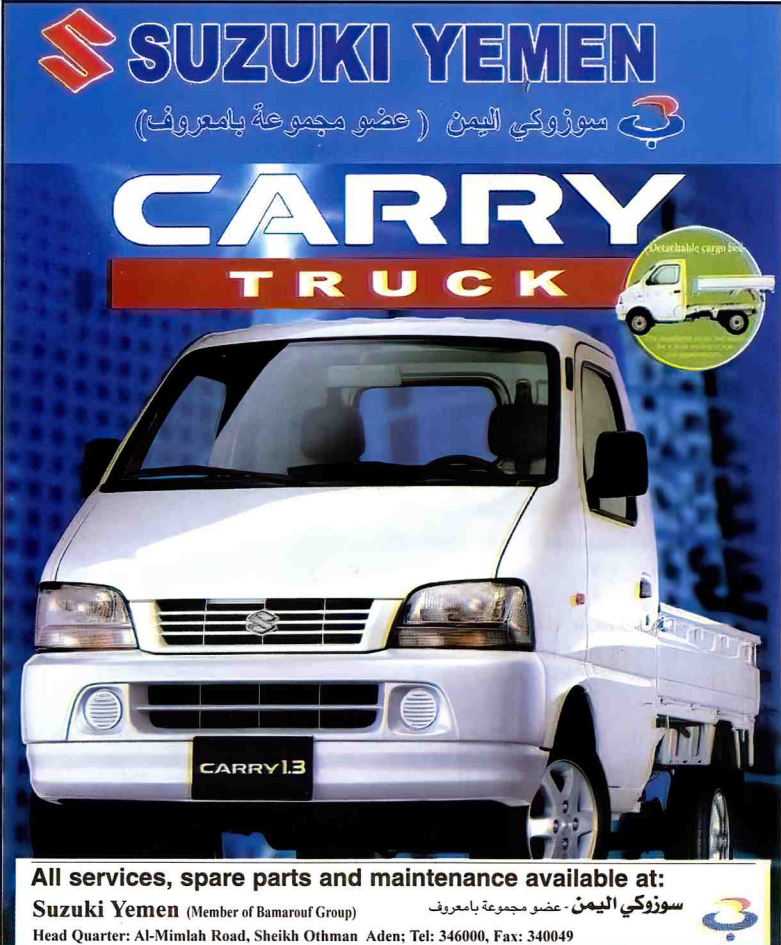
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# Palestinian Authority still pushing for peace

BY PETER WILLEMS  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The recent assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdulaziz Rantisi dashed hope among many for the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians to get back on track. Rantisi, who replaced Yassin as the leader of the militant group Hamas, was killed last month just a few weeks after the assassination of Yassin. And the assassinations came at a time when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continued to rage on.

But according to Saadi Salama, Acting Ambassador for the State of Palestine in Yemen, the Palestinian Authority is still devoted to carry out the peace process.

"The Palestinian Authority is still committed to continue the peace process based on the principles of the roadmap drawn up by the Quartet - the United States, Russia, the EU and the UN," Salama said to Yemen Times. "But the Israeli unilateral decisions have not matched the roadmap. The ball is in Israel's court. If it wants to minimize

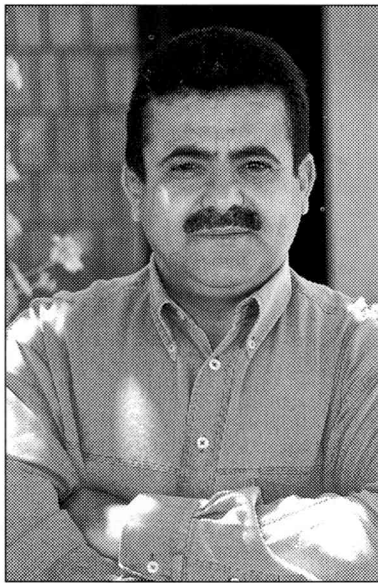
casualties on both sides, it needs to reconsider their current policy and get back on track for the peace process. This is the only way that could minimize casualties."

Since violence erupted in 2000, more than 2,700 Palestinians and 950 Israelis have been killed.

And even though the Palestinian Authority, headed by Yasser Arafat, is willing to return to negotiations, Salama states that the conditions Palestinians are facing gives them the right to resist.

"The Palestinians have had no choice but to resist by the means which they have in their hands," said Salama. "Since we are under occupation, we have no other alternative."

Numerous countries have condemned the assassination of Rantisi, who was killed by an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City. Along with Arab nations, Canada, France, Greece, Iran, Japan and Turkey were among countries that condemned the attack. Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham said soon after the assassination that it will stir more hatred and further more violence.



Acting Ambassador for the State of Palestine in Yemen, Saadi Salama

Salama delivered the same message. "The assassination is in line with Sharon's current plan he has implemented to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. They would like to minimize the power of Hamas in the Gaza Strip before their withdrawal," said Salama. "The policy of assassination has never been successful because conducting assassinations increases anti-Israeli feelings among the Palestinians, and the anti-Israeli feelings will go up day-by-day which will make the situation worse."

Also under criticism was the statement made by President Bush after he met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon in Washington three days before Rantisi and his two bodyguards were killed. Bush supported Sharon's decision to withdraw troops and Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip and endorsed the plan for Israel to pull out of parts of the West Bank while leaving some settlements intact. The Israeli unilateral decision is seen by many as conflicting with the roadmap to peace.

Mary Lord, Assistant Secretary-General for Peace and Conflict Resolution for American Friends Service Committee - which provided humanitarian aid to thousands of Palestinian refugees during the Arab-Israeli war - said Bush's support of the plan is against the long-standing US policy that opposes building settlements. Lord also said it works against UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which state that building settlements beyond the 1967 borders is illegal.

"What Bush said was damaging to the peace process," said Salama. "It damages the principles of the peace process, and it does not coincide with international law. The West Bank has been considered an occupied territory since 1967, and changing the border makes the situation even more difficult to deal with."

In a letter Bush recently sent to Jordan's King Abdullah II, he appeared to back away from assurances he gave Sharon last month but did offer a guarantee for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations Arab countries are pushing for. Arab leaders are pursuing guarantees from the United States on the creation of a Palestinian state that would include the West Bank in full and the return of

Palestinian refugees who fled their homeland.

Questions are also being raised as to how the Palestinian Authority, still committed to the peace process, and Hamas, a militant group quickly becoming the most popular organization in the Gaza Strip, would be able to work together if the Palestinian State is established.

According to Salama, if the Palestinian State is created, organizations, such as Hamas, would join in the political system.

"There will be a multi-party system in Palestine, and we would try and integrate the organizations into the political system," said Salama. "I am sure that the military capability of these organizations will be minimized if the Palestinian people see a horizon of a better future."

Many Arabs were expecting to see a unified stance among Arab nations for the Palestinians at the Arab summit scheduled to meet soon after the assassination of Yassin last month. But the Tunisian government postponed the summit, claiming Arab countries had different positions on political reform in the Middle East. Last week, Arab nations agreed to hold the summit in Tunisia on May 22-23.

But according to Salama, the Palestinians do not expect significant results from the summit.

"The Arab League could put pressure on the US policy toward the Israelis and the Palestinians if the nations were unified. But, unfortunately, they are not unified," said Salama. "I believe the Palestinian people need to rely on themselves."

## A cadet at Police Academy killed by a security guard

Majed Saleh Al-Hamedi, a freshman cadet at the Police Academy in Sana'a, was killed last Tuesday when a security guard shot him in the head while he was climbing on the fence of the academy, trying to sneak back to the academy.

Minister of Interior, Dr. Rashad Al-Aleeme, in a prolonged meeting, urged all to abide by rules and regulation in dealing with the new cadets, amongst whom the incident has instigated a feeling of discontent.

## Opinion poll in Yemen against occupation of Iraq

An opinion poll, issued by Al-Raed Center for Research and Studies on a sample of 400 persons in Sana'a Secretariat, regarding the reaction of Yemenis to the scandal of Abu Ghareeb prison and the US occupation of Iraq was published last Tuesday 12 May 2004. 88% believe that the US lied in its legal reasons for invasion of

Iraq and that the US occupation of Iraq is a resumption of colonization. 91% supported Iraqi resistance by all means. 88% view the US practices as no different from the practices of the Israeli occupation forces in Palestine.

86% believe that the findings about Abu Ghareeb prison increase hatred toward Americans and lead to sympathy

with Al-Qaeda. 89% believe that the approval of the Pentagon to publish the pictures of prisoners in Abu Ghareeb reflects only the US apathy towards Arab opinion. 91% of those involved in the opinion poll are convinced that 'western values' have been undermined by the torture of prisoners under the US custody.

## Al-Shoura Council reconvenes

Saturday, 15 May 2004- Al-Shoura Council begins today the meetings of its second session of its first round for the year 2004, chaired by Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, the Chairman of the Council.

The council will discuss a report on fisheries investment and the role of traditional fishing in serving economic and social development. The council

will discuss on Monday May 17, 2004, the Arab Human Development Report for the year 2003 and the visions for reforms in the region. The discussion meeting will include a number of related ministers, representatives of political parties and civil society organizations, universities, scientific research centers and a number of interested dignitaries.

## 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 Arab summit will be held on time on 22 May in Tunis?**

- Yes, this time they will make it
- No, I don't think so
- Too early to tell

### last 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 75%
- Yes, it is always justified as long as there is US occupation 18%
- It may be justified only once as a warning to deter the US from committing further crimes 7%

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## Parliamentary report exposes crimes of refugees

The report issued by the Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Committee in the Parliament, following a field visit to Kharaz Refugees Camp in Lahj Governorate last week, reports that 365 crimes were committed during the years 2000-2003.

The report breaks up the number of crimes as follows: 117 thefts, 10 rapes, 74 drinking alcohol, 14 car accidents against pedestrians and 85 incidents of physical abuse.

The report unveiled that there is no governmental or non-governmental organization that has adequate information or precise statistics about the number of refugees in Yemen. The report confirmed that there is no official authority in the government concerned with asylum. It also confirmed that among the refugees are individuals who have committed genocide and brutal crimes at their native countries.

## VACANCY

The EC-funded project Support to Health Sector Reform in Yemen at the Ministry of Public Health and population is advertising the full-time position of a

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- Assist the project management in preparation of contracts documents and purchase orders
- supervise implementation of contracts, prepare regular reports about the state of implementation, identify shortcomings in implementation
- supervise Intermediate and Final payment Certificates according to EC regulations
- Advise the project management on the eligibility of contractors for payment after checking technical reports and clearances for completeness and content
- Supervise, in close cooperation with the Project financial manager, the delivery of procured items, maintain project inventories, and monitor the use of fixed assets purchased by the project
- supervise in close cooperation with the project financial manager, the implementation and clearance of local grants to the districts and govern orates supported by the project (District Health Funds, Govern orate training funds, govern orate supervision funds)

Applicants should be Yemeni citizens, hold a Bachelor degree in engineering, accounting or administration, and have minimum of five years professional experience in the field of contract management, preferably with international organizations or projects, former experience in the health sector would be an asset.

good command of English (spoken, reading and writing) is necessary, as well as standard knowledge of computer system and office software.

Employment will start not later than 1 June 2004. the contract, which includes a probationary period of three months, will be for one year initially, to be extended under mutual agreement: the salary will be according to standards.

Applicants are invited to fax an application letter and a detailed CV to the number below. Applicants will be contacted by phone to arrange an interview. please do not call before you are contacted by us.

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Health Policy & Technical Support unit  
Ministry of Public Health and population  
Fax: 01 220 593 or 01 252 241

Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP)  
Health Reform Support Project (HRSP)  
Credit Administration Unit (CAU)

### Request for Expressions of Interest Strengthening Health Service Delivery Component Project Coordinator

The government of the Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health Reform Support Project (HRSP), and intends to apply the proceeds of this credit for the procurement of consultancy services for the HRSP.

The World Bank financed HRSP (Credit 3625) now invites eligible consultants to provide consultancy services to the HRSP, who will function as a Strengthening Health Service Delivery (SHSD) component project coordinator. The SHSD component project coordinator will report and be accountable to the CAU, and will work closely with the MOPHP general directors involved in the SHSD component subcomponents namely; Decentralizing Operational Management (DOM) and providing a Package of Integrated Maternal and Child Health services (PIMAC).

The activities/responsibilities of this consultant will include but will not be limited to:

- Work with departmental directors involved in the PIMAC subcomponent of the project in developing a PIMAC standards and guidelines manual, with sections detailing service delivery, staffing, medical equipment, supplies, drugs, and management guidelines.
- Coordinate all relevant activities of the SHSD component between related departmental directors, MOPHP officials (central and peripheral), and line ministries through the CAU.
- Assist the DOM and PIMAC departmental directors and relevant MOPHP officials (centrally and peripherally) to develop and implement activities and plans (quarterly and annual), to discuss and present to CAU for approval according to project guidelines.
- Assist and coordinate efforts of relevant departmental directors and MOPHP officials to compile, revise, and update lists of requirements for goods, training, civil works, and consultancy services for DOM and PIMAC subcomponents, and submit to the CAU according to the project guidelines and standards.
- Monitor, facilitate and follow-up progress of all activities of this component, write minutes of DOM and PIMAC meetings, and ensure that activities are achieved in an efficient and timely basis, and submit to the CAU monthly, quarterly, and annual reports on the progress of the PIMAC and DOM subcomponents of the project.
- Meet with relevant governmental and district directors of health, district hospital directors, governmental and district primary health care directors, and other officials, and donors as assigned and/or authorized, and carryout field visits to the targeted districts and health facilities as needed.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating they are qualified to perform the required services and have the relevant experience. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank guidelines; *Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999, and May 2000).*

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2004. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Credit Administration Unit  
Health Reform Support Project  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor- Ministry of Public Health and Population  
P.O. Box 1330 - Al-Hasabah - Sanaa - Republic of Yemen  
Tel: +967(1) 252224 - Fax: +967(1) 251622 Email: [hrrsp@y.net.ye](mailto:hrrsp@y.net.ye)

## Al-Susuwa among the Vital Voices of the world

Yemeni Minister of Human Rights Ms. Amat Al-Aleem Al-Susuwa has been honored with two international awards in the field of women leadership and defending human rights.



Amat Al-Aleem Al-Susuwa

**Al-Susuwa has a Vital Voice**  
Celebrations in the US capital Washington DC will take place next month on the occasion of the presentation of an award to Al-Susuwa in the field of women's political leadership, along with five other internationally prominent female dignitaries.

Washington, DC-based Vital Voices human rights organization, whose headquarters is in Washington, confirmed granting the award to Ms. Al-Susuwa as appreciation for her distinguished work in supporting human rights and civil rights in Yemen.

Vital Voices is a global partnership to support women's progress in building democracies, strong economies and peace. Our work focuses on three critical areas: expanding women's roles in politics and civil society; increasing successful women's entrepreneurship; and fighting trafficking in women and girls and other human rights abuses.

On this occasion, Yemen Times contacted Sandra Willitt Jackson, the President of the Vital Voices Global Partnership, who gave the following exclusive statement to Yemen Times. "Vital Voices is thrilled to honor your Minister of Human Rights, the Honorable

Yemen, her leadership on women's human rights in the region, and her pioneering work which makes her a role model for women around the globe.

To cite one example, Minister Al-Susuwa participated in the leadership training Vital Voices conducted in Muscat, Oman, last November for Omani women. As a result of this training, many more women in Oman have been able to take leadership training programs. They have now the communications skills, strategic planning concepts, and better understanding of what women's political participation can do to stabilize governments and improved local economies.

Vital Voices is very grateful to Minister Al-Susuwa for working with Vital Voices. We would like more people around the world to know about her contributions to progress for all the citizens of Yemen."

### Italian award too

On the other hand, the Italian Marisa Bellisario organization has also decided to grant Ms. Al-Susuwa its international prize from among more than 70 prominent individuals, all distinguished supporters of human rights in their own countries.

The Marisa Bellisario Foundation is an Italian ethical society with a fundamental goal in strengthening women's resources and abilities, placing particular focus on those women who have dedicated themselves to business, management and entrepreneurial careers.

Al-Susuwa. The award will be presented to her on Tuesday evening, May 18th. On the evening of May 17, your Honorable Ambassador to the United States will host a dinner in honor of the Minister and two other extraordinary women leaders. Later in the week, Minister Al-Susuwa will participate in meetings at the U.S. Department of State and in discussions with the press and public policy leaders about Yemen, women's role in government, and trends in women's leadership in the region."

She added that, "as President of Vital Voices, I am pleased to tell you that we have selected Yemen's Minister of Human Rights to receive our award for three reasons: her tireless work to bring women into political and civic life in

## In Brief

**Preparatory Committee for Yemeni-Saudi Supreme Council**  
Wednesday, 12 May 2004.

Jeddah- The preparatory committee for the holding of the 17th round of the Yemeni-Saudi Supreme Council was concluded today. The committee has prepared the agenda for the coming round of the Yemeni-Saudi Supreme Coordination Council, scheduled to be held in Riyadh on the 17th of July.

It is worth mentioning that a number of subjects have been agreed to during the meeting toward enhancing bilateral cooperation in the various development fields.

### Two dead, one of a shot another with a rock

May 3, 2004, Taiz- 35 year old Nouman Abdo Al-Hurishy, from the province of Maweyah was killed by Mohamed Abdo Najy using a machine gun. The motives are still unknown.

In a second incident, a young boy, 14 years old, died after a friend of his, Mushref Hasan Ahmed, jokingly threw at him a small rock. Tragically, the impact of the rock killed Ahmed.

### The Higher University Council

Wednesday, 12 May 2004, Sana'a- The High University Council approved in a meeting held today the admission policy for the university year 2004-2005. The council has stipulated the minimum grade point average of 70% for enrolment in the university and 85% for admission to the faculties of dentistry and medicine.

Registration is set to begin on June 15, 2004 and the school year to begin on September 15, 2004. The council has set the capacity of state universities for the year 2004-2005 at 36 thousand students, of both genders in the various available fields of study in all universities.

## The 6th Annual Agricultural Exhibition

Monday, 17 May 2004, Dhamar- The activities of 6th Annual Agricultural Exhibition began at the headquarters of the Public Authority for Agricultural Research and Guidance. This year's exhibition, held under the slogan "Toward improving the quality of Yemeni exports and competitiveness in local and foreign markets", is participated in by more than 70 authorities, companies and agricultural associations. Director of the Authority, Dr. Ismail Muharum, said that the exhibition includes several activities related to showing modern agricultural tools and techniques and explaining the appropriate methods to prepare various food and agricultural products for export.

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## A seminar on insurance

BY BASSAM AL-SAQQAQ  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Monday, 10 May 2004- Under the auspice of Dr. Saleh Basarah, President of Sana'a University, and within the frame of activities being held on the occasion of Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004, the Faculty of Commerce and Economic held a seminar on insurance.

Student Ahmed Al-Haime, in the first working paper dealing with the development of insurance in Yemen, reviewed the inception of insurance in Yemen, the development phases and the sources of its growth. The student buttressed his paper with enclosed questionnaires and precise statistics about the size of the Yemeni insurance market and share of each insurance

company working in Yemen until 2001.

Student Ghada Al-Amari, in her working paper, highlighted Yemeni legislations covering insurance and the amendments to Yemeni laws in recent years and briefly explained various judicial opinions.

The seminar was concluded with a working paper presented by Mr. Abdulwasa Al-Saqqaq, Representative of the United Insurance Co. under the title, "The United Insurance Co. experiment and obtaining an ISO Certificate". Mr. Al-Saqqaq talked about the foundation of the company in 1981 and how it has been able to achieve persistent growth and to compete progressively to accomplish an apparent pioneering status among insurance companies.



## Inauguration of FCC in Aden

BY MOHAMMAD SAEED AL-MEKHLAF  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
ADEN

Aden, 12 May 2004—The French Cultural Centre in Aden was inaugurated by the French Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Alain Morou. The ceremony was held last Wednesday in the German consular residence in Khor Maksar - Aden. In a statement to Yemen Times, H.E. Mr. Alain Morou pointed out that "the inauguration of the FCC in Aden is a great opportunity to present the French - German programme to Aden people. The program consists of various cultural activities such as work-



shop that would be held in cooperation with the Yemeni writers association, and other exhibitions. In the days to come, we hope to open "library" consisting of bilateral Yemeni -French work. In the educational

field, we have extensive cooperation with Yemeni universities, Sana'a, Aden and Taiz, in teaching French language, hoping that French would be taught in secondary schools. We have also a program with vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Planning and Development and International Cooperation, Mr Sofan, concerning scholar ships that would be given to Yemeni students to study in France. Dr. Yahya Al- Shaibi Governor of Aden, Britain Ambassador Mrs. Guy, German Ambassador Mr. Frankman, dignitaries from Arab embassies, and a number of intellectuals attended the festival.

## Rate of students joining technical and vocational education does not exceed 1%

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Minister of Technical and Vocational Education, Dr. Ali Mansour Basafa, requested UNESCO and the International Labor Organization to assist his ministry to carry out the technical and vocational education strategy in Yemen. The number of students joining vocational and technical education does not exceed 1% of total num-

ber of students whilst the objective of the ministry is 15% by the end of 2012.

The Minister's remarks came at the conclusion of the regional workshop regarding the implementation of the joint recommendation of UNESCO and ILO in the field of technical and vocational education in Arab countries, held in Sana'a during 9-11 May in participation of representatives from Arab countries.

Dr. Abo Bakr Badwe,

Representative of ILO, said that the failures of the organization in its various projects are the results of disputes that erupted in 1990 in the Arab region. He pointed out that there are many UN experts currently present in Kuwait with nearly 4 billion USD in assets, but the organizations are unable to enter Iraq due to the volatile security situation there. In addition, there is 120 million USD allocated for the project to establish the Palestinian state.

## Julphar hands awards of Ramadhan competition

The Gulf Medical Industries Co. (Juphar) in Yemen held a celebration on Thursday May 13, 2004, during which it distributed the prizes to the winners of the Ramadhan Cultural Competition.

63 prizes in total were handed out 63 eligible contestants, consisting of twenty-five 21" TVs, fifteen 14-foot refrigerators, ten gold sets, and twelve round trip tickets plus accommodation to the United Arab Emirates.

The grand prize, a Hyundai passenger car, was handed to the 60-year old Mr. Sadi Mohamed Al-Makhadhy.



## Yemenia honors agents

Wednesday- Yemenia Airlines held a luncheon at Sheraton Hotel in the presence of Captain Abdul Khaleg Al-Qadhy, Chairman of Yemenia, and attended by representatives of airlines and travel agencies in Yemen during which several Yemenia agents were honored.

Mr. Naser Hussein Al-Sawadi, the official of BSP, a system to be installed next July for the first time in Yemen, said that the system is concerned with the settlement of agents' accounts and payments and providing currency in their accounts within the framework of IATA. The system is already installed in 49 countries, provides 150 billion USD annually and works for 3300 travel agencies in the Middle East.



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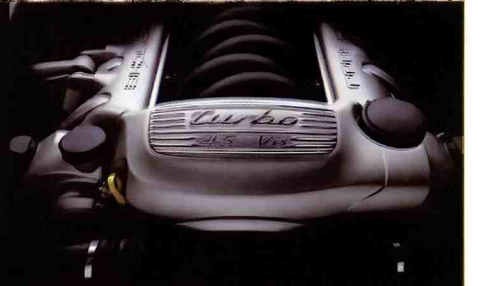


I CAN DO ANYTHING

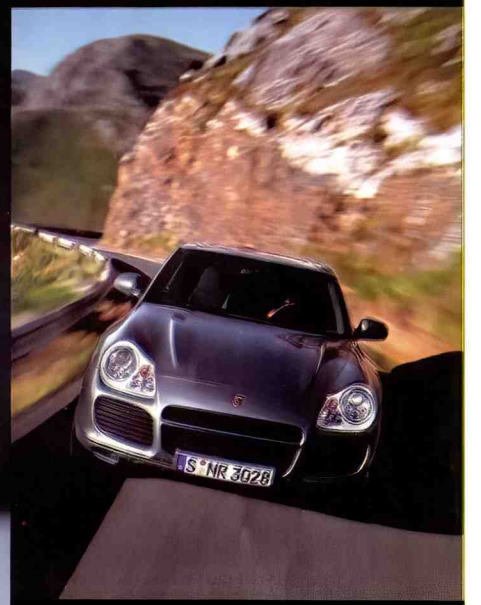
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PORSCHE



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I'M HERE IN YEMEN

I DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO PLEASE ANYONE ELSE



I ACHIEVE MY HIGHEST GOALS

Porsche Centre Yemen



# Israel hits Islamic Jihad sites after losing 13 men

GAZA, May 15 (Reuters) - Israeli helicopters hit Islamic Jihad targets in the Gaza Strip on Saturday after attacks led by the Palestinian militant group killed 13 soldiers and dealt the Middle East's mightiest army its worst blow in two years.

Islamic Jihad said helicopter missiles struck a Gaza City seminary housing its leader Mohammed al-Hindi's office but that he was safely in hiding. The premises of a pro-Jihad charity were also attacked. Israel called both targets militant fronts.

In a meeting with Palestinian President Ahmed Qurie in Jordan, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell urged Palestinians to "seize the opportunity" and accept a plan by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's to pull out of the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said Qurie told Powell that such a withdrawal "would be good if it were part of the 'road map' and a first step to end the Israeli occupation that started in 1967."

It was Qurie's highest-level meeting with U.S. officials since he took office in November.

A U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan calls for a cessation of more than three years of violence and the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005 in the West Bank and Gaza, which Israel has occupied most of since the 1967 Middle East war.

The meeting came amid Palestinian fury at Washington for supporting Sharon's plan to unilaterally evacuate all Jewish settlements from the Gaza Strip but retain large West Bank settlement blocs, a move Palestinians call a land grab.

In the latest violence, an Israeli helicopter razed an Islamic Jihad bomb laboratory in Rafah refugee camp in Gaza, the army said. Witnesses said the structure housed a local group

commander, who escaped, while a woman bystander was wounded.

The killing of 13 soldiers in the Gaza Strip this week by Palestinian militants has deepened already strong public support in Israel for a unilateral Gaza pullout rejected by Sharon's right-wing Likud party, Israeli media polls showed on Friday.

Israeli forces quit Rafah on Saturday after a sweep of the camp to recover their comrades' remains for burial.

## MASS PRO-PULLOUT RALLY PLANNED

Israeli left-wingers voiced hope the Gaza bloodshed would boost attendance at a Saturday rally in Tel Aviv calling to step up pressure on Sharon to pursue his Gaza pullout plan.

Israeli top brass are concerned that Palestinians in Gaza have adopted tactics of Lebanese Hizbollah guerrillas who drove Israel from its 22-year occupation of south Lebanon in 2000.

Sworn to Israel's destruction, Hamas and Islamic Jihad have carried out suicide bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis. Israel has assassinated many of their leaders.

Israel killed 28 Palestinians, including civilians, during four days of fierce fighting in the Gaza Strip.

Witnesses said Israeli bulldozers had knocked down more than 80 homes in Rafah, which the United Nations Relief and Works Agency said had rendered about 1,100 Palestinians homeless. During the operation, a Palestinian was crushed in the rubble.

The army said it demolished buildings used as gun nests by militants who killed seven of its troops. One home had collapsed during an exchange of fire with gunmen holed up inside, it said.

Medics said 14 people were hurt in Saturday's air strikes.

# World donors inject \$1 bln into Iraq fund-minister

DEAD SEA COAST, Jordan, May 15 (Reuters) - World donors have made good on pledges to inject about \$1 billion of the \$33 billion of aid earmarked for Iraq's rebuilding into trust funds run by the United Nations and World Bank, the country's planning minister said on Saturday.

Mehdi al-Hafedh told reporters ahead of a World Economic Forum meeting in Jordan that donors would assess the flow of aid and make more pledges at a May 25-26 meeting in Doha.

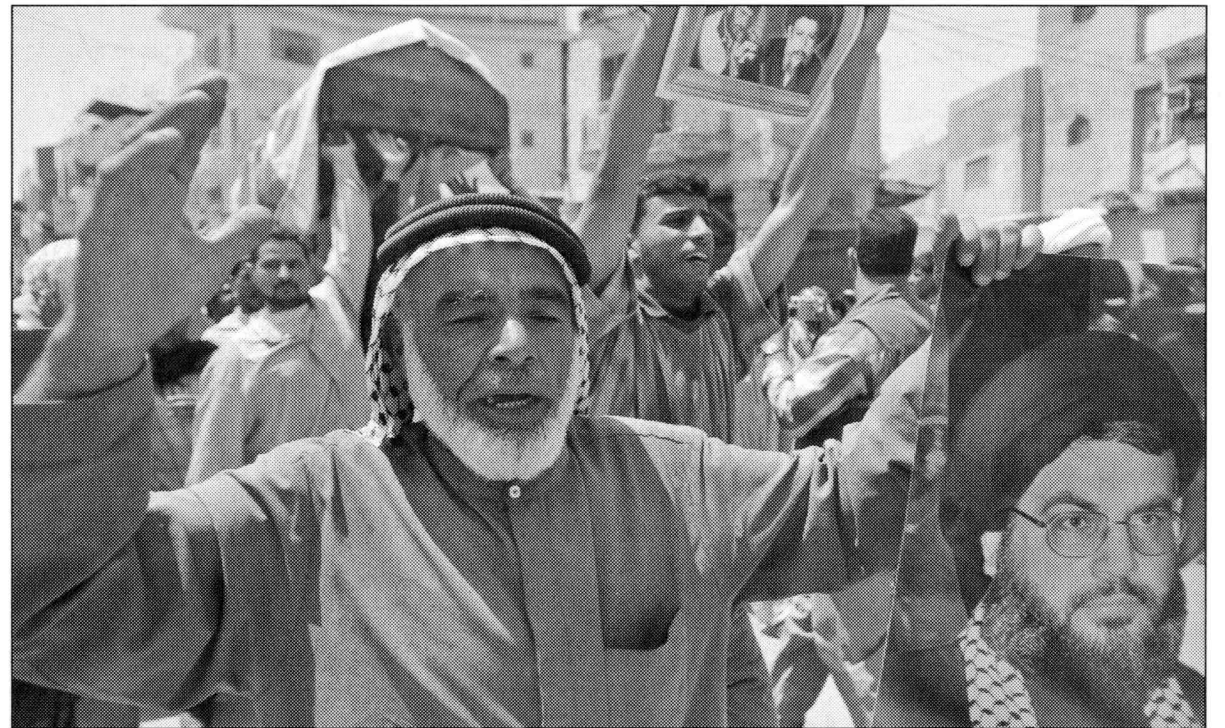
"We now have in the range of more than \$1 billion now and I expect more to come," Hafedh said. "This is money deposited in the (trust) funds."

The funds have come in despite escalating violence in Iraq that has seen scores of foreign civilian contractors involved in the reconstruction process slain or kidnapped, Hafedh said.

"There are problems, no doubt, and this will continue as a concern to us. Without security and stability in the country it will be difficult for us to proceed," said Hafedh, charged with overseeing relations with donors.

Several countries that opposed the U.S.-led war to oust President Saddam Hussein, including France and Germany, refused to contribute any aid to Baghdad if the United States and Britain — who currently occupy Iraq — control the funds.

They said they preferred to give aid directly to Iraq or contribute to trust funds run and audited independently,



Shi'ite men loyal to the radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr chant anti-U.S. slogans during a funeral of a killed militant in the holy city of Najaf, May 15. REUTERS

while Washington has been injecting its billions of reconstruction money directly into Iraqi projects.

Hafedh had outlined \$4 billion of projects for donor consideration at a February meeting in Abu Dhabi to activate aid pledges made at a September donors' summit in Madrid.

At the time, the United States said it would have committed \$10 billion of the \$18.6 billion it has earmarked for Iraqi reconstruction by mid-year. Other donors said they would funnel \$1 billion of the aid they had pledged in Madrid to the trust funds.

The flow of aid and commitments to

specific projects should pick up once Iraqis take over power from U.S. and British occupiers on July 1, Hafedh said.

"Many obstacles will be removed particularly with regards to international recognition of the country," Hafedh said.

# Jordan's king seeks Arab vision of change by 2010

DEAD SEA COAST, Jordan, May 15 (Reuters) - Jordan's King Abdullah said on Saturday Arabs would never accept any reforms imposed from outside, and proposed setting up a team of Arab experts to prepare a plan to be implemented by 2010.

Abdullah also told the opening session of the World Economic Forum (WEF) at a Dead Sea resort that a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict was crucial for any progress towards reforms in the Middle East.

"...there is no trust in the region for a blueprint of reform that does not address people's concerns as they see them — including a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," he told the meeting attended by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Most Arab states have rejected a U.S. plan for reforms in the Middle East that does not require a solution for the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The plan, drafted under the title of the



Jordan's King Abdollah speaks during the opening ceremony of the World Economic Forum at Dead Sea Jordan May 15. REUTERS

Greater Middle East, is due to be announced at a summit of the Group of Eight leaders in the United States in June.

King Abdullah said Arabs were seeking

a "consensus-driven vision" of change by the year 2010.

"Soon, some of the best and the brightest in the Arab world will begin defining a

more specific 'vision of the Middle East in 2010,'" he said, adding that they would be guided by a group of leading members of Arab civil society.

He said the plan would be presented at a WEF meeting next January but gave little other details.

"The approach I suggest looks forward, not to a remote and a distant future, but to an attainable new present. And it is a comprehensive approach, one that deals with the region's core needs: peace based on justice, progress based on reform."

Jordan is a key U.S. ally sandwiched between the region's two hotspots — Israel and the Palestinian territories to the west and Iraq to the east.

The young king has sided with Washington in its war in Iraq and has repeatedly called for a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the creation of a Palestinian state.

He has also led calls for radical reform in the Arabic world and a shift towards democracy among Arab governments.



Palestinian inspect the rubble of their houses after it was demolished by Israeli bulldozers during a raid at the Rafah refugee camp southern Gaza strip May 15. Israeli forces quit Rafah on Saturday after a sweep of the camp to recover their comrades' remains for burial, who were killed in ambushes claimed by Hamas. REUTERS

## VACANCY

### Administrative Assistant

Dutch Grant for Education for All Fast Track Initiative (TF053479)

The Dutch Grant for Education for All Fast Track Initiative seeks applicants for the position of Administrative Assistant who under the general direction of the Project Director will have overall responsibility for providing administrative and secretarial support to the staff of the Grant management. The candidate will work under a highly effective and demanding work environment. In this respect, the candidate will, inter alia:

- Provide secretarial and operational assistance to professional staff involved in various activities.
- Ensure quality of outgoing correspondence and other related documents.
- Manage the filing system and record management.
- Schedule appointments.
- Arrange for translations.
- Manage the leave and attendance system.
- Handle the logistics of conferences and workshops.

#### Qualifications:

- A Graduate degree
- At least 5 years experience in office logistic management.
- Good interpersonal skills and experience in the management of secretarial staff.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Computer knowledge and familiarity with MS-Office applications.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing Arabic and English.

Applications along with a detailed resume and copies of supporting documents should be submitted to Basic Education Expansion Project/ Projects' Sector Building 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Zubairi-Baghdad St., Sana'a not later than Monday, May 24, 2004.

## VACANCY

Accountant For BEEP (IDA-Credit 3422)

The IDA-financed Basic Education Expansion Project seeks applicants for the position of Accountant to assist the Financial Officer in the project financial matters.

#### The accountant would:

- ⇒ Prepare the withdrawal applications, claims, and related governmental letters
- ⇒ Record transactions in the computerized accounting system of the financial activities of the project:-
- Maintain the petty cash.
- Make the necessary vouchers and receipts for all deposits and withdrawal to and from the credit, and record them in the predefined chart of accounts in the system.
- Make a monthly replenishment of the S/A and maintain the necessary control registers for all procured civil works, goods, & technical assistance.
- Follow-up with related ministries and the Central Bank of Yemen.
- Make a monthly reconciliation of the special account and other current accounts (if any), make a necessary adjustments and monthly closing entries
- Make sure that all bank statements, withdrawal applications, claims, correspondence are properly filed and easily accessible once required.

#### Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting.
- Minimum of 3 years of professional experience in accounting.
- Reasonable knowledge of International Accounting Standards.
- familiarity with the government's and IDA's requirement.
- Experience in the use of accounting softwares.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

Applications along with a detailed resume and copies of supporting documents should be submitted to Basic Education Expansion Project/ Projects' Sector Building 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Zubairi-Baghdad St., Sana'a not later than Monday, May 24, 2004

# Rice wants Russia to work on U.N Iraq resolution

MOSCOW, May 15 (Reuters) - U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday the United States wanted Russia's cooperation in working out a U.N resolution on Iraq.

"She made it clear that we want to work closely with the Russians on the text of the Security Council resolution which we will soon be drafting and sharing with our Russian friends," a U.S. embassy spokesman told Reuters.

The arrangements for the June 30 handover were the subject of intense discussions on Friday in both New York and Washington involving foreign ministers of leading industrialised states and diplomats at the United Nations.

Russia made it plain on the eve of the talks with Rice that it was willing to work with Washington on a U.N. Security Council resolution to underpin the handover, but said it wanted a clear outline of post-occupation arrangements.

With officials disclosing only the barest of details, Tass said Rice turned over to the Kremlin leader a message from U.S. President George W. Bush. A Kremlin statement said talks focused on bilateral cooperation and on "key international issues, including the situation in Iraq and in the Middle East".

Contrary to common practice, Russian television showed no pictures of the Kremlin meeting.

Rice was due later to meet members of Russia's Security Council, headed by



**U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice (R) walks with Igor Ivanov (L), the head of Russia's Security Council, before their meeting in Moscow's Kremlin May 15. Rice met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday with the looming transfer of power to local authorities in Iraq high on the agenda, Itar-Tass news agency reported.**

former Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. She travels on to Berlin on Sunday.

Her mission focuses on persuading Russia, a permanent Security Council

member with veto power, to back a new resolution to enable a multinational force to maintain security as long as possible.

Rice said in a newspaper interview on Friday that Washington wanted "to find out Russians' opinion on what this resolution should contain".

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov, Russia's top Iraq expert, told Interfax news agency the most important thing was to "agree precisely on the concept of the Iraqi settlement".

He said Russia, which opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, could support "a two-stage approach", a short resolution followed by a longer document "spelling out in detail an Iraqi settlement game-plan".

At talks attended by G8 industrialised nations foreign ministers in Washington on Friday, major powers challenged the United States to transfer real power to Baghdad in the handover.

Russia wanted the new government to be "truly sovereign". France, also a permanent Security Council member which opposed the Iraq invasion, said Washington must give up control over local forces.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States would withdraw its troops if the interim government made such an unlikely demand, but added that the top U.S. commander should remain free to take decisions as he felt necessary.

# Deputy PM stirs speculation about Blair's future

LONDON, May 15 (Reuters) - His popularity flagging since the Iraq war, British Prime Minister Tony Blair faced renewed speculation on Saturday that he may resign after his deputy said senior ministers had discussed who might take his place.

The Times ran an interview with Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott on its front page under the headline "Race to seize Blair's crown is under way".

Prescott's office issued a statement on Saturday saying the Times headline was "untrue".

In the interview, Prescott was quoted as saying senior ministers had discussed a future without Blair and suggesting they were preparing for a seismic shift in government.

"I think it is true that, when plates appear to be moving, everyone positions themselves for it," Prescott said in the interview with the Times.

Asked if senior ministers were preparing for a new leader or had discussed it, Prescott said: "Yes, people do talk about it and you get that discussion... every British prime minister goes eventually."

But in the statement issued on Saturday Prescott played down the significance of his comments. "Of course there has been speculation over the leadership, but the reality is there is no race for the prime minister's position," he said.

Blair's office declined to comment. His spokesmen have repeatedly denied rumours he is planning to resign ahead of an election expected next year.

Blair's trust ratings plummeted after the Iraq war and his government has been hit by negative headlines on issues from Europe and the Middle East to health and public services.

Blair, who swept to power with a landslide election win in 1997, dismissed talk of his resignation as "froth" on Friday.

But newspapers have speculated there is growing support within the government for Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, Blair's key ally and main rival for the leadership.

Prescott confirmed in the Times interview that Blair and Brown had a "pretty serious breakdown in relations" soon after Labour came to power, but said they had been working "extremely well" together more recently.

Political folklore says the pair made a pact in 1994 that if Blair became prime minister he would one day step aside to allow Brown to take over.

Prescott admitted that Labour had been "rather dampened by the whole business of Iraq". "We understand that it has been difficult," he told the paper.

The latest Populus poll put support for Labour at 32 percent, four points behind the Conservative Party and a 17-year low.

## Bush says won't let Iraq prison abuses happen again

WASHINGTON, May 15 (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush said on Saturday he was determined that Iraqi prison abuses will never happen again, as he took stock of a difficult week in Iraq.

In his weekly radio address, Bush suggested the abuse scandal was limited to those directly involved at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison. He pointed out that charges have been filed against seven soldiers and the first trial is set to begin next week.

"My administration and our military are determined that such abuses never happen again," Bush said. "All Americans know that the actions of a few do not reflect the true character of the United States Armed Forces."

U.S. military interrogation techniques have come under scrutiny following revelations of abuse at Abu Ghraib, which had been a torture center under ousted President Saddam Hussein.

Prisoners were kept naked, stacked

on top of each other, compelled to wear hoods over their heads, forced to engage in sex acts, struck by American jailers, and photographed in humiliating poses.

Defense officials said on Friday that the U.S. military had prohibited several interrogation methods from being used in Iraq, including sleep and sensory deprivation and body "stress positions."

The abuse scandal, coupled with other bad news from Iraq, has been a

factor in a drop in Bush's approval rating. A Pew Research Center survey released on Wednesday put Bush's approval at 44 percent, with 48 percent disapproving.

Bush said the United States was working with Iraqi leaders on an interim Iraqi government to take power on June 30. U.S. troops will stay in Iraq after that for security, he said.

"America will keep its commitment to the independence and national dig-

nity of the Iraqi people," he said.

Bush also noted the beheading of American civilian Nicholas Berg in Iraq. "The savage execution of this innocent man reminds us of the true nature of our terrorist enemy, and of the stakes in this struggle," he said.

"Their barbarism cannot be appeased, and their hatred cannot be satisfied. There's only one way to deal with terror: We must confront the enemy and stay on the offensive until these killers are defeated."

# TURKISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS' Golden students win Bronze Medal for YEMEN

## Congratulations!



Turkish International Schools Students Nour Ali Shaban & Marwan Sami Zaid under the Supervision of Mr. Necip Celepci represented Yemen at the 2nd International Computer Project Olympiad in Turkmenistan. With the participation of 46 projects from 29 countries the five-day event (April 25th to 29th) was a great success and our students won Bronze medals with Robot Arm Project. Congratulations!

# India's Congress chooses Gandhi for PM

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Reuters) - India's ruling Congress party chose Italian-born Sonia Gandhi on Saturday to be India's next prime minister, as communist parties debated whether to join her new government.

Newly elected Congress lawmakers banged their tables in the timber-paneled central hall of parliament, as the unanimous decision was announced two days after Gandhi's shock election win over the ruling Hindu nationalists.

"I feel deeply humbled, I feel greatly privileged," she said, dressed in a cream sari and standing under life-sized portraits of former prime ministers, including her slain husband Rajiv, mother-in-law Indira and Indira's father Jawaharlal Nehru.

"I thank the people of India from my heart. We have succeeded against all odds, we have prevailed despite all predictions of disaster. There is now a momentum generated by our revival, let us not squander it. We must utilise it as a catalyst for change."

Congress' election of Gandhi as its parliamentary leader was expected and means that, having already secured the support of key allies, she will be prime minister, barring any last minute hitches with new political partners.

Gandhi, 57, will be the first foreign-born person and the fourth member of the venerable Nehru-Gandhi dynasty — India's equivalent of the Kennedys — to take the office. In all, the dynasty has ruled the world's second most populous nation for 35 of the 57 years since independence.

#### communists the key

Leftist parties, which made record gains to snatch more than 60 seats, met on Saturday to debate whether to join Gandhi's government or simply support it from outside.

Congress needs their backing because it does not have a majority in the 545-seat parliament. But their pivotal power, led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) with 33 seats, has



Rahul Gandhi (L) gives a flower to his mother Sonia Gandhi after she was elected parliamentary head of Congress party in New Delhi May 15. Italian-born Sonia Gandhi will be India's next prime minister - the country's new ruling party unanimously choose her as its parliamentary head on Saturday following an upset win in national elections earlier in the week.

REUTERS

alarmed investors, worried about the future of privatisations and other economic reforms in Asia's third-largest economy.

Communist leaders said they would announce their decision on Sunday and also moved to reassure markets a day after the rupee and Indian shares crashed to their lowest in months.

"Foreign investment is welcome, provided that they satisfy three conditions," said CPM economics guru Sitaram Yechuri.

"They must augment the existing productive capacities of the country, they must upgrade technology, and foreign investment must lead to employment generation.

"In a globalised world, no country can remain insulated from foreign capital flow."

Analysts welcomed the communists' remarks on foreign investment and said they would not read too much into anti-privatisation comments by communist leaders, pointing out that they are following China's lead on reforms in states they rule.

"I don't think they will play an obstructionist role. In West Bengal they are following liberal economic policies, despite being in coalition with other left groups for 25 to 27 years," said professor B.B. Bhattacharya, of the Institute of Economic Growth.

Gandhi ousted India's Hindu national-

ists on Thursday in possibly India's biggest poll upset, surprising everyone, including Congress. However, she is still considered a political novice, only having taken over Congress in 1998.

Congress has vowed to continue the reforms it started more than a decade ago when it broke India out of socialist-style economics and which were continued by the ousted Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition.

But analysts also expect it to repack-age the reforms after India's hundreds of millions of poor threw the BJP left because it failed to pass on the benefits of a booming economy, which mainly went to the relatively small urban middle class.

Continued from page 1

## Politician Obaid released

Obaid was found to have been arrested in Yemen for some time after his extradition by the Egyptian authorities who arrested him. Yemeni authority sources said he was released and turned over as he was arrested by the Egyptian police for some charges which the source did not mention. However, reliable sources in Sana'a told the Yemen Times that Obaid was part of a deal between Yemen and Egypt police as he was turned over to Yemen in return of the Egyptian big Islamist fundamentalist Said Imam Shareef who was arrested in Abyan and turned over to Cairo last February.

The source said that Obaid was allowed to see some of his family members in Sana'a and call the rest in Cairo. However, he was found with some security men who did not allow him to talk to others. The Yemeni socialist Party welcomed the release and said that their concerns that he was arrested in Yemen turned to be true.

The release of Obaid came after a campaign led by some human rights organizations which demanded that his whereabouts be displayed.

Obaid sought exile in Egypt along with some of the socialist leaders after the defeat of their party in the 1994 civil war. Before the war, he was the military and security advisor to the president of the republic.

Some political observers described the arrest of Obaid, who lived in Cairo as a political figure in exile, by the Egyptian authorities and then his extradition to his country as an unjustified step that does not respect human rights treaties.

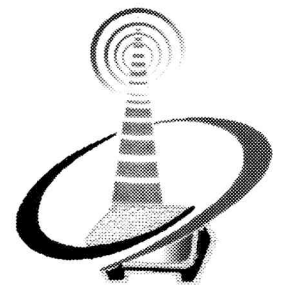
Last week a number of Yemeni people in exile since the 1994 civil war appealed to the UNHCR office in Cairo to re-settle them in non-Arab countries as they no longer feel safe after the disappearance of Obaid.

Around 120 persons in exile wrote to the UNHCR that they want to go to any European country as they felt afraid after their colleague Obaid disappeared suddenly with no hints about his whereabouts. They pointed out that Arab countries can not even protect the rights of their citizens and are not in a position to protect politicians and their families in exile

(Tender announcement No. 3/2004)

## Purchase, import, examining, and submitting of various video cassettes

The Yemeni Public Corporation for Radio and Television invites all companies specialized in the manufacture, purchase and import of video cassettes to contact the corporation's headquarter (Engineering Sector) in Hasaba, near the Ministry of Public Health and Population in Sana'a so they could receive a copy of the tender document for the non-refundable amount of USD 200.



Those who wish to obtain the document by mail can do so by adding USD 100 as mailing, custom, and expenses fees.

All the information, details, instructions, conditions, and specifications are available in the tender document.

Bid letters will be opened at 10:30 on the morning of Tuesday July 8th 2004 at the main headquarters of the corporation in Sana'a amid the presence of bidders.

# Philippine election tension just usual talk

MANILA, May 15 (Reuters) - Rumours of political plots and restive soldiers swirled in the Philippines as a slow election count churned up allegations of cheating but security officials and analysts doubted there was any real threat in all the talk.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and the rest of the nation of 82 million must wait weeks for the official results from Monday's election to confirm her fresh six-year term or a narrow loss to an action movie hero popular among the poor.

Saddled with big debts, rampant corruption and a lagging economy, the Philippines could do without more political risk after an unruly 90-day campaign and a history of public uprisings and military mutinies that have toppled two leaders.

"There are no actual threats," security analyst Rene Jarque, a former army officer who used to be with the military's office of strategic studies, told Reuters. "What we are actually hearing is part of the political noise during elections."

Conspiracy theories are often banded about in the Philippines. And, with the nation's enduring love for mobile phones, text messages were swirling this week about some army and police commanders being removed for refusing to alter voting results in certain areas of the insurgency-hit south.

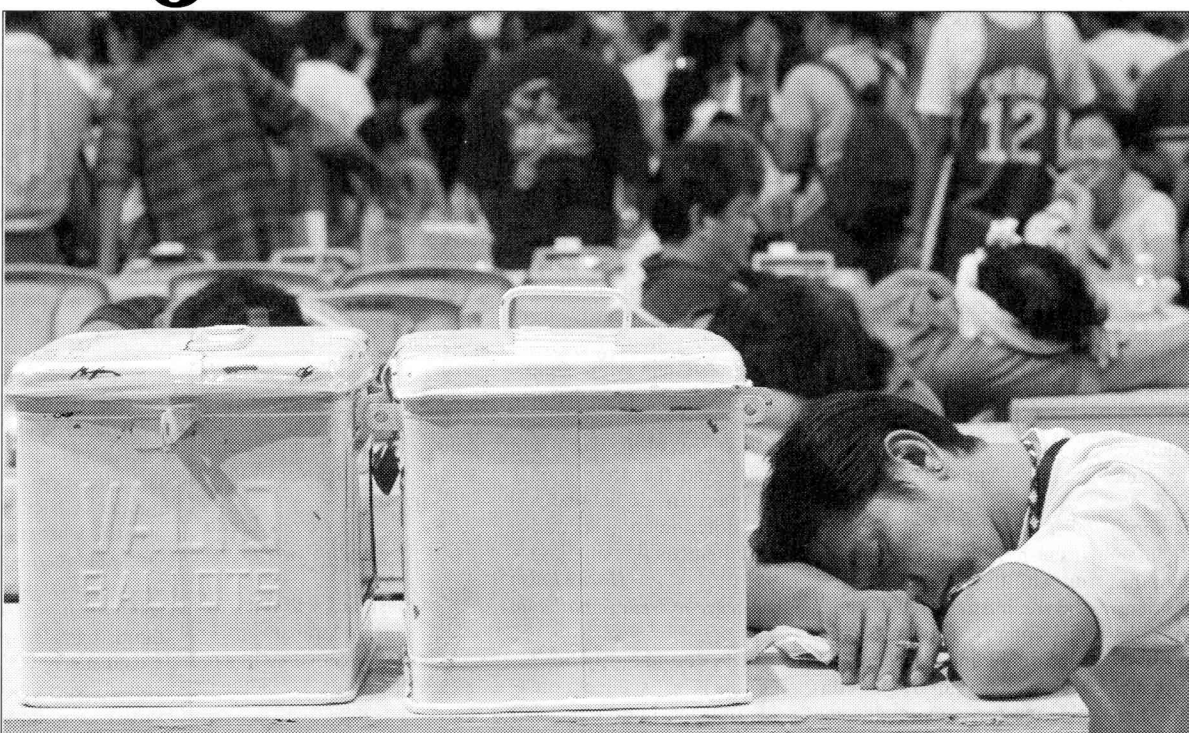
"There's movement in the armed forces," said one message doing the rounds in Manila.

Lieutenant-Colonel Daniel Lucero, a military spokesman, denied there was any restiveness and said the rumours were "just disinformation purposely meant to confuse and polarise our ranks".

"Our chain of command is working properly," he said.

#### tight race

Arroyo, a U.S.-trained economist and ally to Washington who rose to president



A Filipino vote tabulator naps beside ballot boxes during a break at a counting centre in Manila May 15. The latest results from the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), after counting just over 16 percent of the ballots, showed President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ahead of action movie hero Fernando Poe Jr by 39 percent of the votes to his 37 percent.

REUTERS

when Joseph Estrada was ousted in 2001, put down a one-day mutiny without a drop of blood last July.

Her record of reforms is mixed but financial markets clearly prefer her to the main challenger, Fernando Poe Jr, a strong, silent star of 282 films and a close friend of Estrada.

With an unofficial count by an independent watchdog showing a very tight race, the opposition accused Arroyo's camp of amplifying the potential for unrest.

"We have no intention at all to create any instability," said Edgardo Angara, a senator who heads the dominant opposi-

tion bloc supporting Poe.

After counting just over 16 percent of the ballots, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections said Arroyo was ahead of Poe by 39 percent to his 37 percent.

The watchdog, whose tallies have proved accurate in past elections, said it hoped to have 70 percent of the ballots counted by Wednesday.

A day after the May 10 elections, pollster Social Weather Stations said its exit survey of 4,600 voters showed Arroyo in a commanding lead of 40 percent to Poe's 32 percent.

Several retired generals, most of them

identified with Poe's camp, raised concerns over the army's role in the reported vote manipulation on the southern island of Mindanao, which is home to thousands of Muslim and communist rebels.

But some government officials countered that the retired officers themselves were encouraging soldiers to join plots to undermine the election.

Lieutenant-General Rodolfo Garcia, commander of the army's election taskforce, said troops had been non-partisan.

"It is unfair to our soldiers who have exerted all their efforts to ensure the sanctity of the process," he told reporters.

## Announcement

### Invitation to Tender for the Supply and Delivery of One plot Launch for Port of Aden

Yemen Ports Authority (Port of Aden) intends to announce for the above tender.

The tender documents is available to bidding companies at a cost of US\$ 150.00 Quotations are to be submitted **on Sunday 27th June, 2004.**

For collection of tender documents or more information, Please contact:-

**YPA- Head Office,  
Tawahi -Aden,  
Tel: 967-2-202669 /201541  
Fax: 967-2-205805 /205802**

**Words of Wisdom**



Individuals must be held accountable for the way they handle property, especially if it is publicly owned. Thus, drivers of government vehicles, operators of machines, an other people who have direct responsibility for government assets have to be constantly brought under supervision. By the way, this would also apply to traffic violations by government drivers. They should be made to pay for the tickets.  
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times



**OUR OPINION**

**A message to our leaders: Enough humiliation**

It is not a new world war that they will be deciding. They will not discuss a common currency to be used. Nor will they debate about embargoes against Israel. Those Arab leaders are simply and bluntly unable to agree on where and when to hold their summit; a summit that all of us know is a mere gathering to talk about the simplest and lightest reactions to the devastating events in the region.

Haven't they had enough humiliation? Aren't they ashamed of how the world, and not only their people, is viewing them?

Never in the long history of Arabia have we been subject to such humiliation and weakness. Amid the outrage of the world at the events taking place in our region, our leaders seem to be the least concerned about what is going on. Otherwise, why are they unable to come out with a concrete date and agenda for this so-called annual Arab summit?

On the other hand, one becomes more frustrated to see that the concern about human lives and dignity among Arab leaders also seems to be in record laws. Looking at the reactions to the torture scandals of Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, one can only feel pity for not having a common and strong stance from Arab regimes to these horrific images that portray an ugly side to occupation, any occupation.

But on the other hand, it may be quite normal for the reaction to be so mild for a very basic reason. Such tortures probably happen all the time in Arab prisons. The fact is that our regimes have perfected skills in torturing their people and humiliating them in prisons and elsewhere. So, why should we be surprised?

Our sense of weakness and desperation comes from the fact that more than three generations in the Arab world were subject to oppression, lack of freedom, and excessive use of force and brutality. This is why those generations became almost handicapped, with limited overall influence, with limited initiatives, with little courage in bringing out new ideas that may come against the will of the rulers, but which could have had tremendously positive impact on the community.

The reforms that Arab leaders are now proposing are still not with real spirit of wanting change. They seem to be just for the sake of reducing tensions, comforting the angry masses, and possibly absorbing US pressure for reform.

Some may think that it doesn't matter whether those leaders believe in the need for reform, and that the important thing is to have them.

But in my opinion, if we think that there will be reforms in this way, then we will all be fooled. We have had the experience in the past of having an artificial democracy, which is merely to satisfy looks and not for the core and importance of the concepts.

Any reforms therefore, cannot succeed unless they are supported by the commitment of leaders for their own belief that they are in the right.

But this is a bit too difficult to comprehend because the first thing that could happen in a truly democratic situation is that those leaders will lose their chairs.

Frankly speaking, I don't think that they are ready to go that far.

Instead, they seem to be ready to have more humiliation, more than anyone could imagine.

*The Editor*

**A breach of law at Abu Ghraib**

BY JANE NOVAK\*  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In Iraq, the US strives to implement the idea that pluralism and equality among humans is correct and that states are obligated to provide protections to all their citizens. The foundations of democracy include an unmolested media, a robust civil society, and majority affirmation of minority rights. The abuses at Abu Ghraib demonstrate that a just society also depends on the rule of law.

The international anger generated by the photos of prisoner pyramids is linked in part to the identity of the perpetrators, US soldiers, and the audacity necessary to both preach and torture. Another global response is glee at American shame. Anti-American sentiments have been reinforced and hostility vindicated. Some laud America's vigorous commitment to human dignity. Others see a double standard, the tyranny of power and a campaign against Muslims. Few opinions have changed.

American women have been defined by a woman leading a naked man on a leash. The persona of the American woman has stepped beyond Baywatch slut to pornographically sadistic bitch. There are no more good wives in America, no longer any loving mothers: one female soldier devoid of dignity has made them all disappear.

The incident is also taken as another reason not to support Iraq. The Iraqis have become symbolic and their suffering necessary to prove a point. The blood of American soldiers and Iraqi police, shed for Iraq and for humanity, has been defiled at Abu Ghraib. "They did not mistreat me in general," one of the victims, Hyader Sabber Abd, told the New York Times. All the other guards, who he reported were "nice and good people," are now labeled sadists. The coalition is not expected to grow.

Some Middle Eastern writers have noted if the standard applied by President Bush was applied by all heads of state, a long line of leaders would need to

appear, each with a litany of apologies. "Arabs might reflect on...what it says about their own systems, where such images could only be glimpsed over the carcass of an overthrown regime," notes Michael Young in the Daily Star. For others, outrage is directed at the media's silence about torture regularly meted out in other prisons. Kamil Al-Saadoon writing in Sotaliraq believes the Americans prisoners are the lucky ones because "the Arab press becomes full of coverage about them and Arab leaders rush to condemn their treatment."

United States, as a nation, is furious: according to a recent Washington Times Poll, 90 percent of Americans are concerned, upset or angry about the abuse of Iraqi detainees. Comparison to the standards of other nations is not made. Nor has the American reflex been to seek justification in the identity of the prisoners as murderers of Iraqis and US troops. Had it been Saddam on a leash, the violation of basic norms would have been as unacceptable. Neither the goal of gathering information nor the immolation of civilian contractors in Fallujah is seen as justification for the degradation of the Iraqi prisoners. Zarqawi's beheading of an American hostage has not elicited calls for vengeance in kind but has strengthened the determination not to descend into barbarism. The small number of American criminals has not blunted American outrage at the system that permitted their actions.

America now understands humiliation. It is not the humiliation of defeat but that of a brutal victor. The complacency and innocence of American self-perception has taken another hit. The cruel behavior toward these detainees has made the accusations of jingoism and arrogance more biting. Accountability and the double standard are both unquestioningly accepted.

The self-flagellation of the US government is broadcast by the US media and legitimized by the US public. Demands by the citizenry, the media, the military, the executive and legislative branches have brought numerous investigation of

both the individuals and the system. "People will be brought to justice," President Bush has told the world.

The inability of Iraqi detainees to gain family access and the lack of due process are being questioned. The limitation of detainee rights is getting a hard look, as is the treatment of all US prisoners. These actions, more than apologies, will redeem some American dignity as well as the trials and reforms.

At Abu Ghraib, evil showed an American face. It is the same evil the US is bleeding to oppose in the War on Terror: the evil that some are less, that all are not equal, that a shared humanity is not the primary identity. The myth of liberal values alone as a defense against corruption has been dispelled. All societies have criminals. Without the enforcement of law, regard for human life can diminish to the point that men become toys.

Army Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba told the Senate Armed Services Committee that in his investigation he has documented a "failure in leadership - from

the brigade commander on down" at Abu Ghraib. He also cited the lack of training and supervision at the prison. "I believe that they did it on their own volition," the General noted. "We didn't find any order whatsoever - written or otherwise, that directed them to do what they did." The breach of law is made more egregious when committed by those sworn to uphold it.

In the last fifty years the US has codified and implemented functional equality among various domestic groups; abuses and discrimination still occur and are vigorously prosecuted. The importance of humane standards, deviated from in a prison in Iraq, has been loudly reaffirmed by the US. America has changed for the better, as it has many times before, because it has disgusted itself. The path to a more perfect union runs through Abu Ghraib.

\*Jane Novak is an American journalist.

**Shame on civilization!**

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Major news, printing and media Organizations reported and printed photos of despicable crimes committed by the US occupation forces against Iraqi citizens detained at the US-controlled prisons. The committed crimes could only be described as inhumane and are committed only by uncivilized troops with no morals, and ironically claiming to be civilized. Even the Palestinians

detainees under the custody of Israelis forces have not encountered such heinous crimes being committed by the US and British forces in Iraq under the name of liberating the Iraqi people. These are the lessons of the American civilization they want us to learn.

This confirms the reports broadcast by news agencies about bringing one US expert working at Guantanamo base to exert his unique expertise to torment Iraqi prisoners at the notorious Abu Ghraib Prison and to instruct US soldiers to use all kinds of unimaginable and unthinkable methods of torture and

humiliation.

It is very immoral to know that a US female cadet was among the perpetrators who were torturing Iraqis and watching Iraqis being sexually harassed, as if the Iraqis were animals to provide entertainment for the Americans to watch. And then they question themselves: Why the world hates us?

The consecutive human civilizations have lost along the way basic values and ethics. And it is time for the cowboys' civilization to 'hit the road jack and don't come back no more' after it has stained human civilization.

*Letters to the Editor*

**US & Baghdad vs. UK & Aden**

I am a British person horrified by what is happening in Iraq. It is just as much an illegal occupation as when the British occupied Aden in the 1960s. Now having said that my father was part of the British army, commanding the then Federal Regular Army in the 1960s, but he and I came to realise that Arab and British as people are skin and bone. Here is a poem that was given to my father by a member of the Fadhali tribe.

Viner is himself a whole government, like a good government, he stands firm in the face of life's troubles. He is always just. Memshab is charming and graceful and always she is kind, I dream that they both become Muslims. Then I shall protect them and I shall give them land, I shall give them cattle to plough their fields, and fine goats will be their meat. Memshab will grind the corn, and collect water from the mountain pool, never will she tire by her pleasure, of caring for the zaim and making him happy. If their god

will allow them to come to us, Our life and their life will ever be good. Allah is with us all Richard Viner.

Richard Viner  
thejoker@btinternet.com

**Appalling!**

As a Canadian living in America I am appalled, disgusted and down right fed up with the repulsive acts of the administration that "runs" this country. I have the fortune of holding a dual citizenship which I am deeply considering forfeiting due to the bullish and secretive policies that are now in place in this country. This country is currently governed by hypocrisy and tyranny, a government swiftly and surely moving farther and farther away from the people who put it in place.

I have had experience with the cultures and customs of the Middle Eastern region, and it is with the deepest respect that I offer an apology to the people of Iraq and the Middle East as a whole on the part of all Americans who do not agree with Bush, his supporters or his appointed cabinet staff. There is no excuse on anyone's part for the bru-

*Letters to the Editor*

tality and humiliation that these prison guards have forced the Iraqi people to experience and while simple words can not undo the pain and suffering it is my hope that citizens of the world will understand that the majority of Americans do not and will not tolerate nor condone these heinous acts of abuse.

Hari Khalsa  
reyem@redyemail.com

**"Oh, you naughty boy"**

This is an excellent article, but one must remember that the brutality shown to Moslem prisoners by U.S. soldiers and mercenaries is simply a reflection of the policies of top U.S. leadership. President Bush set the moral tone for this war by invading under false pretences, a cowboy attitude ("bring 'em on!"), and stating that the Iraq war was "a crusade". Certainly the individuals who committed the acts should be punished, but nothing less than the International Court of Justice should deal with Mr. Bush. We're talking here about a few hundred abused prisoners compared over 15,000 deaths and prob-

ably 30,000 injuries to Iraqi men women and children by Mr. Bush. The torturers were guilty of the Geneva Convention rules. Mr. Bush and his brutal group of neocons are war criminals and should spend the rest of their lives in prison.

Robert Lindh  
lindh@swnebr.net

**Americans will not tolerate abuse**

As an American citizen, as a former US soldier, but more importantly as a world citizen, I promise you that the American people will NOT tolerate the abuse of Iraqi prisoners. These American thugs will be imprisoned. If the offenders are soldiers of our Armed Forces, they will be harshly dealt with. If they are members of private corporations, they will, hopefully, be dealt with by either the world, American or Iraqi courts. They are scum. They do not in any case represent the American people.

In the hope of a democratic world,

Don Fraser  
domhnull@bu.edu



**COMMON SENSE**

By Hassan Al-Haifi

**When right goes wrong**

The phenomenal results of the Indian elections have shed light on a very important outcome that is not just profoundly important for India, but should signal a clear message to other democracies where right wing parties have become overpowered by their own arrogance and self-righteousness. There is an overriding message that the Spanish elections last month and now the Indian elections of last week that can be deciphered. If the ultra right are given an opportunity to show their acumen at managing the public affairs, dogmatism and a claim to moral suasion based on a claim to upholding fundamental religious dogma and ultra conservative political theory are in the end checked by the inevitable adjudication of the ballot box. In this kind of adjudication, performance and consideration of the welfare of the electorate and overall national political will are what matters. The historical founders of real democratic governance were astute in making sure that the whole idea of democratic rule is to let the people decide on the merits of their chosen leaders. Accordingly these visionary leaders safeguarded their people's interests and fate over the long run from the sometimes overpowering tendency of politicians to translate the mandate given by the ballot box as a God given chance to impose political dogma, and their own economic and social visions. To ensure their hold on this mandate, these selfish power wielders will tend to ignore the welfare and even the rights of the constituencies that they govern and will empower themselves with all the excessive authority they may need to carry out their platforms and impose their selfish agendas. This would entail a reliance on the manipulation of the channels of information flow and communications so that only their arguments prevail and any opposition, in thought or in the interpretation of national interests is tantamount to treason. The ultra-right wing government of India controlled by the ultra conservative Bharatiya Janata Party, led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, ruled India for ten years forgetting that strict adherence to a crude allegiance to fundamentalist dogma and the exaggerated self-assessment of their performance, not to mention a zealous exploitation of emotion and sentiment, especially associated with religious convictions is simply bad insurance against the accountability criteria set out by the ballot box. Oh sure, the economic picture of India might have seen some symbolic strides that point to significant growth and superficial appearances of extravagance here and there. But beneath all that, the insistence of upholding "nationalistic" pride and the use of extraordinary measures to limit the fruits of economic gains to a small minority amidst 1 billion people, especially in a country with 350 million people living below the poverty line, not to mention containing political dissent or rejecting the rights of minorities and fueling ethnic conflict, all of which were bound to ricochet and strike back hard at the BJP.

It is no secret that thousands of lives in India died due to police repression and ethnic conflict fuelled by the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Indian synonym for the USA version, the Patriot Act). The democracy that India prided on being was crushed aside by the reality of a free-handed security and police apparatus and mob violence due to ethnic tensions fuelled by the BJP.

Perhaps, the reasonable leaders in the Republican Party in the United States may detect the strong analogies to the performance of the Republican Administration in the White House and bring back some political sense into the mistakenly self-confident rouge RP members that have brought the United States to a low standing in the international community of an unparalleled dimension, not to mention the arrogance perceived by many people, even those, who are considered in the right of the political spectrum, and the poor trial and error management of public affairs in the domestic theater and overseas, again fuelled by the exploitation of misrepresented sentiment and emotions.

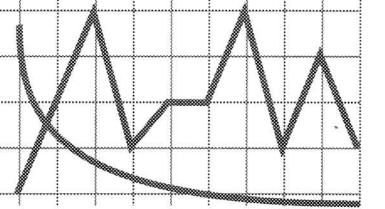
**Ghraib and Greb**

There are some in the United States, who use the unfortunate murder of Nick Breg in Iraq to suggest that the crimes against humanity in Abu Ghraib and elsewhere are second tier evils. This would be an appalling misreading of the facts and certainly do not do any justice to Nick Breg, let alone the Iraqi and other victims in the tens of detention facilities now manned by the United States forces and its allies in Iraq and all over the world. In this context. One should not forget that had it not been for the uncalculated and miscalculated invasion of Iraq by the United States, neither the blatant and systematic tortures (and deaths) of mostly innocent Iraqis revealed in Abu Ghraib and elsewhere in Iraq, nor the equally distasteful horrifying murder of Nick Breg would have been causes for all of us to ask, just where is this world heading? In other words, the jubilant American service men and service women, who carried out the heinous mistreatment of the Iraqis would not be in the setting that "induced" them to be "un-American". Similarly, the barbarians, who murdered Nick Breg, whoever they are, would not have been able to enter Iraq, let alone enjoy the security vacuum left by an illegal invasion to wreak havoc to satisfy their appetite for spilt blood. To those who rushed to view Nick's murder as a manifestation of Islamic terrorism one should not forget the hundreds of Moslems, who have become victims of the same dubious kind of bloodletting that have been perpetrated from Indonesia to the World Trade Center, none of which have anything to do with Moslem dogma or the character and attitudes of the overwhelming majority of Moslems and Arabs throughout the world.

Yes, Nick Breg's untimely loss of life in such a cruel and senseless manner was atrocious, but then again so are the tortures and indemnifying treatment accorded to the Iraqis in Abu Ghraib, the majority of whom would be hit with the same convulsion at the gross murder of Nick Breg. Abu Ghraib has nothing to do with the fight against terror, and absolutely nothing to contribute to bringing democracy and human rights to the Iraqi people. On the other hand, the murder of Nick Breg has nothing to do with the war for the liberation of Iraq from the occupiers or with the defense of Islam. This observer and many analysts are simply not ready to shrug off the possibility that both transgressions emanate from the same fiendish masquerade, who will go to any lengths to serve their narrow minded and satanic agendas.



# YT Business



The World Bank frustrated about,

## The situation of the Free Zone in Aden



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Delegation of the World Bank headed by the Bank's deputy chairman of the Middle East and North Africa Region that recently concluded a visit to Yemen, urged the government to direct efforts towards diversifying sources of the country's national income by depending on non-oil sector in order to provide the state's general budget.

The WB head of the delegation said in a press conference in Sana'a that the projects the WB is implementing in Yemen were progressing according to the planed form but also confirmed that the country was still in need of positive steps to be taken with the aim of engaging the private sector in development.

On his part, the Yemeni minister of planning and international cooperation Ahmed Soufan replied to those remarks by affirming that the

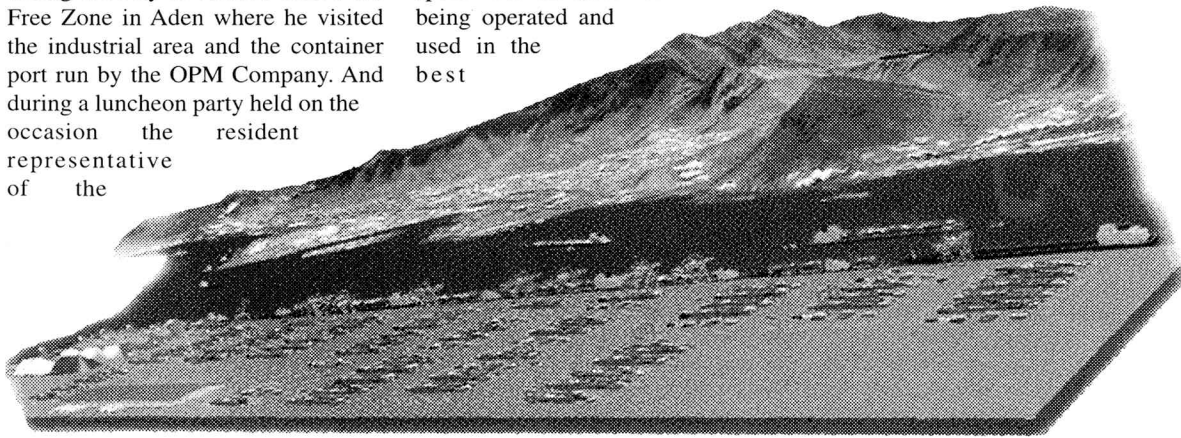
government was seeking to diversify the basis of its economic resources and that in future it would include other promising sectors like mining, agriculture, tourism, fish wealth and in addition to strengthening its relations with the World Bank in areas of traditional and renewable energy.

Deputy Chairman of the WB had during his stay in Yemen visited the Free Zone in Aden where he visited the industrial area and the container port run by the OPM Company. And during a luncheon party held on the occasion the resident representative of the



WB in Yemen had expressed a feeling of frustration for the situation in the Free Zone, saying that through the past years when we visited Aden we had each time witnessed new developments. But, he remarked, at the same time we

had suffered frustration when we saw that the project of the free zone on which huge amounts of money were spent was in need of being operated and used in the best



**For protection of expatriate workers' basic rights, Joint Yemeni-Gulf vision to be submitted to ILO next conference**

By Yemen Times Staff

A meeting for the technical committee of international relations at ministries of labour and social affairs in Yemen and the GCC states has reached a unified vision for coordination of their common efforts to be submitted to a conference of the International Labour Organisation scheduled to be held in Geneva in the period of 1-17 next June.

The meeting has discussed in Sana'a the issues on the agenda of the committee of the international agreement concerning protection of expatriate workers and their family members and the follow-up of the ILO declaration regarding the basic rights of labour, trade unionist rights, the right of organisation and collective negotiations and cooperation protocols between the ILO and the GCC states.

The meeting has come out with resolutions serving areas of cooperation between states of Gulf Labour and Social Affairs Ministers council after Yemen joining it, in addition to agreement on establishment of a mechanism serving areas of cooperation between the region's countries. The participants considered that atmospheres of general freedoms Yemen entertains as a basic factor in helping the region's countries to surpass many hindrances.

Director-General of the executive bureau of the Gulf Labour and Social Affairs Ministers Council Othman Abdullah al-Tweijiri said the opinions at the meeting were identical regarding all questions of common interest,

among them labour relations and trade unionist freedoms.

At the committee's meeting the Yemeni delegation offered proposals and ideas on development of relations and coordination of joint efforts for deep-rooting cooperation among the region's countries in labour and basic rights of workers, in accordance with Gulf and international agreements that Yemen has already approved.

It is scheduled that labour ministers, members at the Gulf Executive Bureau, would present Sana'a recommendations in their coming coordinative meeting in Geneva on the sidelines of the 92<sup>nd</sup> session of the ILO conference.

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

| Currency        | Buying   | Selling  |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| US Dollar       | 184.4500 | 184.6600 |
| Sterling Pound  | 325.4100 | 325.7800 |
| Euro            | 218.2700 | 218.5200 |
| Saudi Rial      | 49.1800  | 49.2400  |
| Kuwaiti Dinar   | 625.6800 | 626.3900 |
| UAE Dirham      | 50.2200  | 50.2800  |
| Egyptian Pound  | 29.6600  | 29.6900  |
| Bahraini Dinar  | 489.2600 | 489.8200 |
| Qatari Rial     | 50.6600  | 50.7200  |
| Jordanian Dinar | 260.1600 | 260.4500 |
| Omani Rial      | 479.1100 | 479.6600 |
| Swiss Franc     | 141.4300 | 141.5900 |
| Swedish Crown   | 23.8100  | 23.8300  |
| Japanese Yen    | 1.6237   | 1.6255   |

Source: Central Bank of Yemen



## إعلان عن فتح باب الترشيح لجوائز المرحوم الحاج هائل سعيد أنعم للعلوم والآداب الدورة التاسعة - ٢٠٠٥م



مليون ريال يماني، كما تقدم مع الجائزة النقدية شهادة ودرع الجائزة للفائزين في حفل يرعاه رئيس مجلس الأمناء ونائبه ويتم الإعلان عنه في وسائل الإعلام المختلفة، كما تستضيف المؤسسة الفائزين عند حضورهم حفل توزيع الجوائز وتتحمل تكاليف السفر والإقامة.

٨- أن يكون الإنتاج المقدم للتنافس مطبوعاً على الحاسوب مع إرفاق دسك.

٩- لا يعاد الإنتاج المقدم إلى مرسله سواء فاز المرشح أو لم يفز.

١٠- لا تقبل الاعتراضات على قرارات المؤسسة بشأن منح الجائزة.

١١- تقبل الترشيحات لغاية ٢٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٥م كحد أقصى.

التحكيم:

يتم عرض الإنتاج المقدم للجائزة على لجان تحكيم من ذوي الاختصاص من الباحثين برتبة أستاذ أو من المشهود لهم بالكفاءة والخبرة الطويلة في مجالهم العلمي والأدبي وموضوعيتهم في التقويم والتحكيم وذلك بواقع ثلاثة أعضاء لكل مجال من مجالات منح الجائزة، وتعتبر قرارات اللجان نهائية بعد اعتمادها من مجلس الأمناء.

الجوائز:

تخصص المؤسسة في كل مجال من المجالات المذكورة جائزة مالية بقيمة

إعطاء أهمية خاصة للبند التالية :-  
١/٤ الأصالة والمنهج وأسلوب العرض.

٢/٤ الإضافة إلى المعرفة إضافة جديدة.

٣/٤ اللغة ودقتها.

٤/٤ المصادر التوثيقية والمرجعية وحدتها وعلاقتها بموضوع العمل.

٥/٤ مدى إسهام العمل على الواقع اليمني.

٥- تقبل المؤسسة طلبات المتقدمين وترشيحات الجامعات والهيئات العلمية والإبداعية القائمة بالبحوث والدراسات العلمية والإبداعية.

٦- تتضمن مصوغات الترشيح:

أ- السجل العلمي أو الإبداعي للمرشح.

ب- نبذة مختصرة عن حياته وإنتاجه ومبررات ترشيحه لنيل الجائزة.

ج- أربع نسخ من كافة الوثائق والمعلومات الأخرى المذكورة في النموذج المتوفر لدى الأمانة العامة للجائزة، والذي من الضروري التقيد بتعليمات ملته لتسهيل عمل الحكيم.

٧- أربع نسخ من البحث أو الإنتاج المقدم لنيل الجائزة على أن تكون ثلاث نسخ منها غير مدون عليها إسم المرشح.

في اليمن

❖ جائزة العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية:

- دور الدولة والمجتمع في القضاء على ظاهرة التآمر.

❖ جائزة العلوم الإسلامية:

- أثر الوقف والبرسات في التكافل الاجتماعي.

❖ جائزة الإبداع الأدبي:

- تاريخ الأدب اليمني في عصر بني رسول ضمن الشروط الآتية:

١- المسابقة مفتوحة لكافة الأساتذة والباحثين والمتخصصين والأدباء الذين قاموا بعمل بحثي علمي متميز أو ذو قيمة اجتماعية، وإبداع أدبي خلاق.

٢- أن يكون الباحث أو الأديب يعني الجنسية أو عربياً مقيماً في اليمن.

٣- أن لا يكون المتقدم قد نال جائزة عن الإنتاج المقدم من أي جهة أخرى وتندرج ضمن هذا رسائل الدبلوم العالي والمجستير والدكتوراه.

٤- أن تراعى الأعراف الأكاديمية والعلمية في الأعمال البحثية والإبداعية المقدمة للتنافس، مع

قرر مجلس أمناء جائزة المرحوم الحاج هائل سعيد أنعم للعلوم والآداب

فتح باب الترشيح للجائزة لعام ٢٠٠٥م -

الدورة التاسعة لكافة الأساتذة والخبراء والباحثين والأدباء والمتخصصين في مجالات العلوم الطبيعية والاساسية والتطبيقية والتكنولوجية والتنمية

والإبداعية الأدبية، وذلك تجسيدا لنهجه وأمنائه في رفعة مجتمعه وتطويره وتخليداً لمآثره الخيرة في كافة مناحي الحياة، وقد قررت مؤسسة السعيد للعلوم والثقافة ومجلس أمناء الجائزة أن تكون موضوعات الجائزة لهذا العام في المجالات

والمحاور الستة التالية:

❖ جائزة العلوم الطبية:

- اضطرابات عوز اليود في اليمن -

الانتشار والآثار الصحية:

❖ جائزة العلوم البيئية والزراعية:

- التصنيع والتسويق الزراعي.

❖ جائزة العلوم الاقتصادية:

- معالجة معوقات التنمية المستدامة

### موضوعات التنافس على الجائزة (الدورة الثامنة - لعام ٢٠٠٤م)

❖ جائزة العلوم الطبية: البلهارسيا: أسبابها وآثارها الصحية وسبل القضاء عليها في اليمن.

❖ جائزة العلوم البيئية والزراعية: حماية الثروة المائية.

❖ جائزة العلوم الاقتصادية: التكامل الاقتصادي العربي وتحديات العولمة.

❖ جائزة العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية: النمو السكاني في اليمن وآثاره على التنمية.

❖ جائزة العلوم الإسلامية: تحقيق مخطوطة من التراث اليمني الإسلامي.

❖ جائزة الإبداع الأدبي: أدب الطفل... إبداعات ودراسات.

ملحوظة: ١- تنطبق كافة الشروط العامة للجائزة والمعتمده في كل الدورات على هذه الدورة.

٢- يعتبر تاريخ ٢٣ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٤م الموعد الأقصى لقبول الترشيحات.



**Medics and patients share what it's like****Leprosy: Can we ever beat this gripping disease?**BY AHMED ZAID  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Once your feet touch the ground of Madinatul-Noor (City of Light) in Taiz, your heart will tremble with anxiety, if not fear, that rages through you as you get closer to its patients.

Then, soon you'll start feel sad for them: people who live in their own world, isolated by a disease that has made of them a class of "the untouchable."

This is what I found while learning more about leprosy, and talking to Dr. Abdul Rahim As-Samie. Dr. As-Samie tackled many angels of the subject. Talking about the disease, he said.

"Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, an acid-fast, rod-shaped bacillus, which were discovered on 1873 by a Norwegian scientist called Graham Hansen.

The disease mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract and also the eyes, apart from some other structures. The Percentage of People affected is estimated to be up to 1% of the population. If left undetected, a chronic course of incurable disfigurement and physical disabilities are likely to occur.

When asked about the clinical signs and symptoms of the disease, Dr. As-Samie said that there are four symptoms of Leprosy and three signs for it as following:

**Symptoms of the disease**

- I. Tingling sensation in the body, hands and feet in particular
- II. Sensory Loss in the skin or a specific area of it.
- III. Weakness in the muscles of the face, hands and feet.
- IV. The appearance of different-colored-spots on the, with or without infiltration and thickness of the skin.

**Cardinal signs**

Individual should be regarded as having leprosy if he or she shows ONE of the following cardinal signs:

1. Skin lesion consistent with leprosy and with definite sensory loss.
2. thickened nerves
3. positive skin smears (contains Leprosy Bacilli) =

On how is leprosy spread, Dr. As-Samie said, ousehold and prolonged close contact is important factor. The germs probably enter the body through the nose and possibly through broken skin. The germs get in the air through nasal discharge of untreated lepromatous patients. If the germs enter, frequently and in big numbers, a body of weak immune system, the person can be easily affected.

And when we asked Dr. As-Samie about the incubation period of the disease, he said: Incubation periods vary but are usually three to five years. The process of diagnosing Leprosy consists of four procedures that should be followed accordingly and meanwhile carefully. These procedures are:

- 1- Reading the patient's medical history, to see any case of interaction with affected person.

- 2- Checking up the patient.
- 3- Testing the skin sensation by touching it with cotton, a pen.
- 4- Testing peripheral nerves on both side of the body to recognize any thickened nerve.

Dr. As-Samie also talked to us about the discovery of first case of leprosy and attempts to burn leprosy patients alive, saying: "Leprosy is one of the oldest documented diseases in Yemen. The first document of this disease goes back to the year 750 A.D. In that year Mohamed Abu-Almadan, a governor of Sana'a, tried to burn alive leprosy patients. However, he died before he could commit such crime.

"On the other hand, Sheikh Saied Al-Amoudi initiated on 620 A.H. a tradition, which is still celebrated until present time in the village of Gaidon, Hadramout. That tradition is basically a celebration during which people mix up with leprosy patients. Such tradition is the exact World Leprosy Day that was initiated in France by Raoul Floro in 1954-850 years after Sheikh Al-Amoudi.

As for the human side in the interaction of the society with leprosy patients, Dr. As-Samie stated that: "in 1964 some wealthy individuals from the city of Taiz built an isolated center for leprosy patient. In those days, people were socially very sensitive towards such patients, who suffered greatly because of that. Therefore, those wealthy individuals tried to take those patients to a distant area outside the city, fearing that they'd get affected. And it was done, and the patients were moved to Al-Hasab area, presently known as city of light where little medical care was given to the.

"In 1992, the Ministry of Health, decided, as a strategy to eliminate such social sensitivity, to transform that center into a hospital for venereal and skin diseases. In addition to amalgamation the efforts of fighting other widespread diseases like Leishmania and skin T.B."

In that span, Dr. As-Samie asserted the possibility of curing leprosy saying that: "it is, like any other disease, curable if treated in its first stages." Pointing out to cases were complete cure was achieved, Dr. As-Samie emphasized that there were 7524 cured cases. Therefore, 35 clinics were closed as a direct result of the continuous disappearing of the disease. Yet,

and in accordance with recommendations from the World Health Organization, those clinics were reopened.

**Disease Spread Average 1992-2003**

| Year | Population | Detected Cases | New Cases | Spreading Average | Discovering Average |
|------|------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1992 | 12691188   | 924            | 419       | 0.70              | 3.3                 |
| 1993 | 12691188   | 1071           | 721       | 0.80              | 5.6                 |
| 1994 | 15804654   | 877            | 309       | 0.60              | 2.0                 |
| 1995 | 16391006   | 664            | 384       | 0.40              | 2.3                 |
| 1996 | 16999112   | 765            | 456       | .45               | 2.7                 |
| 1997 | 17629.779  | 647            | 517       | 0.37              | 2.9                 |
| 1998 | 18283844   | 709            | 734       | 0.38              | 4.0                 |
| 1999 | 18962175   | 607            | 561       | 0.32              | 2.9                 |
| 2000 | 1829800    | 560            | 554       | 0.30              | 3.0                 |
| 2001 | 18934000   | 519            | 513       | 0.27              | 2.7                 |
| 2002 | 19607000   | 422            | 388       | 0.22              | 1.98                |
| 2003 | 2032800    | 395            | 413       | 0.19              | 2.03                |

**Cured Cases 1992-2003**

| Year | Under Treatment | Done with Treatment |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1992 | 924             | 224                 |
| 1993 | 1071            | 322                 |
| 1994 | 877             | 295                 |
| 1995 | 664             | 606                 |
| 1996 | 765             | 352                 |
| 1997 | 647             | 628                 |
| 1998 | 709             | 666                 |
| 1999 | 607             | 686                 |
| 2000 | 560             | 597                 |
| 2001 | 519             | 552                 |
| 2002 | 422             | 493                 |
| 2003 | 395             | 440                 |

In the following charts, we can see the discovered and cured cases for many years.

**Letters from Patient expressing their sufferings**

**1. Because of Leprosy, my life was scattered and I got married away from my family**

By Adel Abdullah Saleh Hatim, of Hajjah Governorate

I lived with the disease, isolation and sorrow. I was only seven year old, when the disease first appeared on me. I did not know what was going on around me. All I know is that, I lost my childhood. They rejected me and I knew very early what those spots on my fingers mean. Just then, I felt like my fingers were so numb. People told me that it was leprosy, and

then they isolate me at that young age.

I felt so sad and lived the misery of thinking that I am just unwanted creature in a society that rejected me without

and read about its symptoms which were very identical to what I had. I thought a lot about it. Then one my neighbors guided me to the hospital of the city of Light.

I said to myself I should go there. I wanted to, but was so afraid. I just never thought I would have that disease. Finally I decided to go. And I was shocked to know that all my fears had come true.

I hid everything from everyone, and kept it to myself only considering it "my little secret." I was so afraid that I would be rejected. Then I decided to do what is right, putting my trust on God.

I took my medicine and got along with patients in the hospital, those whose destinies were to be far away from rest of the world. Strangely enough, the thing that separated them from their family is the something that gathered them. You know, it is so sad to patients to know that there are still some people out there who deal with them without mercy.

**3. Because of Leprosy, I wanted to die. By Saied Ahmed Mohamed, of Jiblah District**

Ten years ago I was struggling with the disease. I didn't know that I had it until I had a little chat with a relative who had been to the hospital for a similar situation.

In the beginning, the bottom of my feet would be numb for long periods of time. There were things that bothered me a lot about my sickness. I went to so many physicians, they all told me the same thing "it is because you extensive traveling between cold and hot regions."

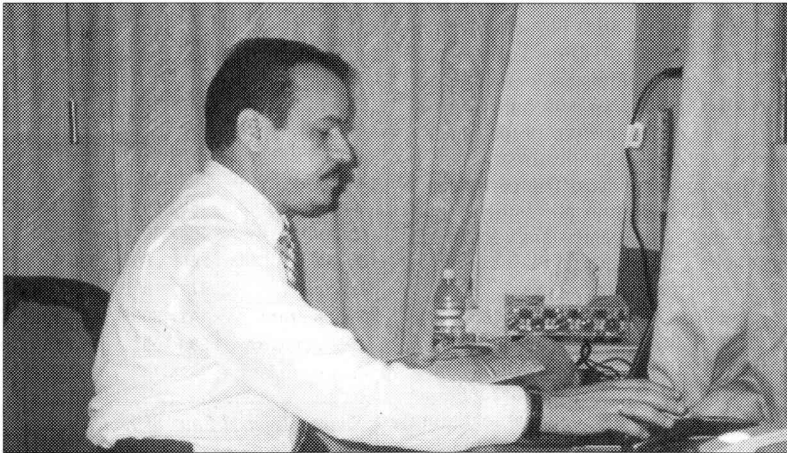
I went to physician Yasin AlQobati and was admitted to the division of Leprosy. He gave me a medicine but, though I was using it, I noticed the spread of strange spot all over my body. I used to wake up in the morning, just to see little pieces of skin on my bed's cover.

In the hospital, the medical care was great..medicines are available and services are well-provided. Right now I am getting better, thank God.

There were times, when I thought seriously about getting ride of my life. Especially those times when people would just keep distance from me.. they were afraid from me!

Angel-hearted people in the hospital have given me new hope in life and tomorrow.

Now that I am cured, I live my life normally and .. I have a job, too.



Dr. Abdul Rahim As-Samie, Director of the national project for redding of leprosy

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following positions within its project "Support to the implementation of the National Cultural Strategy and Cultural Development Projects in Yemen – Phase I"

**Job Title: I. Administrative Support and Public Relations Officer**  
**Duty Station: Sana'a, at the Ministry of Culture****Responsibilities**

- Prepare list of key contacts and organize regular meetings with Government officials and the International community.
- Cooperate in the formulation and collection of inputs and data and undertake the direct preparation and organization of the various events, workshops, conference foreseen in the project (donors meetings, launching event, etc.).
- Operationalize awareness and communication strategies of the Culture project activities utilizing multi media including Internet, electronic and printed media in close cooperation with the ministry of culture & tourism.
- Compile, summarize, plan and arrange briefings on different aspects of Cultural related matters, utilizing the national and international news media; identify appropriate sites and topics regarding culture and cultural heritage. This would include preparation of special reports on different aspects of culture related matters and disseminating them, thus contributing to the overall awareness activities of the project.
- Arrange field visits and accompany media teams, donors, and other interested parties, write articles, coordinate and contribute to arrangements for special events and throughout culture related activities.
- Formulate and monitor media strategies and outputs for culture management activities.
- Cooperate with the UNDP public information and communication officer.
- Contribute to the resource mobilization efforts and maintain a donor database.
- Make reservations and arrangements for internal and international travels.
- Support the Admin & Finance Assistant whenever it is necessary.

**Qualification and Experience**

- A university degree in journalism, public information, or related field of study.
- At least five years of operational experience.
- Experience in writing articles and media briefs.
- Excellent command of Arabic and English languages is mandatory.
- Good computer skills in both English and Arabic.
- Good knowledge of the Internet.

**Job Title: II. Secretariat, Administrative and Finance Assistant**  
**Duty Station: Sana'a, at the Ministry of Culture****Responsibilities**

1. Finance related matters:
  - Handle day-to-day petty cash (opening, administration and closing)
  - Maintain and update Project budget (assist in the preparation of budget revisions)
  - Monitor Project expenditures, prepare and maintain necessary financial control reports
  - Prepare and follow-up on payments and other expenses
2. Personnel related matters:
  - Process entitlements (daily subsistence allowance, remuneration) and follow-up on contracts of Project staff and national consultants (extensions, renewals), and maintain various personnel records and files
  - Brief other personnel on administrative matters, advise and ensure administrative support as required
  - Follow-up on administrative matters between the Project and UNDP-office

**3. Logistical/clerical support:**

- Maintain appropriate inventory records of office material and equipment and prepare the corresponding reports
- Assist in the logistics preparation and implementation of workshops, meetings and other activities pertaining to the Project
- Assist the CTA in drafting progress and other reports
- Type/write letters in both English and Arabic and undertake translation of some documents
- Maintain general office files and keep information and reference in a manner that allows easy retrieval
- Prepare correspondence and offer documents as required on general administrative or
- Socialized tasks, log incoming/outgoing correspondence.
- Assist in assembling briefing material, documentation and correspondence for the use in official meetings or missions.
- Undertake other office duties which may be requested by the Chief Technical Advisor

**Qualification and Experience**

- University degree in business administration, management or communications.
- Good Knowledge of accounting and budget handling.
- Good computer skills in both English and Arabic.
- Good knowledge of the Internet.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Arabic.

**Job Title: III. Driver****Duty Station: Sana'a, at the Ministry of Culture****Responsibilities**

- Drives the project vehicle for the transport of authorized personnel (CTA, project staff, missions, consultants etc.
- Responsible for the day to day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tires etc., performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs when necessary and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean
- Logs official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil change, greasing etc.
- Collects and delivers mail or documents when required
- Ensures that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in an accident;
- Performs any other duties as required.

**Qualification and Experience**

- Primary education, driver's license, knowledge of driving rules and regulations and chauffeur courtesies, skills in minor vehicle repair, initiative and discretion.
- Four years work experience as a driver safe driving record.
- Good Knowledge of Arabic and English.

**Interested candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background for the 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.**

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a

Fax: 448841, E-mail: ([registry.ye@undp.org](mailto:registry.ye@undp.org))

**The deadline for receiving applications is Tuesday, 24th May 2004**

For further details for our vacancies you may visit our website at:

<http://www.undp.org.ye/undp-vacancies.htm>

# Rude awakening

BY PETER WILLEMS

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has shown growing concern and is working to help develop action taken against child trafficking in Yemen.

"Trafficking is the worst form of child labor in Yemen," Thaira Shalan, Child Protection Officer at UNICEF based in Yemen, told Yemen Times. "It is horrendous."

Children handed over by their families to traffic agents are being smuggled into Saudi Arabia and are used for begging, theft or prostitution. UNICEF has gathered information that shows many of the children who are victims of trafficking have been abused.

Until now, the number of children that have been caught up in trafficking has not been determined. But according to Sana'a International Airport, the Yemeni Embassy in Riyadh and the Yemeni consulate in Jeddah, a large

number of Yemeni children are deported regularly from Saudi Arabia and sent back to Yemen. Commercial airlines that fly twice a week from Saudi Arabia to Yemen, for example, carry between 15 to 20 children being deported from Saudi Arabia on each flight. Yemenia Airlines' daily flights from Jeddah to Sana'a carry between two to 35 children every day. It is also reported that Saudi Arabia has chartered planes that have returned children to Yemen.

According to the governor of Hajja province, 2277 Yemeni children were deported across the border on land from Saudi Arabia last February alone.

"We believe that these figures are just a small percentage of children that are arrested and sent back to Yemen," said Shalan.

UNICEF discovered child trafficking in Yemen a little over a year ago. While working with children spending time in prison and child labor, it came across children who had the experience of being shipped off to Saudi Arabia.

"When we were working with street children, we discovered that there was a problem of child trafficking in the country that we were not aware of," said Shalan. "These children started talking about their experiences. They had already been in Saudi Arabia, they were abused, and they talked to us about the horrendous conditions they went through."

UNICEF, in coordination with the Yemeni government, is conducting an assessment of child trafficking and is expecting the report to be completed in mid-June. It also has plans to hold a workshop in Sana'a to discuss the results of the assessment in July, followed by the development of a national plan of action to curb the trafficking of Yemeni children.

"Soon after we discovered child trafficking, we started looking into it,



Children in Saada, which is one of the closest main Yemeni cities to Saudi Arabia. Saada is one of the hubs of the child trafficking route.

figures on unemployment, some have calculated that between 25% and 30% of the Yemeni population is out of work. According to the latest Arab League survey, Yemen remains the poorest country in the Middle East as the average annual income per capita stands at \$508. And the Yemeni economy has yet to get a boost to keep up with the rise in population: While the population growth rate is estimated to be as high as 3.6% annually, the GDP growth rate fell below 3.6% in 2003 and may not exceed 3.3% this year.

According to Shalan, some poor families hand over one of their children to a traffic agent and the families expect to see money coming back with their children after a specified period of time working in Saudi Arabia.

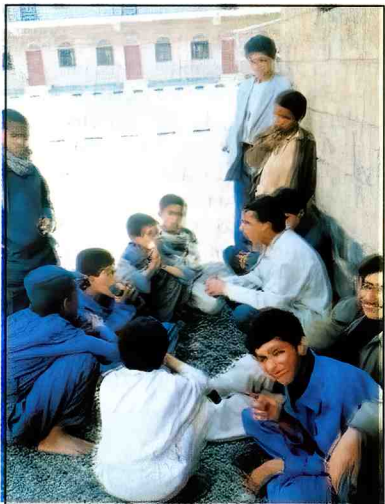
Along with UNICEF's research and development of a plan to reduce child trafficking, it is also focusing on educating the public in poor areas of what happens to children after they are smuggled out of Yemen.

"Sometimes the families don't know what their children are doing while they are thinking the children are working. They don't know what the children will go through," said Shalan. "A lot of what we are doing is raising awareness and teaching them about the hazards and dangers of children who are victims of trafficking."

And UNICEF believes that raising awareness should also include bringing out the subject of child trafficking and discussing it openly.

"Child trafficking in Africa and Afghanistan is frequently talked about, but trafficking in Yemen is never mentioned," said Shalan. "It is a problem, a very big problem, in Yemen."

the Yemenis live below the poverty line, and although there are different



According to the governor of the Hajja province, 2277 Yemeni children were deported across the border on land from Saudi Arabia last February alone.



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# US economy under pressure

BY DR BHARAT JHUNJUNWALA  
bharatj@giad01.vsnl.net.in

Two contradictory signals are emanating from the US economy presently. 978,000 jobs have been created since August 2003. On the other hand, it is estimated that 200,000 jobs are being lost to the developing countries through outsourcing every year.

The question is which of the two tendencies will prevail in the long run. This is important for the developing countries because their condition will be opposite to that of the US.

The US economy has been going through a slowdown during the last three years which had led to a loss of 1.8 million jobs. There was no demand in the market.

Companies were slowing down their production lines and handing pink slips to their employees. It was necessary to generate demand in the market to break the slowdown. This was accomplished, in part, by the Iraq war.

The US army required missiles, radars, combat vehicles, etc. which gen-

erated demand in the economy. But the crucial element was the granting of tax breaks by President Bush and repeated lowering of interest rates by the US Federal Reserve Board. The taxpayers had more purchasing power in their hands. They bought cars and houses. This has led to increase in demand since August 2003 and the economy is looking upwards.

Will this rebound sustain? If it were possible to break a slowdown by giving tax breaks then no country would ever have had a slowdown! The problem with this policy is that tax breaks led to greater budget deficit and the government has to print notes to meet its expenditures which soon have to lead to the devaluation of its currency.

It is noteworthy that the dollar has been falling during the last one year coinciding with the upswing in the US economy.

A cheaper dollar means that the real purchasing power of the US citizen is less. Previously the US consumer had to pay a dollar to buy goods worth Rs 49 from India. Now he has to pay \$1.14 to buy the same goods.

The purchasing power of the US citi-

zen has increased due to the tax cuts but declined to fall of the dollar.

The net impact in the long run is questionable. Of course, there is some gain in the short run. The impact of tax breaks occurs immediately while the fall in the purchasing power takes some time to manifest. The growth of the US economy and the creation of new jobs after August 2003 appears to be because of this short term effect.

The true state of affairs will unfold as the value of the dollar declines. The export of jobs by outsourcing, on the other hand, is stable. The US Chamber of Commerce has issued a report recently showing that 300-500,000 jobs have been exported to countries like India in the last three years.

It has quoted Forrester Research to the effect that about two 200,000 jobs are likely to be outsourced every year.

True, this loss of 200,000 jobs every year is small in comparison to the 1.8 million jobs created since August last year but the long term trends will be more important. The exports of jobs are stable and likely to increase while the creation of jobs may be short-lived.

## The United States of America has its own equivalent of Adolf Hitler's SS divisions

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The killing fields of Abu Ghraib Prison not far from Baghdad are a far cry from the killing fields of the Central Highlands, Thanh Phong or My Lai in Vietnam where the US Army's SS teams went about torturing and murdering the civilian population.

At the village Vietnamese Thanh Phong on February 25, 1969 a team of seven US Navy SEALs part of Operation Phoenix, led by none other than Ex-Senator Bob Kerrey lined up 21 civilians, men, women and children and shot them at point blank range. There were never any trials held for these seven War Criminals.

Then came the Vietnamese hamlet of My Lai, which became the Lidice of Vietnam. It was where under the guidance of his senior officer Colin Powell, Lieutenant William Calley, Jr. of Charlie Company on March 16, 1968, lined up the 500 villagers and their babes in arms and shot them down in cold blood.

For this War Crime Lieutenant William Calley, Jr. was the only one to get any sentence. Of course what was conveniently left out was that one of the soldiers first raped a 13-year-old Vietnamese girl and then put a bayonet through her heart. He was to serve a light sentence of two years for being a bad boy, but US President Richard Nixon later pardoned Lieutenant William Calley, Jr. Colin Powell (the present US Secretary of State) who was in charge of Operation Phoenix, which engineered the whole plot was not even charged, nor was any other perpetrators of the My Lai Massacre. Well, as a US government

spokesman pointed out, they were only just a bunch of gooks (Vietnamese). Shades of Lidice, Czechoslovakia where a German Waffen SS division massacred the whole village of some 500 people on June 10, 1942.

Now we come to the "Tiger Force" a team from the infamous US 101st Airborne Division that ran amok in the highlands of Vietnam.

They would hunt and murder Vietnamese civilians working in their Paddy (rice) fields, as one would do on an African Safari. Except that in this case these US Army butchers were hunting human beings for pleasure and sport.

After killing innocent civilians they would cut off the ears as souvenirs, or string them on necklaces, which they then wore around their necks with pride.

One of them even cut off a Vietnamese baby's head and mounted it on his jeep antenna as a trophy. All these heinous crimes against humanity were exposed 30 years after the fact by the US government, which had hidden them from the public, thanks to a reporter from the "The Blade" newspaper of Toledo, Ohio, which brought out the complete picture of what US soldiers really did during the Vietnam War.

Now we arrive at Abu Ghraib Prison, Iraq. For all we know thousands of Iraqis could have been murdered by the Armed US forces, but all the information was kept under wraps on US government orders.

According to the US government Iraqi prisoners tortured and killed by private contractors do not fall under the Geneva Conventions.

Thus no charges can be laid against them. As for US military personnel

that torture and kill Iraqis, they will just get a slap on the wrist.

Long before Abu Ghraib, the US began its murder of Journalists, Reporters and foreign TV crews.

The Palestinian taking pictures outside a town being shelled was killed by a US tank gunner, because his senior officer ordered him to do it. Remember the Spanish and Ukrainian TV crewmembers that were killed in their room at the Al-Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq from a shell fired from a tank.

It turned out that these two men were in the bad books of the US Military authorities for refusing to allow them to censor their TV pictures.

Funny thing they were the only two people that were killed at the hotel, possibly because they would not permit The US Military to censor their material.

Was the shelling of these two TV crewmembers a mistake? Certainly not! Those orders more than likely came directly from the head honcho in the White House, Washington, DC. Now there is talk of the US Army doing their own investigation into the Abu Ghraib Prison, Iraq atrocities.

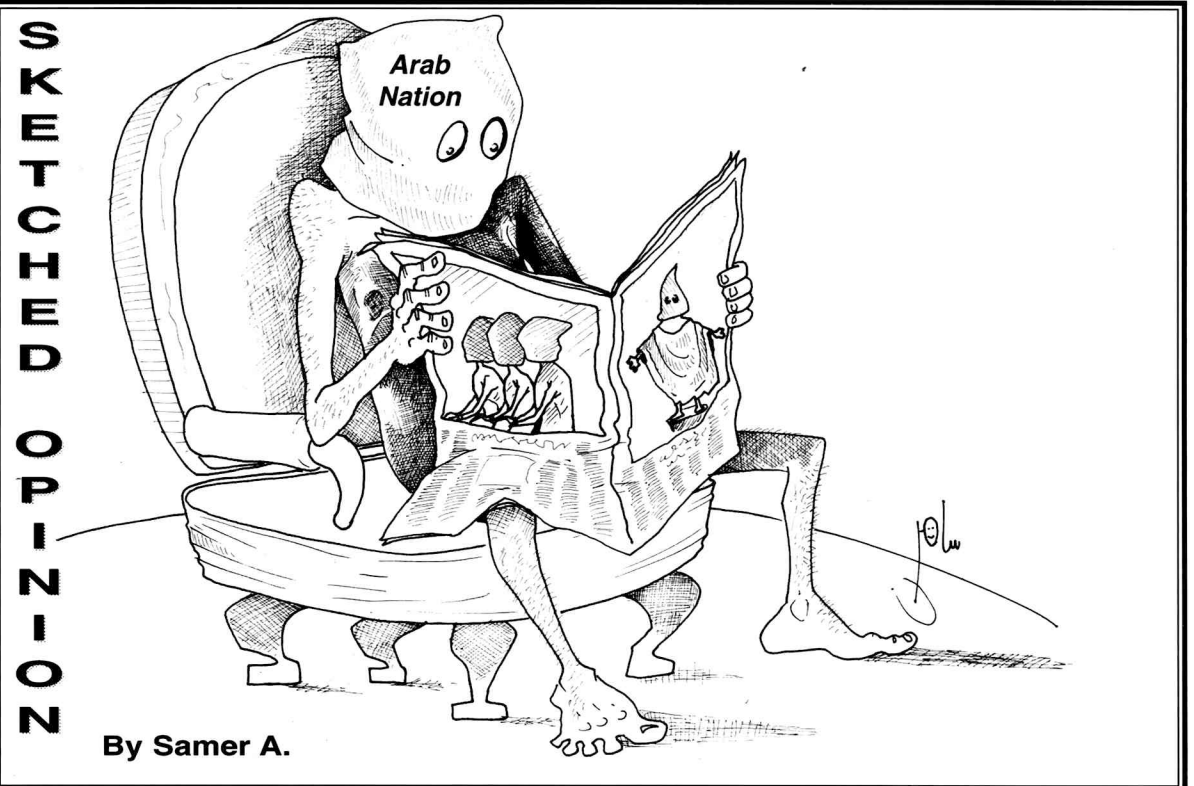
This means be ready for a cover-up by the US government, and not expect any miracles, like real justice.

With time, even the little evidence that has been brought out by the US Army and news media will again be swept under the carpet A LA STYLE AMERICAINE.

The US has no respect the Geneva Conventions. That is the one thing that the US will never show respect for. Don't forget the Morgenthau Pogrom, where close to a million German Prisoners-of-war men, women and children died in open fields, surrounded with barbed-wire and machinegun towers, with very little food and water, no shelters of any kind, not even tents in the winter time, no medicines, no running water and no sewage system whatsoever. These are the bare-boned necessities required by the Geneva Conventions, which the US government openly flouted in Germany between 1945-6.

Why does anyone expect that the US government has changed these sub-standard policies? The War Crimes at the Abu Ghraib Prison are not the exception, but the rule of US forces in every part of the globe. War Crimes are set US standards wherever US forces have been employed.

Be that Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Panama, Nicaragua and in almost all Latin America which have at some time or other been on the receiving end of America's goodwill in the department War Crimes.



One line of thinking making rounds in the US to deal with this problem is to discourage or restrict outsourcing.

But this will not lead to a solution. The US Chamber of Commerce has said that restrictions on outsourcing will lead to heavier tax burden on the taxpayer. In India, the US Chamber of Commerce report says, a bid lower by \$8.1 million by an Indian company was rejected because the company would have outsourced some of the work.

Taxpayers spent an estimated \$162,000 per local job saved. Similarly North Carolina lawmakers agreed to spend \$1.2 million to hire 34 call center workers in state to replace contracted workers in India to answer questions about the food stamp program.

The second problem is that US companies will lose out in global competitiveness.

Technology writer Declan McCullagh writes, "Consider what

would happen if Congress restricted companies from shifting overseas. Because rivals in Europe, Japan, and Korea could employ cheaper workers in developing nations, they'd have a leg up on US firms.

Foreign investors would recognize that rising US protectionism makes US companies less competitive and would choose to take their yens and euros elsewhere..."

The conclusion is that the US has no option but to allow outsourcing. The US citizen will loose in both situations—whether outsourcing is allowed or not—but the US corporations will be saved if outsourcing is permitted.

If outsourcing is permitted the US worker will loose jobs to cheaper workers in India. But the US companies could remain competitive by employing the cheap Indian workers.

If outsourcing is prevented then the US Corporation will loose their compet-

itiveness and sink along with the US worker.

The US worker has to loose either way. The US Chamber of Commerce is correct, therefore, in saying that restrictions on outsourcing will be counterproductive for the US corporations and economy in general.

But it is wrong in asserting that outsourcing will be beneficial for the US worker. He will loose anyway except that taxes paid by the US corporations may make it possible to pay him some nominal social welfare benefits.

This is what the US citizens should have expected in the first place. Globalization also means globalization of wage rates-to their lowest levels.

Technological advances in transport and communication have reduced the sustainable wage differentials to barest minimum. It will not be surprising if the US becomes the strongest votary of protectionism in the times to come.



By Yahya Al-Olfi  
alolfi@hotmail.com

## Reflections

### The Animal in us

I was the other day horrified to watch on T.V. a videotape of the savage beheading of an innocent American young man who was subcontracted to repair TV relay antennas in Iraq. Many Arabs are still skeptical about this and most of them think that the Americans might have fabricated it, that it is merely a vile American effort to cover up the scandal of the monstrous crimes committed by American soldiers who most probably did what they did based on Israeli expertise in this field.

The perpetrators of this unholy act, if it is true, describe it as a retaliation for the crimes committed by the American soldiers against the Iraqi prisoners in Abu Ghraib, which in my opinion are unforgivable crimes and it behooves USA to resolve this disgrace which has stained its reputation worldwide through remorseful apologies and tangible penalization of those responsible for the shame and tragic monstrosity.

The republicans are now acting craftily, through their consistent efforts to divulge more about the ignominy lest their rival democrats utilize the thing later. Republicans imply to the American electorate that they have only seen the tip of the iceberg and that there are still even more hidden extra-beastial crimes which are luckily documented in videos and photos.

Likewise, the American journalist Daniel Pearl was beheaded savagely and in the same manner by his extremist Pakistani captors. Many observers believe that the Americans did what they did based on Israeli advice and expertise for the USA nowadays considers Israel as its sole Middle Eastern mentor. Israel on the other hand, would like the Americans implicated more and

more in such swampy ignominies so that both entities can be equal and identical in terms of their criminal attitudes and indecencies towards the Arabs and Muslims in general.

America needs badly to repair its reputation in the entire world due to such uncovered and yet still concealed crimes which are only matched by Serbians, Saddam and other Arab leaders' crimes towards their opponents, particularly when such inhumanity and primitiveness is exercised by a sole world power and the centre of human development in Science and Technology.

Christian Zionism in USA is shameful and loathsome and must be rationalized, likewise are those who claim themselves representatives of Islam and they just represent themselves for if they wanted to show their superiority as Muslims they ought not to kill an innocent man in such a savage manner even if the Americans exercised such horrors, or else how can we show that our religion is peaceful, humane and merciful and that we are spiritually superior.

If it comes to bestiality the Americans have more power within their hands to win the battle of bestiality as they are more advanced and far more well equipped. The method perpetrated is virtually non-Islamic and does not represent rational Islam at all, at least as we all know it.

Another lack of common sense took place in Basra where an aide of Muqtada Alsadr called for the capture of any British women soldiers and that the captor can keep his captive as a rightful slave. The blockhead is still living with a stone age mentality.

This "Sadr" who was not heard of before now, like many of his type, tends to believe that they are themselves the redeemer "Al-Mahdi". In

fact, an increasing number of despairing young Muslims imagine themselves as the legendary Al-Mahdi, the would-be redeemer believed to be existent amongst us by the whole Shiite spectrum. The Islamic resistance in Iraq, if it wants to win people's sympathy, should combat American power superiority with civilized conduct, not ignorant savagery.

The problem with Islam as declared by Prophet Mohammed's disciple Ali Bin Abi Talib is that it is multi-faced and every individual can deduce his own interpretation.

Thus one should not consider the version of Bin Laden and that of Zarqawi as authoritative versions. Americans also need badly to shed off any religious interference with their governance, or else one day the evangelical maniacs might take over.


Just imagine Christian Zionists in control of America, with their silly ideas and beliefs. This reminds me about a declaration by President Khatami of Iran in which he called for closer ties with the USA because according to him Iran and USA share identical beliefs.

That USA was founded by Puritans (i.e. Christian Zionists) who believe in the reappearance of their Messiah following the "Armageddon Battle" legend and on the other hand Shiite Iranians are awaiting for the advent of their Mahdi with a well groomed horse in front of a cave, who after his advent may the almighty quicken his release, is supposed to win the battle against the evil-minded Jews and the straying Christians and then rule the whole world according to the divine will. In short, same nonsense different versions!

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## The French present humanitarian services in Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ BUREAU

Wednesday, 12 May 2004- The French DIA organization, part of its humanitarian services in Yemen, launched its new water projects in the Al-Ghurafy and Zageria regions, in the province of Mocca. These two regions, like many other regions, suffer from water shortages and total absence of state funded services. The citizens have to walk long distant in order to bring water. The speeches delivered, during the inauguration ceremony held at the Illiteracy Eradication Center, praised the noble stances of DIA organization in responding to the citizens' plight by launching two projects to drill water wells in the two targeted regions. The projects include erecting two water tanks with two water-pumping rooms from the wells, with capacity of 200 cubic meters for each tank. Nearly 15 scattered villages in the two regions with about 3000 residents will benefit of the two projects.

"DIA organization will seek to achieve its humanitarian message through similar projects aiming at ameliorating the situation of people", said Mr. Jean Lows Have, the technical coordinator at DIA. He confirmed that DIA would enhance relations with people in other rehabilitation and training projects.

Mr. Jean Lows, in a statement to Yemen Times, said that the cost of

the two projects and the training courses is more than 300,000 Euro, presented by the Humanitarian Assistant Office of the EU (ECHO), under the supervision and implementation of DIA Organisation.

"DIA is launching at the same time training courses in the fields of administration and accounting in the same regions", said Ms. Raja



Photo showing children benefiting from water project

After reaching record sales among all Yemeni magazines

## New "Family" magazine fascinates readers

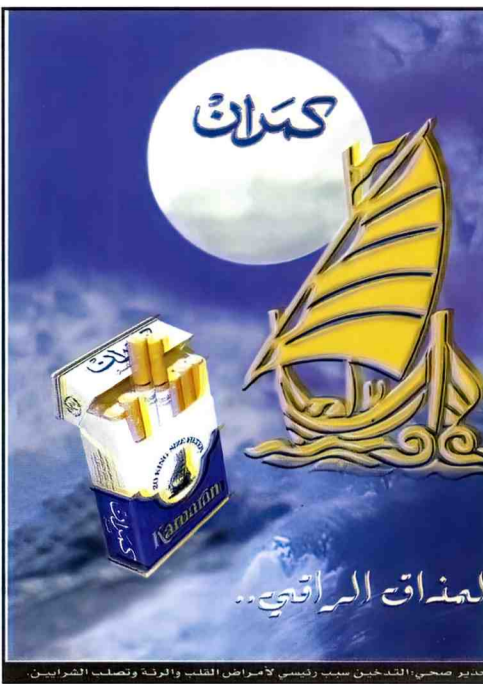


After achieving record sales in the Yemeni market, the "Family & development" magazine published by the Yemen Times Establishment for printing and publishing issued the latest and fifth edition that included various new reports and stories that were carried out based on popular opinion and public demand.

The newly released edition is distinct in its design and printing quality, which is expected to fascinate readers who now compare it to other popular Gulf magazines.

"We are proud to have reached this level of readership and popularity in such a record time. We have become the most widely read Yemeni family magazine, and are committed to develop it further to rise to our readers and advertisers satisfaction," said the magazine's Editor-in-Chief Imad Al-Saqqaf.

It is worth noting that the Taiz-based magazine has become the most widely read Yemeni Arabic family magazine and is now being sold widely though the country with readers from the various segments of the Yemeni society.



Nasser, the Project Training Official at DIA. She called on parents to encourage their children to enroll in courses, which would assist them in gaining the knowledge and know-how for their futures.



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