

Advocates quit terrorism tribunal

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Advocates of the 15 al-Qaeda suspects on trial for several terrorist operations announced their withdrawal from the case due to concerns over the fairness of the tribunal.

The prosecution charges the suspected terrorists with blowing up the French oil tanker Limburg in Mukalla in October 2002, carrying out several bombings in Sana'a, killing a soldier, and plotting to blow up the US, UK, French, German and Cuban embassies in Sana'a as well as plotting to kill the US ambassador to Yemen, Edmund Hull.

Advocates Mohammed Allawo, Abdulaziz al-Samawi, Khalid al-Anisi and Mahdi Tarah announced in a press statement that they were resigning from the defense of the suspects as "there is no minimum insurance for a fair tribunal as the advocacy found itself dealing with a state's security court that does not have any insurance for justice like any other courts." "To avoid being used only as puppets to decorate and legitimize a tribunal that is false and weak and meant to cover the violations and abuses of the freedom and rights of those suspects over four years at the hands of the Political Security Organization (PSO) and prosecution, we announce our withdrawal from this case to stress our respect for our profession and ethics," the statement said.

The Sana'a Criminal Court Concerned with Terrorism and Kidnapping held on Monday its third hearing, but the advocates did not attend. The court judge Ahmad al-Jermuzi decided to postpone the trial until next Saturday, asking the suspects to appoint an advocate each. The hearing continued for less than 15 minutes.



Military forces guarding the court where trial hearings took place in Sana'a. Hundreds of military personnel were observed monitoring main roads and checkpoints in the capital. Photo by Hassan Al-Zaidi

Journalists were not allowed to attend the session, stopped by security men outside the court building. Advocate Mohammed Allawo attended later when the session was over and he expressed surprise that the trial session started so early. He told journalists that he and other lawyers were denied a copy of the investigation file despite the orders of the court judge last time. He accused the prosecutor Saeed al-Akel of exercising excessive influence over the judge, claiming that the time set by the judge for the advocates to prepare their defense in favor of 14 suspects, as one of them is still at large, is not enough.

The statement criticized the way the suspects were treated, brought before the judge in a cage with their hands chained as well as they way they were put into the prison vehicle.

The trial of the USS Cole bombing suspects is a cause of dispute between the US and Yemeni authorities, a Yemeni official

told Yemen Times. He said on condition not to be identified that the US is applying pressure to participate directly in interrogating the 11 suspects, which Yemen refuses. The US has always demanded the delay of the tribunal so as to collect more information on the case, uncovering the real perpetrators and masterminds of the incident that caused the deaths of 17 and injury of 39 US citizens.

The prosecution requested on Sunday that the court give it one month to complete their investigations and the interrogation of the suspects. Political observers said this request spells out the difference between the US and Yemeni sides.

A delegation representing the US Department of Justice and the FBI arrived in Sana'a last week to take part in the investigations and tribunal of the suspects.

The 15 suspected terrorists on trial

1-Omar Saeed Hasan Jarallah, alias Ibn

Hafidh, 26

2-Fawzi Yahia al-Hababi, alias Abu al-Shaheed, 26, jobless

3-Mohammed Saeed Ali al-Amari, alias Abu Gharib al-Taezi, 25, jobless

4-Fawzi Gharib alias Abu Musab al-Taezi, 24, student

5-Yasser Ali Salem (still at large)

6-Fawaz Yahia Hasan al-Rabee, 26

7-Abu Bakr Yahia Hasan al-Rabee, 26

8-Hizam Saleh Ali, alias Mujali

9-Ibraheem M. Abduljabar, alias Abu Zaid, 25

10-Mohammed A. Ahamd al-Dailami, 26

11-Saleem Mohammed Ali al-Dailami, 25, teacher

12-Abdulghani Ali Hussein, alias Jaber al-Sanani, jobless

13-Kasem Yahia Mahdi, alias Abu Hurairah al-Sanani

14-Khaled A. al-Jalob, alias Abu Muslim

15-Aref Saleh Ali Mujali

Turkish PM to YT: Turkey committed to supporting democracy in region

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Yemen Times that Turkey is committed to supporting democracy in the Arab region.

Asked by Walid Al-Saqqaf, Editor-in-Chief of Yemen Times, during the 57th World Newspapers Congress, held in Istanbul during 30 May - 2 June, whether Turkey has a plan to establish stronger relations and partnerships with the Arab world, particularly Gulf countries and Yemen, Mr. Erdogan responded positively by saying, "In terms of democratization efforts in the region, Turkey has already started enhancing its political relations with Yemen and the Gulf countries in particular and will steadily increase the level of cooperation."

The PM added that relations between Turkey and the countries in the region will have a notable influence in enhancing democratic experience in the region. But he noted that achieving developed democracy in the region "will require long-term efforts." Turkey and Yemen has exchanged high level visits to this purpose.

Mr. Erdogan noted that the role of media is instrumental in this regard and urged media establishments throughout the Arab world to "carry out their important responsibility" in this respect.

At the end of the meeting, PM Erdogan pledged commitment to continue cooperating with Arab countries including Yemen. "I believe there is a lot to be done, and I would like to convey through you my greetings to Yemen" he told Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf.

Al-Saqqaf also met with Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, who expressed delight at Yemen's participation in the conference and pledged to support Yemeni-Turkish relations.

Yemen-Turkey relations enhanced

Meanwhile, Yemen and Turkey are witnessing one of the strongest periods of cooperation and bilateral relations in their history. Just recently, many Turkish companies participated in an annual trade fair held in Sanaa. Yemen will also be sending a high-ranking delegation to Ankara, Turkey during the period from 6 to 8 June to attend a



Turkish PM, Recep Tayyip Erdogan

special historical exhibition about Yemeni-Turkish relations during different periods of history. The exhibition will be attended by Mr. Ali Abu Al-Rijal, the Head of the National Center for Documents and Information along with Dr. Abdulhadi Al-Hamdani, Vice Manager of Presidential Office. The event will include an exhibition of various historical documents and manuscripts reflecting the old communications and ties between Yemen and Turkey during different stages of history.

Successful Yemeni participation

Yemen Times represented Yemen during the latest World Association of Newspapers Congress held during 30 May - 2 June in Istanbul. The Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper represented the country during the conference by giving a talk in a roundtable during the first session of the conference held on Sunday May 30th. Mr. Al-Saqqaf pointed out in his speech the importance of having Arab leaders realize that a free and independent press works with and not against them. "With a free media, we have a watchdog that carefully monitors the moves of the government and points to inefficiencies, corruption and mismanagement," he said.

It is noteworthy that the event in Istanbul was the largest of its kind with the participation of more than 1,300 representatives including editors, publishers, and CEOs from more than 88 countries. It was unfortunate however to witness the low number of participants from Arab countries as only Yemen, UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Lebanon were represented.

Editor imprisoned, paper closed

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A Yemeni court passed two verdicts on Wednesday on al-Shumoo Weekly, entailing the imprisonment of the editor and closure of the paper for three months with a fine of around \$11,000.

The verdict comes just after one week of the order of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, demanding that the government amend the Press and Publication Law of 1990, abolishing the term of imprisonment of journalists on publishing issues.

The first verdict stated that the paper should be fined YR50,000 for the government as well as pay YR 1 million in compensation to businessman

Abdulnaser al-Sunaidar, who sued the paper for publishing a list of names of businessmen who did not repay their loans to a number of banks, including the name of Al-Sunaidar. The verdict also ordered the closure of the paper for three months.

The second case verdict issued by the South-East court of Sana'a imprisoned the Editor, Abdulbaset al-Shameri, for three months, and imposed a fine of YR 50,000 for the government and a further fine for businessman Hasan Abdo Ja'ed. Mr Abdo Ja'ed had sued the paper for publishing an article on the operations of the electricity station of Aden, suggesting his inability to run the project.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) showed surprise at the verdicts, which violate the orders of Saleh to abolish the imprisonment of journalists, and amend the press law to grant more

privileges and widen the scope of press freedom. "These verdicts do not only target the journalist but also violate the President's decision," a statement issued by YJS said, demanding that the YJS should be involved in any amendments of the press law.

On his part, the newspaper's publisher, Saif al-Haderi, considered the verdict as "a victory for the corrupt lobby whom the paper targets." He called on the journalist to start a sit-in at the YJS office to protest against the verdicts. He decided also to appeal the ver-

UN council adopts resolution on Iraq

UN, June 8 (R) - The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously on Tuesday for a U.S.-British resolution that formally ends the occupation of Iraq on June 30 and authorizes a U.S.-led force to keep the peace. "It means full sovereignty for Iraq. It means a new age in hopefully very pleasant Iraqi history," said Iraq's new interim president, Ghazi al-Yawar, who is visiting Washington.

The vote by the 15-nation council endorsed a "sovereign" interim Iraqi government and said the country's new leaders had the right to order the international troops to leave at any time.



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In Brief

HOOD Calls for Probe into Fire at "Al-Akhdam" Homes

National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedom (HOOD) has demanded that the Ministry of Human Rights and Parliament members form a joint commission of investigation into the fire incident last week in Al-Wahda, Sana'a City, which destroyed 55 homes belonging to the marginalized "Al-Khadam" (black minority).

The organization, in its letters, expressed its conviction that the fire was set intentionally, as the alternative method to force the inhabitants to vacate the location following failed attempts to relocate them peacefully.

50% reduction in International call charges

TeleYemen announced on Tuesday 1st of June a reduction of 50% in cost on international long distance calls, in accordance with the directive of President Saleh to facilitate contacts with the outside world.

The reduction of the cost of services would also meet the need to keep in contact for those who have relatives living abroad, and it will have a positive effect in improving development in the field of technology.

200 health violations

TAIZ BUREAU
Following instructions from President Saleh to reform the situation at health and medical establishments, a special commission consisting of representatives of the Violation Prosecution Authority, Ministry of Health and the Health Office in Taiz, was put in place to supervise the medical establishments in Taiz City. The commission, based on field inspection visits, closed 30 establishments including hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, labs, optic shops and pharmacies.

The one-week campaign, started last Monday, has unveiled 200 health-related violations. Yemen Times has a copy of the list of victims of medical and health malpractices, issued by the Prosecution.

More suicide incidents in Taiz

TAIZ BUREAU
The series of suicide incidents continues amid a lack of religion awareness, deteriorating living conditions, and poverty.

The citizen Abdullah Mohamed Sultan, 20 years old from Sharab Al-Salam region, Taiz, committed suicide by swallowing a quantity of poison.

During the same week and because of the above reasons, the citizen Mokhtar Mahyoub Saeed, 20 years old, from Al-Shabaneah village, Taiz, also shot and killed himself.

Spoiled Eggs in the Market

Yemen Society for Consumers' Protection confirmed, in a letter addressed to Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, the presence of large quantities of spoiled eggs in the market, produced by Marib Poultry Company. The letter points out that the spoiled eggs are the consequence of the producers are not abiding by specifications and quality standards during processing.

The statement called for the immediate withdrawal of the spoiled eggs from the market.

The company, on its part, confirmed that it abides by strict quality conditions and denies having any spoiled eggs in the market.

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate board held last Sunday its regular monthly session presided over by the President Mr. Mahbood Ali. The session was dedicated to discussing ongoing developments in connection with freedom of the press following the directives of President Saleh to amend the Press and Publishing Law leading to the cessation of the imprisonment of journalists.

The session was suspended following the decision issued for the compulsory arrest of the colleague Mr. Naif Hassan,

and the detention of Editor-in-Chief of "Al-Asboua" newspaper Mr. Jamal by the Press Prosecution.

The Board has invited the editors-in-chief of private and government newspapers and mouthpieces of political parties to a broad meeting on Wednesday June 9th at 11:00AM to look into the situation of the profession toward avoiding quarreling and wrangling among the members of the Yemeni press.

The board, on a final note, granted a grace period of one week that expires

on June 13, to decide permanently on the resignation letters of the two colleagues, Mr. Hassan Abdul Wareth and Mr. Ahmed Al-Jabry from membership in the board, which were submitted three months ago.

Monday, 31 May 2004- The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate issued a statement relating to a recent verdict issued by South Eastern Preliminary Court in Sana'a Secretariat in the case filed against "Al-Shamoua" weekly private newspaper. The court ordered the newspaper to shut down for a period of

one month and to pay a 50 thousand Riyal fine.

"The verdict came at a time several private and affiliated political parties newspapers are subjected to weekly court sessions and questioning on publishing related cases", said the statement.

"YJS sees that the closure decisions are a violation of the objectives of the press law to establish a more independent newspaper to bear their social, political and economic roles in serving society", the statement concluded.

Yemen seeks the post of Assistant Secretary General of the OIC

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

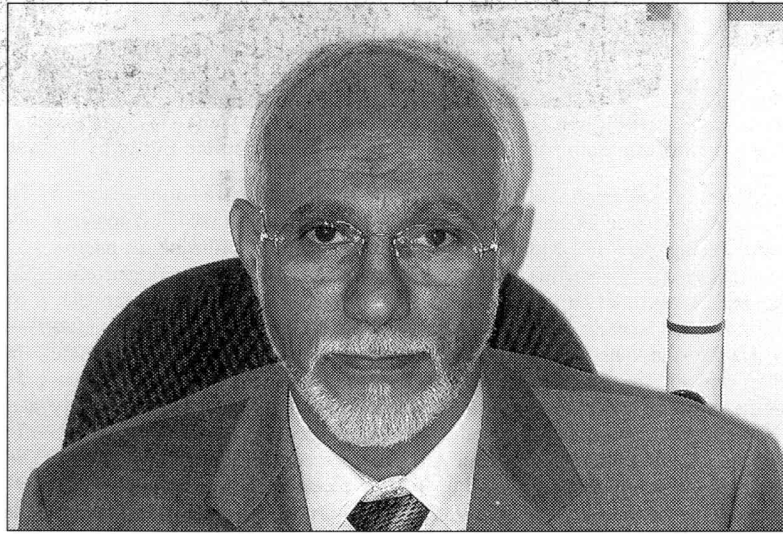
The Republic of Yemen is gathering the support of Arab countries for its candidate, Ambassador Abdullah Hajur, for the post of Assistant Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization.

The Yemeni efforts come before the holding of the Foreign Ministers' conference of the 31 member countries to be held during 14-16 June in Istanbul.

In a statement to the press Ambassador Hajur, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chief of the International Organizations Department, confirmed

that the efforts to win the post of Assistant Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization comes after Yemen has held several posts in the organization. The latest post was the Vice Presidency of the 10th Summit of the Islamic Conference Organization in 2003, taken by President Saleh.

He confirmed that Yemen has been conducting activities effectively at international organizations, and that Yemen previously presented an unsuccessful candidate to this post. He pointed out that Yemen, supported by a number of Arab countries, competes with the other two countries, Algeria and Sudan, competing to win the post.



Ambassador Abdullah Hajur

Workshop on violence against children

Monday, 31 May 2004, Aden- The Swedish Organization for Caring for Children organized an awareness workshop on violence against children in Yemen.

Ms. Aisha Saeed, Director of the organization, in her opening speech,

Workshop to determine needs of Azal Association

Thursday, 3 June 2004, Taiz- Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Taiz Branch, organized a workshop in cooperation with German GTZ, to determine the needs of Azal Social Trade Association in participation with 25 female members in the association.

The workshop aimed at outlining the general objectives of the association, points of strength and weakness, and the working agenda for 2004, in addition to setting up the financial budget and responsible persons to carry out the implementation.

Director of the Chamber, Mr. Mufeed Abdo, said that this workshop came within the framework of the training program of the Chamber for 2004, aiming at increasing the abilities and capabilities of the members of the association.

The intellectual terror for deaf and dumb

Al-Tomouh (Ambition) Association for the Care and Integration of the Deaf and Dumb, complained of what it described as "Intellectual Terror" being practiced against students at "Senah", educational compound and Al-Nahdha "Osaiferah" school for the deaf and dumb.

According to the complaint, Mr. Ahmed Al-Wajeh, Director of the Education Office, and Mr. Aiban Al-Maktary randomly merged the two schools without taking into consideration the educational levels of the students, leading to occurrences of problems that were totally dismissed and ignored. Several protesting students were physically attacked and beaten by security and dragged to the Security Department.

The Association complained of the apathy and ignorance of the Education Office in Taiz, which failed to react to this important issue despite being fully informed of the situation.

welcomed the Mayor of Aden, Dr. Yahya Al-Shaibi, and the representatives of local and international organizations concerned with the rights and care of children. She alluded to the work of the organization, begun in 1963, to various forms of support and to the positive results achieved by the organization since then in conjunction with other governmental and non-governmental activities. She also confirmed that the

role of the organization is not limited to Yemen, but extends to other Arab countries.

The Counselor at the Swedish Regional Organization Program expressed her joy also at taking part in this workshop. She confirmed that the violence against children also includes sexual harassment and child trade, and not only beating and physical abuse. She confirmed the importance of react-

ing to UN resolutions in the field of caring for children and providing all support necessary to protect their rights.

Mr. Ayoub Abo Bakr, Director of the Social Affairs and Labor Office in Aden, on his party, touched upon the activities of the Swedish organization in the health sector and children's rights in Yemen.

The opening ceremony was attended also by Mr. Mohamed Aref, Office

Director of UNHCR in Aden, and representatives of organizations and charities, juvenile homes, as well as a number of advocates and judges.

The workshop concluded with the formation of a commission consisting of a number of officials from the Education, Social Affairs and Labor and Information Ministries and a number of psychiatrists, specialists and social workers.

Industrial Training Session

TAIZ BUREAU

Tuesday, 1 June 2004- A three-day training session began for participants from the private sector in the supervision and monitoring of final exams at vocational and technical institutes. The session, organized by the Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education in cooperation with GTZ under the slogan, "Toward enhancing the participation of the private sector in technical and vocational education", aims at strengthening the involvement of the private sector and labor market in the development of the technical and vocational education system.

The speeches delivered confirmed the importance of the role of the private sector as a partner in the development of the industrial infrastructure in Taiz governorate and its contribution to the elimination of unemployment. The evaluation of exams in partnership with the private sector will contribute to developing the supply of graduates according to the demand of the labor market.

The meeting was attended by Vice Minister of Technical and Vocational Education, Mr. Abdalwahab Al-Aqel, and Sheikh Abdul Jabbar Hayel, Chairman of the Local Council for Technical Education in Taiz and a number of other officials and businessmen.

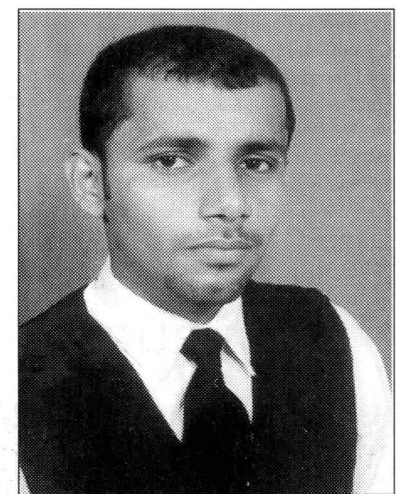
A Yemeni student unveils new secrets in qat

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a University, Faculty of Arts held two weeks ago a scientific lecture series entitled, "Psychological, social and health risks from chewing Qat".

And another series was also held under the title, "Secrets of Qat", delivered by the young inventor Mohamed Al-Kmarani. He claims that he has found two startling discoveries regarding the qat plant during his research at the Faculty of Medical Diagnostics in Baghdad, that have enabled him to obtain a patent on an invention by Dooris' Kamamrany's Media.

The two discoveries are: 1) Preparing natural habitats for growing of bacteria, 2) Extracting alkalinity from qat, an effective substance that affects the central nerve system, and



Mohamed Al-Kmarani

using it against some bacteria that attacks the skin.

Teachers receive salaries while outside the country

ADEN BUREAU

Mr. Abdo Ali Rajh, Director General of Al-Mualla Province, Aden Governorate, revealed that many registered teachers of both genders at schools in the province have been receiving their monthly salaries for years spent living outside the Republic.

Mr. Rajh, in a statement to Yemen Times, said that based on the power vested in the local council and the local authority law, he decided to hand out the salaries for the month of May in person in order to find the actual number of teachers in each school.

He added that the local council has

detected that some teachers continue to receive their salaries, while actually living in Switzerland, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and some others are residing in Sana'a and conducting other independent works on the pretext that they have official leave permits.

The Director confirmed that measures will be taken to put an end to the deficiencies in the province, in addition to obliging schools and the education office in the governorate to submit the figures of teachers who are actually teaching.

It is worth mentioning that the sum of money paid as salaries to teachers at Al-Mualla Province is 20 million Riyals per month.

Taiz Summer Festival and Exhibition

TAIZ BUREAU

Tuesday, 1 June 2004- Taiz International Festival and Exhibition 2004 was officially inaugurated today by the Mayor of Taiz, Judge Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajry. The opening ceremony of the festival was also attended by Mr. Shawgy Hayel, Chairman of Planning and Development



Committee at the Local Council, Director of Taiz Security, Dr. Ahmed Al-Olefi and a number of the general directors of government offices and representatives of companies participating in the exhibition.

The exhibition, which will continue until 14th June, consists of products of several local, Arab and international

companies. A special wing was also established for the products of charitable associations and social care organizations.

The exhibition contains also wings for Syrian, Egyptian, Chinese, Pakistani and Turkish products. The exhibition has witnessed a heavy turnout of spectators and buyers.

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 UN resolution that has been passed meets the expectations of the Iraqi people?

- Yes, it definitely does.
- Yes, to some degree
- No, it could have been improved
- No, it is against Iraqis' interest

last edition's question:

Will the US fulfill its promise of granting the new Iraqi government full sovereignty?

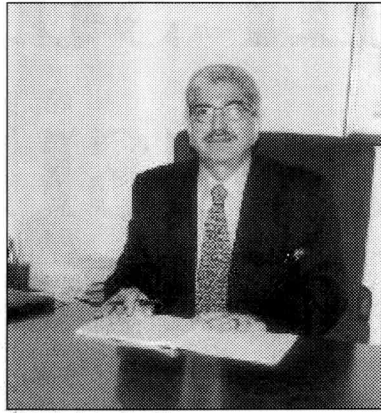
- It is possible after formation of an elected government 63%
- I don't think so 21%
- I don't think the Iraqi government will have full sovereignty over armed forces and foreign policy 16%

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

Mr. Malvinder Narang appointed as the head of Sana'a prominent 5-star hotel: Taj Sheba has new GM

The Taj Sheba Hotel - Sana'a has been appointed a new General Manager, Mr. Malvinder Narang. He brings with him a vast amount of experience having worked in various "Leading Hotels of the World" in different capacities. He started his career in 1970 with The Taj Group of Hotels in Mumbai and thereafter became one of the youngest General Managers of the company at the age of 28 of the famed Lake Palace Udaipur. Mr. Narang is not new to Yemen. In fact, this is his second tenure in the country as he was the first General

Manager of the Taj Sheba Hotel when it opened its doors in 1980 having been involved with the hotel right from the project stage. In 1987, he moved back to Mumbai as the General Manager of the Taj President Hotel and then subsequently relocated to Sri Lanka as the Area Director and General Manager of The Taj Samudra, Colombo. He was also involved in the opening of the award winning Taj Exotica, Bentota, in Sri Lanka. He then moved on to Jaipur as the Area Director and General Manager of the world-renowned Rambagh Palace and was also responsible of the opening of The Taj Hari Mahal in Jodhpur. Prior



Mr. Malvinder Narang

to this assignment, Mr. Narang was the Director - Corporate Administration based in Mumbai at the corporate office.

In his own words, "A lot has changed in the last two decades and I am delighted to be back at the Taj Sheba Hotel and be with the Yemeni people who are so friendly and hospitable. Yemen has always been very close to my heart for its rich heritage and culture".

The staff of the Taj Sheba Hotel and the Yemen Times wish Mr. Narang a successful term in Sana'a, in taking The Taj Sheba Hotel to greater heights.

Rohit Khosla bids farewell to Taj Sheba Hotel:

"Yemen will always stay in my heart and its people will always stay on my mind"



Mr. Rohit Khosla

One of the most polite and humorous persons you could meet, Mr. Rohit Khosla has won for the Taj Sheba Hotel many clients for his humble attitude and compassionate spirit. By managing the hotel for the last three years, he has proven himself capable of bringing more guests to the hotel and making it the leading hotel in Yemen in terms of occupancy and exposure.

However, as he is now completing his term in Yemen, he will be flying back to Bombay, India to take over the Taj President in the city. He has shown great sympathy to Yemen and his people, and expressed his sadness for leaving the country for good. Yemen Times met with Mr. Khosla to get his views and impressions as he is leaving, and conducted the following interview.

Q: Why are you leaving, and when and where to?

A: My tenure in Yemen is over and I am moving to Mumbai in India to take charge of the Taj President, which is a 300 room hotel and the flagship hotel of the business division of our company.

Q: What are the objectives that you met during your leadership of the hotel, what are the ones you intended to meet but couldn't, and what are the ones you think will be met soon?

A: Customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction and profitability are the key drivers for any business and I am happy that these parameters were met during my tenure here. The business is Sana'a is dependent to a large extent on the external environment and with the travel advisories being lifted in time to come the objective of developing new markets will be met.

Q: How did Yemen and the Yemeni people treat you?

A: I feel completely at home here because of all the love and affection of the people. I never felt like an outsider in Yemen!! The people here have been warm and caring and I have made

numerous friends for a lifetime during my stint here. In fact, a lot of people have commented that I look like I am from Taiz!!

Q: What are the most valuable moments of your stay in Yemen?

A: Yemen has been an extremely challenging yet memorable tenure. It's been a great learning experience professionally as well as personally. The hotel winning three awards for excellence in the company has been very memorable as well as my trips to explore Yemen.

Q: What do you want to tell Yemenis everywhere as you are leaving?

A: Yemen is the home of Arabic culture and all Yemenis should be proud of their rich culture and heritage. No matter where you live, you should never forget your roots!!

Q: What do you want to tell your staff in Taj Sheba?

A: To continue to strive for excellence and delight customers, which is the core of our operating principle.

Q: Being a close friend of Yemen Times, the newspaper - management and staff - would also like to bid farewell to Mr. Khosla and wish him the very best. I hope you will return one day to Yemen, maybe as a tourist. Will it ever happen?

A: Unfortunately, on account of work pressures, I haven't had the opportunity to visit the southern part of the country. I would love to come back and take a complete tour of south Yemen at leisure to absorb the wonders of this wonderful country and its people.

Q: Any other words you want to add?

A: I would like to take this opportunity to thank our clients for their support, the staff of the hotel for their commitment and the people of Yemen in making my tenure here most memorable. My family and I go back with memories that will last us a lifetime.

Yemen Development Foundation opens new HQ

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Monday, 31 May 2004 - Yemen Development Foundation inaugurated its new headquarters today, coinciding with the launch of a training session in the field of computers for some cadres of cooperative and charitable associations.

The inauguration ribbon was cut in the presence of the representative of the British Development Foundation, whose headquarters are in Birmingham; the British Ambassador in Sana'a, Ms. Francis Guy; Yemeni Undersecretary at the Ministry of

Planning and Development; and a number of leaders of non-governmental organizations.

The Yemen Development Foundation, a branch of the British Development Foundation, is expected according to its brochure to provide free services such as training sessions for poor women in sewing, on first emergency aid and on computer skills. In addition, the foundation will provide consultation and training for the integration of non-governmental organizations that carry various community services, and to supply them with essential information related to development and local policies.

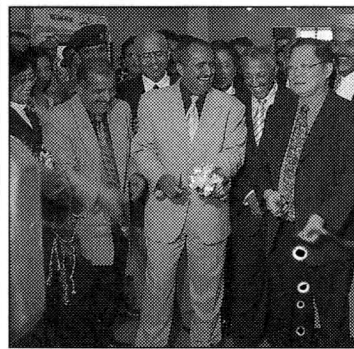


Yemeni Consumer Protection Association issues warnings

The Yemeni Consumer Protection Association, in a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, Mr. Ba Jamal, warns of the serious consequences for the environment and people from chemical fertilizers. The Association referred to the many complaints it has received from citizens in Al-Sabah residential neighborhood in Sana'a Secretariat, where these chemicals are stored and marketed. The association demanded that effective measures must be taken to remove them from residential areas and to prevent the importation and smuggling of these hazardous materials.

The Association, in another letter addressed to the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, warns of the abnormal change in various sizes of "Yamani" Milk products with manufactured date 4/1/2004, an expiration date 4/7/2004, and in some products manufactured thereafter. The warning comes following the many complaints it has received from citizens in some governorates, which make these products unsafe for human consumption.

Thai Exhibition



Minister of State and Mayor of Sana'a City, Mr. Ahmed Al-Kuhlani, inaugurated on Monday June 7th the first Thai Products Exhibition at Sana'a Expo Center.

The Exhibition comes in line with the government's direction to support and promote investment in Yemen and to enhance international trade. 85 Thai companies are exhibiting their products until June 10th.

Mr. Omer Al-Nehme, Marketing Director at Apollo International Exhibition Company, said that this exhibition came about following a series of visits and meetings between the Yemeni Ministry of Industry and Trade and Sana'a Chamber of Commerce with their counterparts to establish bilateral trade in various fields between Yemen and Thailand.

Mr. Sera Wood, the General Coordinator of the Thai Exhibition, on his part, stated that the purchasing of Thai goods by many Yemeni businessmen, the increasing visits of Yemeni businessmen to Thailand, and the good economic ties between Yemen and Thailand encouraged and led to the organization of this exhibition.

Training Session on vessels security

Aden Bureau

Sunday, June 6th - the first training session to implement the international conditions to ensure the security and safety of ships, vessels and carriers and to protect ports, began on 6th June. The session was organized by itime Affairs Authority in cooperation with the Training Center in Aden.

The Minister of Transport, Mr. Omer Muhsen Al-Amoudi, confirmed that the session coincides with the graduation of the first batch of 600 coastguards, who will contribute tremendously and effectively in maintaining the safety and security of Yemeni ports, and in protecting our ports and regional waters from terror activities. He added that Yemeni ports have become safer and more secure with the enhancement of the security forces, after encountering huge financial losses following the attacks on USS Cole and the Limburg.

Dr. Yahya Al-Shaibi, Mayor of Aden, on his part, confirmed that his governorate would support the efforts of the authority through integrating and training cadres to protect Yemeni regional waters, about 2500 nautical miles, and to enable Aden Port to rise to its international reputation.

During the two-day session, several working papers related to the safety and security of marine navigation were discussed.

Mr. Khalid Al-Wazeer, Chief of the Authority, and a number of officials from Aden Coastguards and Ports Authority also attended the opening ceremony.



تنفذ منظمة كير العالمية باليمن مشروع "المهارات الحياتية ومحو أمية الكبار"، وذلك بعدد من مديريات محافظة عمران، بالتعاون والتنسيق مع جهاز محو الأمية وتعليم الكبار واتحاد نساء اليمن وتطلع لتعيين:

١. أخصائي الإعلام ووسائل التدريب:

المهام والمسئوليات:

- تحديد موضوعات المهارات الحياتية بناءً على احتياج المستفيدين في المجتمعات.
- تصميم وطباعة وسائل تدريب للمهارات الحياتية تتناسب وامكانات وثقافة البيئة المحلية وتناسب حديثي التعلم لتحسن من مهارة القراءة لديهن وتكسيهن معارف ومهارات متنوعة.
- إعداد استراتيجيات لنشر وسائل التدريب من خلال خطة إعلامية متعددة الأساليب بالتعاون مع الجهات الشريكة والجمعيات النسوية لتوضيح جدوى وأهمية الأساليب والوسائل المستخدمة لدعوة وزارة التربية والتعليم وجهاز محو الأمية وكسب تأييدهم لتطبيق البرامج المستخدمة.
- الإشراف على تدريب وتقديم أدوات المهارات الحياتية المنتجة.
- توزيع وسائل تعلم المهارات ومحو الأمية الحياتية على المنظمات غير الحكومية العاملة في المحافظة وجهاز محو الأمية وعلى مدارس التعليم الأساسي التي تقدم أنشطة المهارات الحياتية.
- المؤهلات والمهارات والخبرات المطلوبة:
- مؤهل عالي ملان، بكالوريوس اعلام مع خبرة تربوية أو مؤهل تربوي مع خبرة بالإعلام.
- خبره سابقة في تصميم أدوات ومواد إعلامية وتربوية لتربية لحديثي التعلم من الكبار (تعليمية، صحية، ... الخ).
- يفضل من لديه خبرة سابقة بالعمل مع المستفيدين.
- خبره بالتعامل المباشر الميداني مع المستفيدين.
- مهارات وخبرات التعامل مع مختلف الجهات والمؤسسات الإعلامية.
- مهارات التواصل الفعال والتدريب والعرض.
- إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية.

٢. مسئول إداري للدخل:

المهام والمسئوليات:

- وضع نظام خاص ومعايير إنشاء أنشطة ومشروعات مدرة للدخل.
- عمل دراسات جدوى مبسطة حول الأنشطة المدرة للدخل بمشاركة المجموعات النسوية بالمجتمعات.
- تدريب المجموعات النسوية وفريق المشروع - كلما لزم الأمر - لإصباهم مهارات عمل دراسات الجدوى للمشاريع المدرة للدخل.
- الإشراف على المشاريع المدرة للدخل وتقديم تقارير تفصيلية عن اوضاعها الفنية والمالية، وتقويمها دورياً.
- وضع نظام تدريبي للمجموعات المسؤولة عن إدارة المشروعات بالمجموعات حول إدارة المشروع، مسك الدفاتر... الخ.
- المؤهلات والمهارات والخبرات المطلوبة:
- خبرة في تنمية وإدارة المشاريع الصغيرة.
- بكالوريوس تجارة أو إقتصاد مجال مرتبط بالوظيفة المذكورة.
- مهارة في متابعة وتقييم المشروعات المدرة للدخل.
- خبرة في تدريب المجموعات النسوية في مجال المشاريع المدرة للدخل.
- الملم بالغة الإنجليزية.

آخر موعد لتلقي السيرة الذاتية للمتقدمين والمتقدمات

١٣ من يونيو ٢٠٠٤ م

العنوان:


منظمة كير العالمية - مكتب عمران

مشروع المهارات الحياتية ومحو أمية الكبار - YALLE

بمركز التعليم الأساسي والتدريب النسوي - عمران

تلفون: ٠٧/٦٠٦٩١٠ فاكس: ٠٧/٦٠٦٩١٠ ص.ب: ٣١٠١٤

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The Handicapped, Determination surmounts the impossible



BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The physically handicapped citizens and people with disabilities are those who either received their disabilities during accidents or who were naturally born with them due to various reasons.

But the unable persons are the losers and failures who can do nothing nor achieve anything.

Many geniuses and extraordinary peo-

tion abilities and their valuable contributions to the society, in addition to unveiling the side of spirit in ingenuity and creation through their acts of ingenious creativity, whether it was in theatrical plays, music and dance, fine arts, and handicrafts and in many other fields.

The personal attendance and participation of President Saleh in the carnival and his issuance of directives to employ a number of them left a very touching impact on them and has motivated them to do their best.

The carnival, which spread over an expanse area of Sabeen Park, was divided into separate sections, one for each participating governorate. It clearly reflected

participation of this segment of society in the celebration of Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004", said Dr. Amat Al-Razaq Jahaf, a member at the carnival's preparation committee and official of Handicrafts Exhibitions. She stated that the carnival was not an attempt to arouse pity and sympathy, but to bring about deserved admiration for the handicapped and disabled citizens.



Ms. Sajedah

Ms. Sajedah Ismail Essa, an expert in training the handicapped and a worker at Handicapped Caring Fund, confirmed that the carnival was a good opportunity to show the creations of the handicapped and disabled citizens and their distinguished abilities to make things even ordinary people would not be able to do. Many of them are even better than who are not handicapped or do not have any disability. She emphasized the importance of paying more attention and care to them and especially finding funding for raw materials to enable them to carry out what



Disablement could not conquer their will of life & integration into society

they do best. The mistake would be to terminate funding of their educational projects, she said.

Mr. Bandr Al-Hurthy, Secretary General of Deaf and Dumb Association, said that the scope of the activities of the disabled and handicapped people is endless. They could do anything if conditions are right, as demonstrated by the types of products in the carnival.

"Seven physically handicapped per-



A handicapped posing proudly before exhibits

ple adapted to being handicapped and to having a disability, and they were able to conquer their deficiencies and proved that there is nothing impossible. Many of them made great stories of success.

The Yemeni handicapped are not any different from others, despite the scarcity of financial capabilities.

The carnival, entitled "The Horizons of Spirit", inaugurated by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, during the Yemeni celebrations on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the National Day, was participated in by 455 handicapped and disabled persons from 11 associations for the handicapped and disabled persons from various governorates of the Republic. One of the goals was to join in the spirit of participation and to show the artistic and innovative aspects of this segment of the society, and to acquaint and familiarize the general public with their produc-

the determination, resilience, and strong will of the handicapped and disabled persons to overcome their disabilities, and their ability to contribute to and integrate into the society in the path to build and develop the country.

Yemen Times was keen to examine closely their situations and expectations and it held several interviews with the carnival's organizers and officials of their associations and organizations.

"The carnival came in part as the par-



Damar Gov. handicapped pavilion



Exhibits of handicapped from Ibb

sions were distinguished among others in their making of silverware, belts and rings with precious stones and handmade crafts, famous in Yemen and attractive to tourists. The revenue collected from sales of these products go to support future projects", said Mr. Abdullah Bin Talib, from Aden Handicapped Association.

All in all, the carnival reflected the high spirits, determination and strong-will of the handicapped and disabled citizens to sustain a normal productive life.

Types of products:

Ibb and Dhamar: The products of the participants from the two governorates were some Yemeni traditional dresses such as "al-Mawaz"

Taiz: The participants excelled in making wooden objects, antiques and traditional Yemeni women's costumes.

Sana'a: The participants from Sana'a

offered a wide range of products that varied from baby dolls, household accessories, conventional blankets, and bookbinding.

Amran: Participants from this governorate displayed their abilities in making models of homes, castles and famous mosques in Yemen, in addition to holding an Exhibition of Fine Arts.

Hadhramout: Products from this governorate included pieces of engraved wood, bookbinding and a musical band playing on historical musical instruments. The participants excelled in manufacturing agricultural tools and jewelry.

Lahj: Lahj governorate furnished a complete musical band that sang several Yemeni traditional songs.

Saddah: The handicapped from Saddah governorate impressed the guests with their decorative handmade handicrafts.



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Hizbollah attacks Israeli posts in Shebaa Farms

KFAR SHOUBA, Lebanon, June 8 (Reuters) - Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrillas attacked Israeli positions in the disputed Shebaa farms area on Tuesday, one day after Israeli warplanes raided a Palestinian base near Beirut.

Israeli military sources in Jerusalem said one Israeli soldier was lightly wounded in the attack involving anti-tank missiles and mortar shells.

Residents in Kfar Shouba village on Lebanon's border with Israel said Israel responded with artillery fire on nearby villages. Israeli warplanes also flew over the area and were fired on by Hizbollah guerrillas using shoulder-mounted anti-aircraft missiles, witnesses said.

Hizbollah said it was retaliating to an Israeli attack deep inside Lebanese soil on Monday, itself a response to rocket fire at an Israeli navy ship in the Mediterranean earlier that day.

"Responding to the recent Israeli attacks, Hizbollah attacked two enemy Israeli positions at 3.05 p.m. (1205 GMT)," the Iranian and Syrian-backed group said in a statement.

Hizbollah, which controls the Lebanese border area with Israel, says Shebaa Farms is occupied Lebanese territory, while the United Nations describes it as Israeli-occupied Syrian land.

An Israeli military source confirmed Israeli positions were attacked with anti-tank missiles and mortar shells.

"There was an attack on several IDF (Israeli army) posts in the area of Har Dov. We are still checking the situation," one source said.

Monday's Israeli air raid on the village of Naameh, 20 km (12 miles) south of Beirut, was the closest air raid to Beirut since Israeli troops withdrew from south Lebanon in 2000 after 22



Israeli soldiers carry their injured comrade at the Israeli-Lebanese border June 8. Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrillas attacked Israeli positions in the disputed Shebaa farms area on Tuesday, one day after Israeli warplanes raided a Palestinian base near Beirut. Israeli military sources in Jerusalem said one Israeli soldier was lightly wounded in the attack involving anti-tank missiles and mortar shells. REUTERS

Lebanon complained about the air raid to the United Nations Security Council. The United Nations called on both Lebanon and Israel to try to prevent further violence.

"Yesterday witnessed a number of serious and worrisome incidents across the Blue Line that carried a potential for escalation," Staffan de Mistura, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's representative in southern Lebanon said in a statement.

Saudi gunmen kill American in Riyadh



Saudi security forces gather at the scene where gunmen killed an American working for a U.S. company in the Saudi capital Riyadh June 8. This latest killing in the kingdom, is the fifth attack on Westerners and other foreigners in the world's top oil exporter in five weeks. REUTERS

RIYDAH, June 8 (Reuters) - Unidentified gunmen shot dead an American in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Tuesday who worked for a U.S. contracting firm, the U.S. embassy and the firm said.

It was the fifth assault on Westerners in the world's leading oil exporter in five weeks.

Gunmen driving a Lexus car fired at the American before fleeing in an eastern suburb of Riyadh, security sources said.

"Yes he worked for us," an official for Vinnell, a U.S. contracting company, told Reuters. He declined to give any further details.

Vinnell is a unit of Northrop Grumman <NOC.N> Corp, which helps train the Saudi National Guard — an elite security force for the pro-U.S. monarchy.

Tuesday's shooting comes a week after al Qaeda militants killed 22 people, 19 of them foreigners, in a shooting and hostage-taking spree in the oil city of Khobar.

The assault helped push oil prices to record highs before producers vowed to raise output.

A statement purportedly from al Qaeda militants in Saudi Arabia warned on Monday of new attacks on U.S. and Western airlines, as a Saudi diplomat said the militant group was behind an attack that killed a BBC cameraman.

Suspected al Qaeda militants shot dead

on Sunday Irish cameraman Simon Cumbers, 36, and critically wounded BBC security correspondent Frank Gardner, 42, in a Riyadh area known as a militant stronghold.

The latest shooting in the kingdom, which is battling militants loyal to Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, heightened security fears among the tens of thousands of expatriates in the world's largest oil exporter.

The al Qaeda statement on Monday asked Muslims to keep away from Americans and other Westerners to avoid falling victim to an attack by the Islamic militant network led by bin Laden.

Saudi Arabia has said that militants were going after individuals and soft targets because of a tough security clampdown on them over the last year.

Bin Laden is blamed for the September 11, 2001, attacks on U.S. cities and his followers have vowed to drive Western "infidels" from the birthplace of Islam.

The British embassy has advised its 30,000 nationals against non-essential travel to the kingdom.

Some 35,000 Americans live in Saudi Arabia and last month Washington urged them to leave.

At least 80 civilians and police have been killed since May last year in a string of al Qaeda suicide bombings and attacks.

Police have killed or arrested nine top militants.

Iraqi Kurds say their autonomy must be guaranteed

ARBIL, Iraq, June 8 (Reuters) - Iraq's Kurds demanded on Tuesday that an interim constitution safeguarding their autonomy be mentioned in a United Nations resolution due to be put for a vote later on Tuesday.

Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party head Masoud Barzani said the document, which gives Iraqi Kurds the power to veto any permanent constitution, was a "red line".

"Calls for rejection of the (interim constitution) are considered a red line for the people of Kurdistan, play with their fate and are contrary to agreements between Iraqi parties,"

Barzani said in a statement "It is the agreement on this (constitution) that led the people of Kurdistan to agree to remain within the framework of Iraq," he said. "These persons who call for the rejection of the interim constitution will alone bear responsibility for the consequences."

Members of the U.N. Security Council were due to vote on the resolution on Iraq's transition to sovereignty later on Tuesday. Earlier drafts of the resolution mentioned the interim constitution but the latest does not — infuriating the Kurdish minority.

Under the interim constitution,

agreed earlier this year by Iraq's Governing Council, the Kurds could veto any permanent constitution that encroaches on their autonomy.

Iraq's most revered Shi'ite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, objects to the veto and says the U.N. must not endorse the constitution.

Sistani's views hold huge sway with Iraq's 60-percent Shi'ite majority and his opposition to measures proposed by U.S. authorities in Iraq has prompted changes in the past.

In the capital Baghdad, thousands of Iraqis demonstrated against inclusion of the interim constitution in the new U.N. resolution.

Mosul car bomb kills 10 Iraqis, wounds around 100

MOSUL, Iraq, June 8 (Reuters) - A suspected suicide car bomb exploded in front of the mayor's office in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Tuesday, killing 10 civilians and wounding around 100, the U.S. military, Iraqi police and witnesses said.

The blast went off at about 9 a.m. (0500 GMT) when the street was full of people heading to work. It caused extensive damage to the city hall, which houses the mayor's offices, and several other buildings in the area.

At least nine vehicles were destroyed in the deafening explosion. Doctors said some of the dead were charred beyond recognition.

Police said the mayor, Salem al-Hadj Isa, who is also the head of the local

province's security commission, was the blast's target, but he was unharmed.

An earlier car bomb blast in front of a U.S. base in the town of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, killed at least five people, including a U.S. soldier, and wounded 11.

That attack came two days after a car bomb exploded at the gate of another U.S. base near Baghdad, killing nine people and wounding at least 30.

Witnesses said the Mosul bomb was placed in an orange and white taxi — ubiquitous in Iraq — which was carrying three people when it detonated as the mayor's convoy, which also included Mosul's deputy police chief, was passing.

The mayor's office said several of his

bodyguards were wounded in the explosion. The police chief received minor injuries and later returned to work, local officials said.

While the U.S. military statement said 10 people were killed, checks at Mosul's three hospitals showed only three people brought in dead from the attack and 38 wounded.

Shortly after the car-bombing, several mortars were fired at a U.S. military base in the city, wounding at least two Iraqi civilians, the U.S. military said.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, has seen frequent outbreaks of violence over the past year, with several senior local officials killed in drive-by shootings, car-bomb blasts or suicide attacks.



Iraqi police investigate the scene of a car bombing in the northern city of Mosul June 8. A suspected suicide car bomb exploded in front of the mayor's office in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Tuesday killing 10 civilians and wounding around 100, the U.S. military, Iraqi police and witnesses said. REUTERS

يأينها النفس المطمئنة أرجعي الي ربك راضية مرضية
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المعزون :

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عبد السلام صالح سالم باثواب
رضوان السقاف
أحمد شمسان
باسل قداد ، رافت محمد عبده
منبر محمد سعبد ، شهاب ثابت ، عباس الصايغ
وجميع موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز مكتب عدن

U.S. plan to cut troops in S.Korea not final-Seoul

SEOUL, June 8 (Reuters) - A U.S. plan to cut its 37,500 troops in South Korea by a third by the end of next year has yet to be finalised and remains up for discussion, senior South Korean officials said on Tuesday.

South Korean and U.S. officials taking part in military talks in Seoul on Monday announced the plan to cut 12,500 troops. It is part of a much broader global U.S. realignment strategy.

"There still need to be negotiations," Defence Minister Cho Young-kil was quoted as saying in a pool report before a cabinet meeting at the presidential Blue House.

The same report quoted President Roh Moo-hyun's national security adviser, Kwon Jin-ho, as saying the proposed end-2005 timetable and the type of troops withdrawn were still negotiable.

The proposed troop cut includes the 3,600 American soldiers already earmarked to be redeployed to Iraq from the front lines of South Korea's defence against communist North Korea.

South Korean financial markets were unfazed by the announcement, with players focused more on economic factors. South Koreans questioned on the lunchtime streets of the capital, Seoul, showed no sign of nervousness.

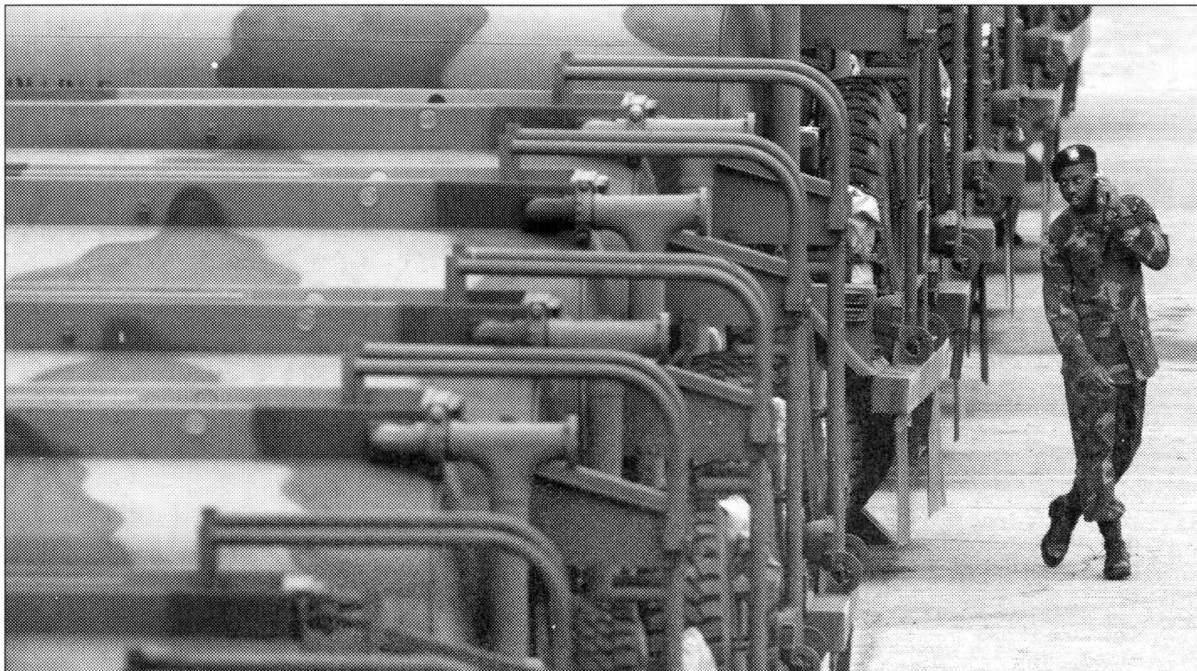
"We should not rely on U.S. forces forever," said 28-year-old writer Park Ji-eun. She said the move could improve relations with the North.

Washington announced late last year it aimed to transform its forces worldwide and use advances in military technology and smaller, more mobile units to better respond to new security needs and fight the war on terrorism.

The U.S. plan to cut its troops on the peninsula by a third rattled the South more with the timing than its scale.

While South Korean officials denied the timing was a cause for concern, some newspapers said the pace would create a security vacuum before the South's defence can be upgraded.

"The Korean peninsula is one of the



A U.S. soldier of the 2nd infantry division uses his mobile phone at Camp Casey in Tongduchon, about 40 kms (25 miles) north of Seoul June 8. A U.S. plan to cut its 37,500 troops in South Korea by a third by the end of next year has yet to be finalised and remains up for discussion, senior South Korean officials said on Tuesday. REUTERS

most vulnerable places in the world when it comes to security," the conservative Dong-a Ilbo said in an editorial on Tuesday.

"We have to ask whether it is the right action for a 50-year ally to pull troops unilaterally from a potential conflict zone."

fix the cowshed?

Yun Deok-min of the state-funded Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security said the U.S. pullout plan should not be seen as a weakening of the two countries' alliance or of U.S. commitment to defending the South.

"The alliance could just as well be broadened over the course of these consultations," which he said were in principle designed to benefit allies and not put one side at a disadvantage.

But Song Young-sun, a defence expert and member of parliament for the opposition Grand National Party, said the plan had caught the government by surprise and

completely unprepared.

"Do we fix the cowshed after we've lost the cows? Of course we do," she said. That could include more defence spending, upgrading capabilities, savings from troop cuts or "asking the U.S. military to stay".

People in Seoul were mostly sanguine, but there are concerns.

A 39-year-old police officer, Kim Jong-jin, said the 2005 timeframe was premature and the struggling South Korean economy would be unable to finance a sharp increase in defence spending.

"We are not ready for the reduction mentally or financially, although we should achieve self-defence some day," he said.

Choi Young-jin, an insurance firm employee, questioned the U.S. pledge to maintain capabilities on the Korean peninsula.

"I'm pretty sure the United States will not let South Korea have every security

Ivorian army helicopters strike rebel zone

ABIDJAN, June 8 (Reuters) - Ivorian army attack helicopters struck military targets in the rebel-held north of the country late on Monday in retaliation for an attack on soldiers in a ceasefire zone, the rebel's military leader said.

"Taking this attack as a pretext, the Ivorian army deployed Mi-24 helicopters... lightly injuring 12 people," Colonel Soumaila Bakayoko, chief of staff of the rebel New Forces, said in a statement.

Ivory Coast's army confirmed it carried out an air strike in response to an attack on Sunday night by unidentified gunmen on its positions in a ceasefire zone policed by French troops.

"We carried out an air attack on military objectives. We think there were fatalities. Five vehicles were

destroyed," Ivorian army spokesman Jules Yao Yao said.

The army said seven people were killed and at least 14 wounded in Sunday night's attack by gunmen from the north.

Rebels who control the northern half of the world's top cocoa grower have said they were not behind the attack.

Ivory Coast's civil war, which erupted out of a failed coup in September 2002, was officially declared over last year, but the country remains split in two, with French soldiers policing a buffer zone running across the country.

A United Nations force that will eventually number 6,240 troops is building up and is meant gradually to take over most duties from the French.

Taiwan rejects report of China missiles trade-off

TAIPEI, June 8 (Reuters) - Taiwan dismissed on Tuesday a report by a Beijing-backed Hong Kong newspaper suggesting arch-rival China may dismantle hundreds of missiles pointed at the island if Taipei stops buying advanced U.S. weapons. Quoting an unidentified authoritative Chinese source, the pro-Beijing Wen Wei Po said on Monday China may consider removing missiles positioned along its southeastern coast, which faces Taiwan, if the United States agrees not to sell weapons to Taipei.

The report came amid renewed tension between the two foes as they prepare to hold war games in the narrow Taiwan Strait in the coming months in an annual show of military might. "It's an attempt to cut U.S. arms sales to us and cause an imbalance of military power in the Taiwan Strait so that we will surrender without a fight," Defence Ministry Huang Suey-sheng told a news conference.

China views self-governing Taiwan as a breakaway province and has threatened to invade if the island declares formal independence. The

United States recognises Beijing but remains Taipei's biggest arms supplier.

"The deployment of missiles is necessary to protect our country's unification, for national security and because the United States has positioned advanced weapons in Taiwan," the Wen Wei Po quoted the Beijing source as saying.

"If the United States does not sell advanced weapons to Taiwan, we can consider withdrawing the missiles positioned along the southeastern coast," the source was quoted as saying.

Taiwan says China has deployed 500 missiles against it and is adding to them at a rate of one every six days. To meet that threat, the cabinet has proposed a T\$610 billion (US\$18.2 billion) budget to buy advanced weapons from the United States.

But the deal, including six Patriot Advanced Capability-3 anti-missile systems, eight diesel-engine submarines and 12 P-3C Orion anti-submarine aircraft has to be approved by parliament and many opposition lawmakers have vowed to reject it.

Strike in Kashmir over separatist's killing



Veiled Kashmiri Muslim women watch the funeral of Moulvi Mushtaq Ahmad in Srinagar, June 8. Thousands attended the funeral of Ahmad, a close relative of Kashmir's chief Priest and separatist leader Omar Farooq, after he succumbed to his injuries in a Srinagar hospital late on Monday evening. Rebels belong ing to the Save Kashmir Movement said that they fired upon Ahmad in a mosque on May 29 this year. REUTERS

SRINAGAR, India, June 8 (Reuters) - Shops and businesses shut down in Indian Kashmir's main city on Tuesday to protest the killing of a relative of the territory's chief Muslim priest, who has been holding talks with New Delhi, police and witnesses said.

Moulvi Mushtaq Ahmad, an uncle of Moulvi Umar Farooq, a top leader of Kashmir's main separatist alliance All Party Hurriyat Conference, was wounded in an attack by suspected rebels on May 29.

Mushtaq, who was a senior leader of a constituent group of the Hurriyat, died in hospital on Monday

night.

But Hurriyat chief Moulana Abbas Ansari, who started talks with top Indian government leaders in January for the first time since an uprising against New Delhi's rule broke out in 1989, was undeterred.

"For the resolution of the Kashmir dispute, talks will continue, nothing will stop it," Ansari said. A hardline faction of the Hurriyat, backed by armed militants fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, has separated from the main group because it was opposed to talks with New Delhi.

Save Kashmir Movement, a little known militant group, has claimed

responsibility for the attack on Mushtaq.

Streets were deserted in Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar, and schools and colleges shut in response to the strike called by Mushtaq's group.

Separatist violence has declined since India and Pakistan, who have fought two wars over Kashmir, started a peace process last year. Both countries claim the Himalayan territory, which is divided into Indian and Pakistani sectors by a ceasefire line.

Officials say more than 40,000 people have been killed since the rebellion started. Separatists put the toll more than 90,000.

Indonesia sentences Brazilian drug smuggler to death



Brazilian Marco Archer Cardoso Moreira (R) sits in front of his lawyer in a Tangerang court on June 8. An Indonesian court sentenced Moreira to death on Tuesday after convicting him of trying to smuggle 13.4 kilograms (29.5 pounds) of cocaine into the country in his hang-glider. REUTERS

TANGERANG, Indonesia, June 8 (Reuters) - An Indonesian court on Tuesday sentenced a Brazilian to death after convicting him of trying to smuggle 13.4 kg (29.5 lb) of cocaine into the country in a hang-glider.

Judges said Marco Archer Cardoso Moreira, described by local media as a hang-gliding expert, hid the drugs in the frame of his hang-glider, which was searched at Jakarta's international airport in the satellite city of Tangerang last August.

It was one of Indonesia's biggest cocaine busts in recent years. "He is guilty of importing a type one narcotic, cocaine, and the court punishes the defendant with the death penalty," said presiding judge Suprpto.

"The defendant was one link in an international narcotics network that has threatened the country," said the judge, without elaborating.

Suprpto said Moreira testified he brought the drugs from Peru to Indonesia to pay a hospital where he had to be treated for months after a hang-gliding accident.

Moreira, 42, gave a courteous hand gesture to the court after the verdict and his lawyer said he would appeal.

The judge chided Moreira for escaping at the airport in August when customs officers quizzed him about the hang-glider.

When officers asked to see his passport, Moreira fled. He was a fugitive for two weeks until police caught him on the remote island of Moyo in the east of the

sprawling archipelago.

Asked by reporters how he managed to slip away from airport authorities, Moreira said: "I'm David Copperfield" — a reference to the U.S. magician.

Indonesia has taken an increasingly tough line on drug smuggling. President Megawati Sukarnoputri and other politicians have all backed capital punishment — carried out by firing squad in Indonesia.

Despite the rhetoric, Indonesia has executed only one drug offender, a Malaysian, in the last decade.

About a dozen foreign drug offenders are on death row, many of them Africans. Four Indonesians sentenced to death were all female couriers.

G8 summit likely to tighten curbs on nuclear arms

SAVANNAH, June 8 (Reuters) - Leaders of the industrial world meeting for their annual summit are close to agreement on a plan to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, a senior U.S. official said on Tuesday.

The official who spoke on condition of anonymity said a deal was "imminent" on a proposal that would, among other things, suspend for one year all new transfers of equipment for uranium enrichment and reprocessing.

The Group of Eight summit, hosted by U.S. President George W. Bush behind moat-like security on Sea Island off the Georgia coast, is likely to be dominated by the future of Iraq and a U.S. push to promote democratic and economic reforms in the Middle East.

The official told reporters the weapons deal would include endorsement of a U.N. resolution to criminalize proliferation activity and would suggest reforms at the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

Concern over the adequacy of current measures to prevent the spread of nuclear technology were raised earlier this year when it emerged that A.Q. Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, had helped North Korea, Libya and Iran with their arms programs.

The Bush administration aide said the deal agreed by the G8 — the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan and Russia — would "suspend for one year all new transfers of enrichment and reprocessing technology (and) work to implement more permanent controls before the 2005 G8 summit."

At a separate briefing earlier, Jim Wilkinson, U.S. deputy national security adviser for communications, said the Sea Island summit would strengthen the IAEA watchdog role.

"I think you'll see that we're very close to agreement on new initiatives to dramatically expand the international community's efforts to go after



Protesters march through the streets of Savannah, Georgia June 8, demonstrating against the G8 Summit. U.S. President Bush is hosting the annual summit of the G8, which is made up of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada and Russia, in the secluded resort of Sea Island in Georgia. REUTERS

(weapons of mass destruction)," he said.

"You will see an expansion of the PSI (proliferation security initiative)," he said. Under this initiative, law enforcement agencies of PSI countries would board suspect ships on the high seas and raid laboratories to seize possible caches of illegal weapons.

Although many of the G8 leaders will not arrive in Sea Island until later on Tuesday, their aides have been hammering out the language of several initiatives.

Wilkinson listed other areas where agreement had been reached — proposals to fight famine in the Horn of

Africa, a commitment to wipe out polio by the end of 2005, private-sector efforts to fight poverty and the development of a vaccine for HIV/AIDS.

The United States and its main ally in the Iraq war, Britain, are optimistic that the United Nations will give its imprimatur later on Tuesday to plans for Iraq to regain sovereignty over its affairs following the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

New Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar is to attend the summit for discussions on his country and the broader Middle East. He will have a bilateral meeting with Bush on Wednesday.

The saturation deployment of security forces around Sea Island and the town of Savannah 80 miles (120 km) away where most media are based appeared to have deterred protesters who have in the past seized on such events to push their causes.

In the only legally approved demonstration in Savannah, about 200 people ranging from civil rights activists to young anarchists with masks and anti-abortion campaigners marched to denounce the war in Iraq, the U.S. Patriot Act on domestic security and G8 policies which they said benefited the rich and hurt the poor.

Bad jobs data point to Schroeder defeat in EU polls

BERLIN, June 8 (Reuters) - Chances of resounding electoral defeat increased on Tuesday as jobless figures reminded German voters of the nation's economic troubles five days before EU and regional elections.

German unemployment adjusted for seasonal factors increased for a fourth consecutive month in May to 4.374 million, meaning 10.5 percent of the work force were out of a job, despite a sharp drop in the unadjusted jobs total.

"It confirms the situation, as before, that the economy is really not pulling up sharply," said Richard Hilmer, director of Infratest-dimap.

Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD) have tried to shift attention to foreign policy from domestic woes ahead of Sunday's European Parliament elections and votes in seven German states.

Polls predict the SPD will suffer some heavy defeats, notably in the EU elections which are Schroeder's first nationwide test since the September 2002 general election.

Schroeder won praise at home and abroad for finding the right words as he became the first German chancellor to attend a weekend commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

He said the Allies who stormed the beaches in June 1944 had also freed Germany and stressed his country had turned into a force for peace, a reference to his opposition to the Iraq war, a vote-winning stance that gained him a second term in office.

But analysts say the SPD's "Peace power" slogan in the EU election campaign will fail to quell voter anger over weak growth, high unemployment and painful welfare cuts.

Three years of economic stagnation and reforms that have led to higher health charges and easier firing of workers have upset the SPD's core working class voters.

"At the moment, domestic politics is definitely more important for voters. The D-Day ceremonies, on the foreign front, have not changed much," said Hilmer.

Polls suggest the SPD will fail to improve on its poor showing in 1999, when dissatisfaction with the new centre-left government drove the party's share of the vote to 30.7 percent, its worst level in 25 years of direct European elections.

Infratest-dimap's most recent poll conducted last week put the SPD on 29 percent, 18 points behind the conservatives, a gap three points wider than a week earlier.

Klaus-Peter Schoeppner, whose Emnid polling institute predicts a similarly stinging defeat for Schroeder, said that, in the minds of many voters, the "Red-Green" coalition of SPD and Greens had failed to solve Germany's economic troubles.

"It's the reason they have fallen so sharply in the polls. For voters, Red-Green has no formula for solving unemployment."

Schoeppner said Schroeder may take some solace from a low turnout, forecast to be below the 45 percent of five years ago, while their junior coalition partners, the Greens, may increase their share of the vote to 12 from 10 percent.

He may gain further comfort if the conservatives fail to retain an absolute majority in the eastern state of Thuringia, even though the SPD will be well over 20 points behind.

Germans also vote in local elections in six other states.

Belgium arrests 15 in anti-terror swoop

BRUSSELS, June 8 (Reuters) - Belgian police have arrested 15 people on suspicion of planning terror attacks in coordinated raids that also spanned Italy, France and Spain, officials said on Tuesday.

Italy earlier arrested an Egyptian man considered to be a mastermind of the Madrid train bombings in the first Europe-wide raids on Islamic militants linked to the March attack in which 191 people were killed.

"We know them to be part of a terror-

ist group," the director of the federal police bureau of Brussels, Glenn Audenaert, told reporters.

He said 200 police were involved in the operation and that the group of those arrested included Jordanians, Palestinians, Egyptians and Moroccans.

He could not confirm any link between the detainees and the Madrid attacks, but said they were in the "early stages" of planning an attack.

He gave no details where the arrests took place or exactly what the 15 were

planning.

Flemish television station VRT reported on its Web site that heavily armed and masked policemen had raided a house in the Brussels suburb of Schaerbeek early on Tuesday.

Belgian radio also reported that arrests had been made in Brussels and Antwerp.

Audenaert said the 15 had been under surveillance for some time, but police had found no guns or bomb-making equipment.

Italy arrests suspected Madrid bombing "mastermind"

MILAN, June 8 (Reuters) - Italy arrested an Egyptian man suspected of helping to plan the Madrid train bombings as police across Europe swooped on Islamic militants in coordinated anti-terror raids, officials said on Tuesday.

Rabe Osman Sayed Ahmed, known as "Mohamed the Egyptian", was seized in Milan in an operation that Italian Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu said was aimed at a "dangerous group of terrorists close to al Qaeda" which had been planning more attacks.

Ahmed was one of at least 17 people arrested in coordinated operations in Italy, France, Belgium and Spain.

"He is considered one of the masterminds of March 11," a Spanish Interior Ministry spokesman said, referring to the attacks that killed 191 people in the Spanish capital.

Pisanu said the man was one of the "principal executors" of the Madrid bombings.

Spanish prosecutors have requested his extradition.

Fifteen of the arrests came in Belgium, and those held there included Jordanians, Palestinians, Egyptians and Moroccans. "We know them to be part of a terrorist group," said Glenn Audenaert, director of the federal police bureau of Brussels.

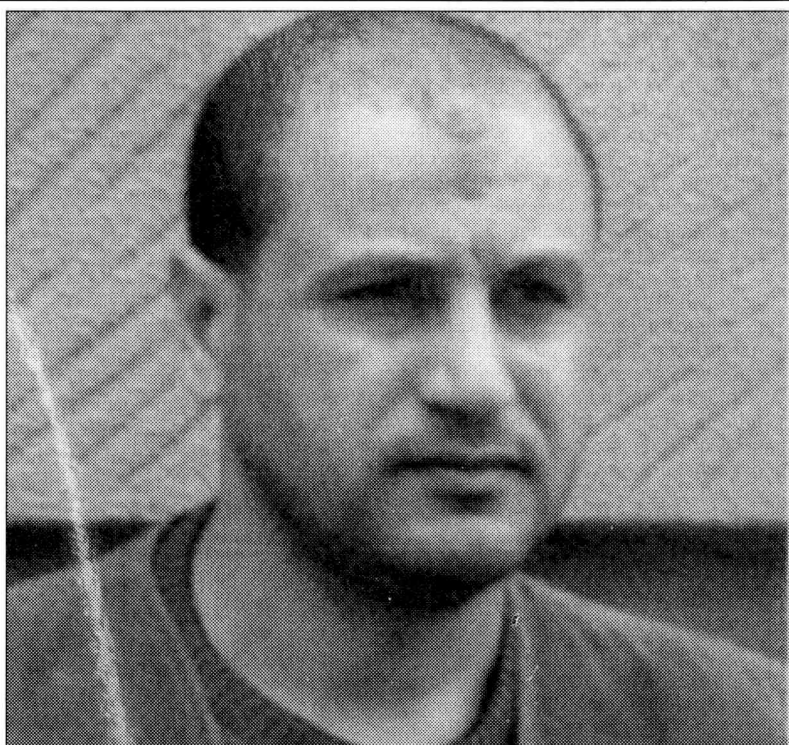
A Spanish judicial source said Ahmed was a former Egyptian army explosives expert who gave courses at al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan.

AHMED TRACED THROUGH PHONE CALLS

He was detained late on Monday, hours after a Spanish judge issued a warrant for his arrest. The swoop came after a three-month probe by intelligence and anti-terrorist units who traced him through phone calls, Italian officials said.

Investigating magistrate Maurizio Romanelli said the intercepted conversations contained "very significant references" to the Madrid attacks.

He said Ahmed was seized on the outskirts of Milan in one of six police



A photo of the suspect, identified as Rabe Osman Sayed Ahmed, also known as "Mohamed the Egyptian," is shown by Italian police during a news conference in Milan June 8. Three men were arrested in Milan in connection with the Madrid bombings and were part of a group close to Al Qaeda, Italy's Interior Minister said on Tuesday. REUTERS

raids in the city, along with an unidentified man who said he was a Palestinian. Prosecutors had feared they might be about to leave the country.

"They were highly mobile and we could not afford to wait," Romanelli told a news conference, adding that any attack would likely have been outside Italy. He said both Ahmed and the other man were accused of conspiracy to commit a terrorist act.

Ahmed, 32, had lived in Spain before coming to Italy where he was working as a house painter, officials said.

He had been under investigation as part of a wider probe into suspected Islamic militants in Spain, but authorities lost sight of him in early 2003, the Spanish judicial source said.

Before then, he had met several

times with other Madrid bombing suspects, according to the same source.

Spanish authorities have linked him to Serhane ben Abdelmajid Farkhet, best known as "The Tunisian," whom they consider the ringleader of the Madrid bombings.

Farkhet, 35, died on April 3 when he and six other prime suspects blew themselves up in a suburban Madrid apartment rather than surrender to police who had them surrounded.

The dead militants "are my friends but I am sad because I cannot go to heaven with them," Ahmed said in one intercepted phone call, according to a Spanish police source.

Until the latest raids, 20 people had been formally accused of involvement in the Madrid bombings, of whom 14 are under arrest. At least 20 others have been arrested and cleared.

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Words of Wisdom



The atmosphere in Yemen is ripe for change - real change. The country needs reform, and the political leadership seems willing and able to introduce the needed change. Political, economical and military changes have taken place & on a massive scale. But the acid test for the transformation will only come if & when economic change occurs.
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999)
 Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

Out-dated mentality needs to change

While covering the court hearings of the 15 suspects on trial for their alleged involvement in terrorist activities in Yemen, a journalist of ours was taking a photograph of the building and people while an armed civilian held him from behind. "Don't sell your country for a few dollars, you Yemen Times journalist!" he told one of our journalists who was standing near the door of the court. The person who did this to our journalist turned out to be a Political Security Organization member who held a pistol and prevented the journalist from taking more pictures.

With shock and dismay, our journalist replied by asking how in earth can he accuse him of selling his country for a few dollars simply because he was doing his job. "I felt that this PSO guy had an idea that I would sell the photos to the CIA or FBI? How ridiculous?"

In fact, this PSO member is only one of thousands or possibly hundreds of thousands who think in exactly the same way. They are stuck with the out-dated mentality that photographs are prohibited. They are still living in the era of totalitarianism and oppression. They are not the only ones, almost all members of the military and police think the same way too. Many believe that preventing a journalist of taking photographs is a noble duty and a glorious achievement. They recall the times of the past when journalists of non-governmental media were prohibited from working freely, without restrictions or prior licenses. The mentality is widespread among the authorities, who have not changed despite the fact that 14 years have past since Yemen was transformed into an emerging democracy.

It is a pity that little has changed in the way these individuals think. Perhaps it is the educational system they go through? Or it may possibly be because of the teachings of their superiors who may continue to think that journalists are mere trouble makers and that everything about the state should be concealed from them.

Regardless of from where it originates, this mentality must change. We are now in a new millennium where transparency and the right to know are the themes. Our country has committed itself to opening up to the new waves and trends of a more democratic and transparent world, and that is why such treatment of journalists is no longer acceptable.

We remember many activities held in Sanaa, Taiz and other cities by governmental and non-governmental organizations training police and military personnel and introducing them to the concept of human rights and the liberties of citizens. But the problem is that most of those courses are done on a voluntary basis and hence do not have the desired effect on these forces. In other words, what those courses include doesn't seem to be compulsory for the trainees and unless strict orders or certain punishments are applied from above for violating human rights, they will never abide by them.

Furthermore, a change in mentality also needs to be applied from top to bottom, starting from military chiefs to the base. The high-ranking military officers need to set up an example for others to follow. Only then will regular soldiers realize that what they did was wrong as their leader has come out against it.

It is a gradual process that needs time and patience to be achieved. But certain steps need to be taken to guarantee that Yemeni citizens and particularly journalists are not harassed in the way our journalist was, as they are the ones who are serving their nation by practicing their jobs with dignity and honor by conveying information to citizens transparently. In reality, the ones who work to prevent the knowledge of citizens and work to veil information are the ones that are working against the national interest.

The Editor

A project of reconciliation and cooperation

By ALI ABDO RABOH AL-QADHY
 MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
 FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Republic of Yemen, after it had suffered from the problems of the partitioning of the country, encountered several political changes and conflicts for survival, and the obsession, by one party or another power in the country, leading to hatred and creating problems. The conflicts on private and public properties have led to having a lot of grudges, hatred and armed conflicts between groups. Any visitor of a court, public prosecution or police station, will be embarrassed of the scenes of disputing parties. This is in cities, but in the outskirts of cities and in rural areas, we regularly hear of gun battles taking place between conflicting parties leaving tens of citizens injured or killed.

A society with such an amount of hatred cannot confront an outside threat targeting its capabilities and destiny, an example of that is the exploitation of Afghanistan and Iraq by creating inner conflicts with their different ethnic groups.

Back to the situation in Yemen, the official apparatuses have failed to settle many of the conflicts in the light of not being able to implement laws and to carry out judicial decisions. This compels the political authority to involve all segments of the society, social figures and dignitaries, intellectuals and able individuals to contribute to resolve the residues and problems of the past, in cooperation with the executive authority in the spirit of one team. Toward this end, I suggest the following general rules:

1- A supreme Reconciliation Council to be established.

2- A main commission for each governorate is to be established with branch committees at the provincial level.

3- 2% of the state financial budget is allocated for the work of the council, and the main and branch committees.

4- All of the above committees are to be concerned with settling all problems of the past. Recent developing problems can only be settled through the specialized courts based on the relevant laws and Islamic legislation.

5- The working period of the above committees is two years from date of formation.

6- The council and the main committees can be broken into mini committees if that facilitates and falls in the best general interest of their work.

The missions of a Main Committee:

1- It bears the resolving of large issues beyond the ability and power of branch committees.

2- The direct supervision and monitoring of the work of the branch committees and to iron out hurdles facing them as well as providing for financial needs.

3- Any settlement reached by any two disputed parties is considered final and for the executive authority to implement the outcome. In the event that the main committee could not reach an honored settlement between any two disputing parties, the case is transferred to the Supreme Reconciliation Council. The decision of the council is considered final, similar to that by a Supreme Court, and the executive authority must implement it.

4- After resolving all the problems in each governorate, the main committee begins collecting and withdrawing heavy weapons, if any, in return for a reasonable financial compensation from the Supreme Council, based on submitted suggestions from the com-

mittees.

The missions of the Supreme Council:

1- Providing the financial capabilities to all lower level committees.

2- Looking into the cases that could not be settled by the branch or main committees in any governorate of the Republic.

3- This council is formed under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic, with the membership of Ministers of Justice, Interior and Defence, the Public Prosecution and Deputy Chief of Judicial Authority and Speaker of the Parliament.

4- Issuing a reconciliation document, valid for two years binding to all disputed parties at the level of governorates, where the mayors and security directors of provinces and regions security commanders are entrusted to seek full compliance from disputing parties.

5- The formation of a reconciliation commission for each governorate of nine members in addition to the presence of all military and security commanders, judges and prosecution officials. This commission will organize a general conference in each governorate to be attended by all disputed parties to certify the settlement reached.

The mission of the branch committees (Main committees in the provinces):

1- Recording and registering all outstanding issues, trying to settle them and or setting timetables for the governorate's main committee to look into them.

2- Presenting a vision to the main committee on how to resolve a difficult case based on the reality of the situation based on previously gathered information.

Letters to the Editor

Apology to the people of the Middle East

I am totally opposed to the evil war and cruel occupation of Iraq. It is most important that the people of the Middle East know there are many Americans like me, working night and day to exhaustion against this evil enterprise. It is all about oil greed and the power and money that go along with it. I must clear my conscience as a taxpayer in financing the supremely efficient military slaughtering machine and the shameful military torture prisons. I apologize to the people of the Middle East for the suffering they endure. President Eisenhower warned the American people that the military industrial complex is the greatest danger to freedom and democracy. The political leaders are hand in hand with the military industrialists in war profiteering and making hundreds of billions of dollars from carnage and creating human misery. From the bottom of my heart I apologize.

I wrote a plan for peace in an Op-Ed article through working with the United Nations and world opinion. I ask that Middle East media publish and broadcast this editorial to show the world not all Americans have gone over to swallowing lies, oil greed and imperial military arrogance. Most of the people are just agonizingly complacent and indifferent as long as material life is good to them. What is greatest about America is that I am allowed to write my beliefs about the U S Government and send my views around the world. I wish that Freedom and a spirit of Peace, Love and Hope to the people of the Middle East and everywhere else in the world.

John Mackesy
 Middletown California
 mrtwirls@mchsi.com

religious support or negation for Israel, among the Christian right that is fueling the situation. It is not the Jews, in a direct manner, either. It is the perception of the elected officials, who pledge never-ending support for Israel, as long as it earns them the support of American Jewish voters. His letter from the May 13 Issue of the Yemen Times demonstrates his own religious zeal-ousness - or lack thereof - and has no bearing in fact.

Moreover, the American people have been seen to be very favorable toward the Palestinian cause, from time to time. The incredibly harsh treatment of Palestinians by the Israeli government has several times, in recent years, demonstrated a slight turn in U.S. policy. However, the terrorist actions of Hamas and similar savage groups, bombing pizza shops and other areas frequented not by military, but by teenagers and children, have destroyed any support the Arabs might otherwise have enjoyed.

The same can be said for the current situation in Iraq. The treatment of Iraqi prisoners is disgusting, and the perpetrators should and will be harshly punished. This is not the kind of behaviour the American people support, in any way. But the murder of Nick Berg, who was in no way part of the U.S. military, government or intelligence apparatus, will destroy any advantage the those opposed to the U.S. could have obtained.

The Arabs are once again viewed by the West as savages, without moral fiber, and just one notch above animals. And Islam suffers even more, when the murder of such an innocent (though ignorant) puppet, like Nick Berg, is conducted in the name of Allah.

D. Barrick
 balto_db@yahoo.com

Letters to the Editor

where they are living. For the Palestinians there are only two choices - stay and die, or leave and live. The US supports Israel 100 percent, so they can't expect any help there. What is the Arab world going to do about this injustice? Arab leaders have seem to have lost their legitimacy.

Do they no longer bow to Allah? Or do they just bow to America and Israel?

It's a disgrace to the Arab world to see their leaders bow before Israel and the US. If Democracy is going to be established, the Arab people will have to overthrow (with brute force, if necessary) the incompetent leaders who are keeping the whole Arab world down. To be free, leaders must be elected by the people and held accountable to them. If they prove themselves to be incompetent, they must be removed from power. Another important element of freedom is to have the scientific know-how to make your own weapons. If you have to get your weapons from the West, you will always be at their mercy. There was a case where the UAE purchased F-16s from Lockheed Martin at \$80 million dollars a piece, whereas the US military purchased F-16s that were even better equipped for just \$25 million dollar a piece. If you have to go to your enemy and beg him with hat-in-hand, he's going to bleed you.

Jerry Peterson
 theeagleflysnow@yahoo.com

Deprived of my nationality

I am writing this letter with full of dissatisfaction in my heart. I am basically a Yemeni of the Khalagi community staying in India. I came to Yemen to meet my grandparents and during this time, I got the job as am dentist. Since 5 months, I have been trying to get identity card but the government people are not at all ready talk to me. Is this the promise done by the president that the Yemenis staying abroad can come to there homeland and we will provide

them nationality. I have documents from the Yemen community from Hyderabad and all my relatives are present here. But still, they are creating a lot of problems for me. If I go to Hadramout to get nationality, they say it is possible to get it only in Sanaa. When I come to Sanaa, they say it can be done only in Hadramout. I have spent lot of money on this but to no avail.

I am a doctor and I want serve this country which is my real homeland, but I think I have to go back to India where I will be respected. I hope that my call for justice could be heard through your newspaper.

Dr. Abdulhabeeb Adil
 dradilhabeeb@rediffmail.com

A question from Jamaica

We are a family originally from Yemen but currently living in Jamaica. I would like to ask your readers a question about our ancestors, whose members may still be in Yemen. If our family tradition has it that our family lived many years ago in Yemen; but emigrated when the Marib Dam collapsed and drought resulted.

Is our tradition correct? Is Mahfouz a specific family name or a general one? Are there any left in Yemen? I hope one of your readers could respond.

Adeeb Mahfood
 Kingston, Jamaica
 tetjam@jamweb.net

About 2-wheelers in Yemen

May I use this 'letters to the editor' section to draw the prompt attention of the concerned authorities as to if any citizen of Yemen or any other country can buy a used or new two wheeler here in Yemen?

I was to understand that Police confiscates the two wheelers on roads. What is the rationality behind this?

Is there is any Vehicle Registering Authority here in Yemen? I hope to get a reply.

M. Z. Arif
 mzaq_krl@rediffmail.com

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

Dispatch II from Malaysia:

"Ill prepared liberators do make mistakes"

That was the comment of the Malaysian Minister of Defense, Najeb Razek on the joint naval maneuvers to be undertaken in the Malacca Straits by the US Navy and some its allies in this critical sea lane. There has been mounting concerns raised by certain stakeholders in the security of the shipping crossroads of East Asia, West Asia and Europe that the Malacca Straits has become threatened by possible terrorist attacks to shipping in the narrow straits that extend for 1,000 km. Malaysia has pointed out that the Malacca Straits does pose some worries for the trading partners that see the Malacca straits as a vital sea-lane for their trade and have sought for efforts to curtail pirate activities in the region. However, US administration officials view the lane as being a potential area for what they regard as terrorist attacks being launched by Al-Qaeda and other terrorists, who might be tempted to bring havoc to international shipping. However, Malaysia views any attempts to bring foreign forces of nations that are not indigenous to the region as only inviting attempts by terrorists to enter the straits and wreak havoc in an important course for most of the countries of the Euro-Asia-Africa geographical configuration, in particular, and for world shipping in general.

What is important in Malaysia's clear feelings about unilateral actions, especially in locations that represent a clear stake in the Malacca Straits, is not so much its clear objections to superpower hegemony, but rather its desire to confirm itself as a nation that has the right to assert itself in the international community from a political standpoint. This is obvious, since Malaysia has been able to assert itself economically and with the motto: "If they can do it, we in Malaysia can also do it, if not exceed what they have done", as Dr. Noordin Sopiee, Chairman of the Malaysian Institute of Strategic and International Studies said. This does not imply a chauvinistic or arrogant stance by all means, but rather a high degree of self-confidence that comes from a realization that success is not a monopoly of any culture or race, but the product of a strong drive towards achievement, relying on hard work, a commitment to achieve social cohesion and equity and more important a sincere genuine desire to spread the benefit to all who have a stake in the development of Malaysia, starting with all the citizens of the country and then expanding to the regional and international partners.

For thirty years, former Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammed, managed to guide his country prudently towards real genuine progress that can now be seen, not just in the indicative ratios and percentage rates of the development reports of the World Bank and the United Nations Development reports, but on the ground as well. Anyone who drives around Kuala Lumpur cannot fail to notice all the widespread new sleek buildings, but more important is the obvious cultural leap that can be read in the speech of the general population. The Vision 2020 paper issued by Dr. Mahathir Mohammed was not simply a nice piece of wishful thinking, or a policy statement that placates the community of donors. The paper b a commitment of the Malaysian government that should never be taken lightly. Vision 2020 reflects a fervent desire to make Malaysia a different model of successful development based on a pragmatic approach that insists that development is more than increasing Gross Domestic Product. "Malaysia should not be developed only in the economic sense. It must be developed along all the dimensions: economically, politically, spiritually, psychologically and culturally. We must be developed in terms of our economy, in terms of social justice, political stability, system of government, quality of life, and social and spiritual values, national pride and confidence".

A visitor to Malaysia can actually see that this is no longer mere rhetoric, but a national reality that extends throughout the 9 provinces and two territories that make up the Malaysian Federation. The meticulous cleanliness of the ride from KL airport to the heart of KL is a clear realization of this vision. The several channels of the media (visual, audio and printed) attest to the cultural and educational advances made by the Malaysians since these visions were laid out. The obvious fealty of all ethnic affiliations in this country to one nation is testimony of successful national building that has dwarfed any semblance of separate ethnic loyalties. More significant on the economic stage is the drop in the poverty rate from an unbearable 50% to a meager 5%, which is on a continuing decline.

This is what deserves to be touched on somewhat more, because it highlights the social responsibility that is viewed with as much importance as the development of the state of the art infrastructure for an advanced services based economy.

Malaysia certainly has a right to assert itself in the international theater, because it has proven that its development approach is laced with care and spiced with a sense of responsibility. In other words, when Malaysia speaks, everyone should listen! Even Washington DC admits that Malaysia's controversial and candid stance is worthy of being considered as "respectable views". If that is not success these days, then what else can it be?

1 Vision 2020, by Dr. Mahathir Mohammed, published by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, 1991.

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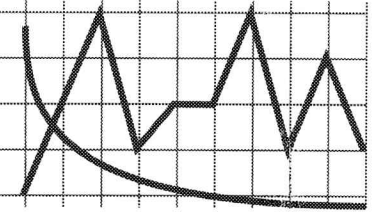
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YT Business



Two water desalination stations for serving citizens and tourists,

Experts set up a national strategy for biodiversity

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Specialized experts have worked out a national strategy on biodiversity and an executive plan for safeguarding water bio-resources and their balanced and sustainable utilization of them with the aim of realising a better life, in compatible with their productive capacity and safety of their creatures.

The strategy, discussed by 70 experts and specialists from concerned authorities, contains four objectives including safeguarding natural resources, integration of biodiversity with sectorial development plans and securing supporting mechanisms for their implementation. According to the executive plan 7 projects will be carried out pertaining to building and developing an integrated national plan for natural preservations and littoral areas and development and implementation of policies and legislations related to biodiversity. The plan is also intended for preserving agricultural biodi-

versity and revival of local norms and traditions as well as carrying out a national program for enlightenment and launching legislations intended for marine life safety.

Preparation of the strategic scheme that is given support by donors, comes in the process of Yemen's meting of its commitments towards the multi-lateral agreement on biodiversity and to obtain an international support for safeguarding that diversity existent in the country.

It is also expected that the state authority for development renovation of Yemeni islands would soon install and operate two stations for sea water desalination in the island of Al-Fasht, Midi district in the governorate of Hajjah and the Samhah Island in Hadramout governorate. Building of the two stations is aimed at providing for needs of population and tourists of pure waters and part of the government plan to rehabilitation of around 25 islands to be suitable for investment and tourism as well as benefiting from their advantages in activating their local communities and their role in the daily economic cycle.



Water desalination station

Establishment of civil service fund,

Would it contribute to end dangerously spread corruption?

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of civil service and securities is determined to launch a group of financial reforms after the issuance of the republican decision regarding the establishment of civil service fund for tackling situation of the surplus workforce, granting employment card and the use of fingerprint. The question that is aroused is whether those measures help curb the corruption that dangerously spread inside the financial and administrative machinery or would the corrupters utilize those measures to direct them against producers?

Since 1998 there has been a non-stop talk about financial and administrative reforms and modernization of civil service. But corruption continued to grow because of the interconnection of its members, the power of their influence and weakness of the officialdom in general that does not possess required authority for disclosing practices of the corrupt in the government bodies and establishments.

The problem that emerged before modernization of the civil service is the non-implementation of laws and regulations with clear and specific mechanisms but rather mostly was

implemented by persons already having relationship with hindering financial modernization and reform. The economic reforms have also increased suffering of producer forces and invigorated and broadened interests of those owning influence. The road to the financial and administrative reform has gone with calm steps and worked for rightly guiding the government machinery and building database and modernizing the employment file. Nevertheless, the program for financial reform remained facing many challenges that urged the ministry of civil service to take new measures and seek the help of international expertise in this regard. Among the more important measures now is the ministry of service orientation towards containing corruption by first granting the unified employment card along with adoption of fingerprint to end cases of double jobs and cancellation of the individual employee getting more than one salary and job.

The ministry of civil service has also worked for rationalizing the process of employment as it reduced the yearly number of jobs from 35000 employment positions to 9700 and also has referred 12 thousand surplus labours to civil service fund and also pensioned 33 thousand employees from among those meeting conditions of retirement. Associated with these measures is

the restructuring of government sectors, especially the ministries of civil service, planning and international cooperation, health and population, social affairs and the public authority for meteorology, central apparatus for auditing and both authorities of customs and taxation. It has already been contracted with foreign companies for the beginning of restructuring those sectors that receive support of donors and the World Bank.

It is to be noted that the use of the fingerprint would not end financial corruption in an over night. The question seems to be complicated where the process of employment in the state sectors must be subjected to criteria of civil service rather than legislation of institutions and ministries that are usually made tricks of and the employment of relatives and persons close to senior officials in them.

Also, the administrative shortcomings in the state departments need for application of the principle of justice in salaries and wages in order to realize stability of the employees' living conditions and then the achievement of the process of administrative production.

Nonetheless, the question remains, will the civil service be able to capture the financial corruption by using the fingerprint system? The answer will be waited for during the coming period.

Practical steps for activation of Yemen-Egypt economic relations

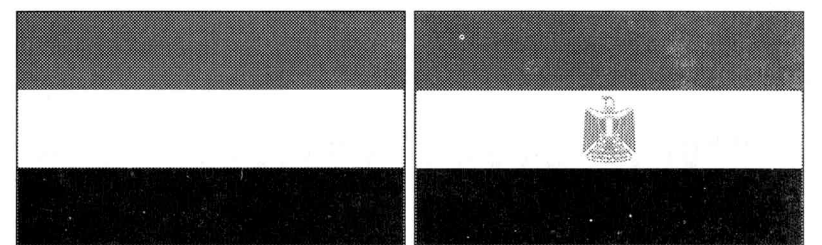
By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The preparatory committee of the Yemeni-Egyptian joint commission is to meet in Sana'a on Saturday to discuss ways and means of enhancing relations between the two countries, especially in investment and trading area and the study of a possibility of establishment of a Yemeni-Egyptian Bank as a practical step for the implementation of developmental projects by the two parties.

The commission, to be co-chaired by the two countries' heads of government, is to discuss important topics pertaining to sea navigation, issues of aviation and air transportation, ways of Yemen's benefiting from the Egyptian experiment in the field of free zones as well as issues connected to activation of agreements, protocols and memoranda of understanding concluded between the two countries in various areas.

The commission would also study security of the Red Sea as it is considered part of the Arab national security, in addition to some strategic issued of interest for both countries. The meting of the commission will also discuss drawing up new mechanisms for strengthening commercial relations within the context of the Great Arab Free Commercial Zone.

Yemen needs Egypt's experiences in the industry of construction materials, building tunnels, heavy industries, urban planning and discharge of torrential waters in the capital. It is expected there would be an activation of the twinning agreement concluded between Sana'a and Cairo through engagement of Egyptian technical, engineering and firms in implementation of infrastructure projects in the capital Sana'a. There would be also seeking the help of Egyptian techni-



cians in the area of garden arrangement, planting trees and training working cadres in the Yemeni capital.

Yemen and Egypt are having cooperation relations in the areas of justice, judiciary and education. The Yemeni side has recently accepted the reduction of the condition of experience years for Egyptian teachers who desire to work as teachers in Yemen to two years and defined their spheres of specialty to fill Yemen's needs for seconded teachers in physics, English language, sports and Koran recitation.

The commission is also expected to activate relations between the two countries in the area of exchanging information and expertise, preparation of security, police cadres and terror combating, organized crime and drugs trafficking.

The preparatory meeting comes under trade indicators reporting that the Yemeni markets consume of various Egyptian goods more than the Yemeni exports to the Egyptian market and means that the balance of trade is tilting towards Egyptian exports to Yemen.

According to figures published by the national center for statistics, Egypt's exports to Yemen in 1998 reached YR 4 billion, 874 million and 26 thousand and in 2002 reached YR 5 billion, 514 million and 263 thousand. Compared to that the Yemeni exports to Egypt in 1998 reached YR 3 billion, 493 million and 120 thousand. And in 2002 the Egyptian exports reached to more than YR 7 billion. In 2002

Yemen's exports to Egypt reached YR 677 million and 754 thousand.

The volume of the trade balance between the two countries in 2002 amounted to YR 5 billion, 194 million and 824 thousand.

From the above figures it is obvious that Yemen imports from Egypt products exceed those exported to the Egyptian market. Thus Yemen hopes for increasing the trade exchange with Egypt in a manner realizing balance in trading relations between the two countries.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.5000	184.7000
Sterling Pound	339.2100	339.5800
Euro	226.4200	226.6600
Saudi Rial	49.1900	49.2500
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.0800	626.7600
UAE Dirhem	50.2300	50.2900
Egyptian Pound	29.7400	29.7700
Bahraini Dinar	489.3800	489.9100
Qatari Rial	50.6800	50.7300
Jordanian Dinar	260.2300	260.5100
Omani Rial	479.2500	479.7700
Swiss Franc	148.7400	148.9000
Swedish Crown	24.7800	24.8100
Japanese Yen	1.6578	1.6596

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

The environment



BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The environment is our surroundings, inhabited by people, animals, vegetation, and other earthly creatures and species. The more these living species, live on this planet in peace and harmony with each other, avoiding pollution and excessive environmental damage, the more likely they are to be able to sustain a happy life for themselves and to provide a safe and secure life for future generations to come.

But, due humans nature, swayed by greed, we, humans, are not satisfied just yet with the extent of the various damages, poisonous pollutants and major disturbances to the delicate balance of nature and environment many of us frequently inflict on this planet. This damage has assisted in the spread of many contagious diseases, the rapid pace of desertification and shortage of clean drinking water in many parts of this world.

However, many of us, especially in third world countries including Yemen, do not give any consideration or respect to our surroundings, and exceed the limit in handling and dealing with our environment, sometimes, in a despicable way. Many of us seem

not to care for even their personal hygiene when they throw their garbage, plastic bottles, food stuff and chewed Qat out of the windows of their cars and into streets, or disgustingly their spit.

Anyhow, there are, in addition, many other critical environmental concerns, which ought to be resolved and discussed. Yemen Times' Mr. Ismail Al-Ghabri had the opportunity to present some questions on environmental issues in Yemen to the Chairman of the Public Environment Protection Authority, Mr. Mohamed Shadawah.

Q: What is the extent and the scope of official attention to the environment in Yemen?

A: Environmental issues have received relatively large attention in recent years that is clearly seen in the establishing of a separate portfolio concerned with water and the environment. This direction of the government coincided with the foundations of 35 non-governmental associations and organizations involved in environment issues spread throughout the governorates of the Republic.

Q: Does the authority provide any support to environmental NGOs?

A: The scope of the authority includes the support of these associations and organizations in order to



Mr. Mohamed Shadawah.

obtain jointly the collective public and official goals to protect and preserve our environment and to spread environment awareness among the general public. As a matter of fact, a special division inside the authority was introduced in its structure to coordi-

nate with their efforts and to enhance their abilities in order to obtain the support of international organizations and donor countries for their independent environmental projects and their environmental protection initiatives.

Q: How do you view the protection of the environment and the preservation of natural resources?

A: The Yemeni law defines the preservation of the environment and its resources as the wise management of the natural and renewable resources that includes effective utilization and exploitation of these resources while ensuring their sustainability for present and for future generations.

The Republic of Yemen, just like most of the countries of the world, cares about the interrelationship between social and economic growth and the environment. The attention on the environment reached its peak with the amendment to the constitution in a referendum on 20 February, 2000, by adding article No. 35, which stipulates that the protection of the environment is the responsibility of the state, society and each citizen. February 20 every year is considered a national day on the environment to keep up with the increasing global attention on environmental issues.

The environment is directly connected with development, and that is why the Republic of Yemen has utilized all of its capabilities to preserve the environment.

Q: Why are there so many environmental problems?

A: The deterioration of the environment is due to the ever increasing

activities of mankind. So be it, but most of his doings have not been necessarily correct and or intentionally conducted against the interests of the environment. The efforts of scientists have led to the detection of major damage inflicted to the environment with the hope of finding solutions to them. As a matter of fact, many activities of mankind seem to be imprudent and unwise, and they have led to various environmental problems such as the various air pollutants, rapid population growth verses the constantly diminishing resources, the expansionism of construction at the expense of arable lands, the random use of water in irrigation, and hunting.

Q: What are the national efforts to protect the environmental diversity of Yemen from extinction?

A: Several parts of the country have been categorized as environmentally protected areas, which will assist in preserving and protecting several rare species, both animals and vegetation, from extinction.

There is a call now to establish a prosecution concerned with water and environmental issues.

The preservation of the environment and the spread of environment awareness are the joint responsibility of all members of society. When the public and official efforts are integrated, the greater the chance to protect and to preserve our environment.



Bura' natural reservation



A residential quarter polluted with garbage and oozing sewage water

The problems of doctors in Yemen

BY NAWAL ZAID
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The issue of doctors has become an issue that ought to be discussed and to be looked into as it a health problem before it becomes a social one.

There are many doctors here in Yemen, some of them are good doctors but others do not deserve to be labeled as doctors.

Many doctors working here in Yemen, including some foreign doctors, do not know how to diagnose the patients' conditions, therefore, they resort to either guessing or prescribing several medicines hoping that one of them could ease the patient's suffering. Many doctors lack

the required experience in addition to lacking essential equipment in determining illnesses and in the prognosis of the condition of patients properly. Some doctors, swayed by greed, want to be specialized in every field of medicine, and end up specialized in nothing, as the saying goes, "The jack of all trades masters none".

There are some nurses, after working several years, who assume that they have become also doctors. This is another crime being committed against patients in Yemen.

Doctors should have enough time to talk to their patients, instead of rushing one patient after another and limiting the medical check up to two minutes. In my opinion, a good doctor is the doctor who

prescribes one medication for the treatment of a patient from a certain illness, but almost all doctors herein Yemen give each patient four to five kinds of medication, sometimes for a minor illness. This only destroys the patient's immune system. Some patients are suffering from mental disturbances and not physical illnesses. Thus, they require only therapy instead of a pile up of medications that only aggravate the patient's condition with the unnecessarily financial burden he has to bear.

Here, we say to doctors, Yemeni and foreign, you have to prove that you deserve to be called doctors through the type of treatment you provide to your patients. Yes, Yemen lacks many good doctors, as well as modern diagnosis

medical equipment at most of its hospitals. The state must furnish public hospitals with required medical equipment. Scholarships must be handed out to selected doctors for higher studies and specialization.

The Ministry of Health must constantly and strictly monitor the situation at private and public hospitals and at dispensaries and clinics and pharmacies scattered in the streets. The Ministry must exert its utmost efforts to combat the smuggling of cheap and ineffective medicines flooding into the country.

The careless and unqualified doctors must be held responsible in order to create trust between patients and doctors, the trust that is essential in the treatment of patients psychologically.

Private hospitals

Misused lucrative business



BY ABU KARIM
AL-HUBAISHI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In the past two decades we have witnessed a dramatic growth in demand for more medical facilities, such as hospitals, clinics and health centers, to accommodate the population growth rate of our country, estimated to be the world's highest.

The few old government health facilities have long since become unable

to cope with the rising demand for public health services. The financial difficulties of the government have resulted the need for increased reliance on local private businessmen to invest in the health sector, which is legitimate and vital step for the development of our national health facilities.

In the past six years, there has been a substantial growth in the establishment of private hospitals, which have flourished throughout the country.

The question here is - Are they really contributing to the national health service? The answer is unfortunately 'No' - there are a growing number of

complaints coming from patients who have been treated in these private hospitals. From the way they are functioning, one can easily notice that the noble humanitarian mission of treating the sick is a secondary factor for the management of those hospitals, whose primary aim is a double profit, from what they see as a lucrative business with a guarantee of easy profitability.

Most of these hospitals are established on any ordinary roadside building of three or four stories, which lack the basic standards required to function as a hospital. This fact makes

one ask how they got the permission to practice. What are the criteria they have to meet in order to practice?

Most of the doctors who practice in these hospitals are foreign, expatriates - but, is there any authority that verifies their qualifications or gives the permission to practice? These hospitals are accused of levying astronomical fees for the various operations they undertake.

The authority overseeing these hospitals is the Ministry of Health, but what the public want to know is whether these hospitals are under the active supervision of the Ministry - which we

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the post of **Veterinarian** to work with the **Mine Action Project**.

Basic Function of Position: To Provide Veterinary care of Mine Detection Dogs.

Responsibilities

- Planning and organization of all the Veterinary activities.
- Take care of dogs' health.
- Treatment, taking care, preparation of special dog food, providing bedding and suitable kennels for sick dogs.
- Hygienic control, supply water, food and storage of dog food.
- Supervision of all paravets' during activities.
- Supervision of all kennel attendants.
- Preparation of feeding schedule for dogs.
- Check and control of infectious diseases.
- Control and advise dipping according to the schedule for prevention.
- Daily check up in kennel site and training area.
- Check the dogs before deployment to the field mission.
- Proposals for in time provision of dog food and dog medicines.
- Organization and realization of first aid courses for dog handlers and Paravete course.
- Reporting, dogs' file and treatment documentation.

Qualification

- Graduated from faculty or Institute of Veterinary.
- Experience in working with dogs.
- Experience in treatment of dogs under field condition.
- Experience in dog breeding.
- Knowledge of dog disease.
- Knowledge of computer and English language.

Interested candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background for the above position may submit their applications by mail to Human Resources Unit.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: registry.ye@undp.org

The deadline for receiving applications is Sunday 20, 2004

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

Remedial education,

Panacea for under-achievement in schools?

BY MANAL ABDULWAHED SHARIF AL-SHUREIFY
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The other day I was talking to my favorite teacher from my school days, telling me about how challenging it is to make all the students in the classroom learn. One thing led to another and we touched on the issue of the self-fulfilling prophecy in Education. Teachers can sometimes label students as "slow", "backward" without perhaps a proper understanding of whatever it is that interferes with a child's learning. Then my teacher was telling me about the first time he mentioned "dyslexia", (which is a problem in reading, with various symptoms, such as: seeing the letters backwards, or up-side down...etc, although Dyslexia has come to be recognized as the mother of learning difficulties.) He then went on to tell me that he had been considered a complete lunatic fit for the mad house, not the school...as open mouthed they had all stared at him.

At that moment I smiled and thought to myself, "here we go" history is repeating itself, and I'm the new lunatic in the educational lineage. His voice cut into my thoughts as I smiled at his comment, "I can't believe it...my student...now my colleague discussing remedial education with me...."

If we look at the high rates of school dropouts, failures, and repetition in education, one should consider Remedial Education as one of the possible remedies, even if it may not necessarily be the panacea, considering the fact that educational achievement is a highly complex phenomenon. Underachievement in schools could stem from a number of reasons, socio-economic, a curriculum that does not offer life skills or is not relevant to the children's environment, various problems within the educational system, inadequate educational provision; but the most crucial one remains that of a lack of understanding of the cognitive aspects of information processing and the different learning styles of individual children. A child with special needs is a child who learns in a very unique way that needs to be addressed through remedial education, and at the end of the day every child does have his unique style in learning.

However, there are lots of concepts that can be taken from remedial education to assist a wider range of children at school, within the framework of inclusive education. Prior to this Inclusive Education was understood to apply only to disabled children but at present it actually implies that the educational system should cater to all the different segments of the child population, subsuming the category of disadvantaged children. This by no means suggests that the curriculum should be formulated for every individual child but that it should be diverse enough to cater to various individual differences and teachers should be well trained to improvise well enough for the children to learn in different ways. As far as Remedial Education is concerned, the learning difficulties or disabilities could be categorized so as children are streamed and taught in these remedial classes in order to help them overcome their difficulties and improve the educational output.

Having worked with children who had learning disabilities I could definitely see the difference between their learning needs and those of children with no disabilities. When the materials and methodologies were adapted to their needs, these children could overcome their learning disabilities and perform to the best of their potential. However, to most disadvantaged children, (in Yemen alarmingly large numbers of school age children) this is often

considered to be a luxury that neither they nor the system can afford. Thus in this way a large segment of the school age child population is excluded from education, by defacto. "Education for All" by the year whatever becomes ink on paper and academic discussions at Conferences, unless this issue of Inclusive Education is given serious thought. Many countries have also got compulsory universal education as their policy statement gracing ministries of education. However, a policeman's approach to compulsory education has never worked in developing countries, and the root causes of exclusion, like poverty, user fees and other hidden costs of education, and other problems of access need to be addressed.

My work with disadvantaged children coming from poor families in Yemen has convinced me of the need to review the whole concept of Inclusive Education, and to examine the root causes of dropout from school, high rates of failure and repetition in the public school system. Apart from several systemic factors, like quality, relevance, educational provision; a major factor is that of the lack of understanding of the learning difficulties and disabilities of different children. Remedial education has proven to be successful in many countries and responsible for increasing levels of school performance and achievement. The first step to planning the child's learning starts with assessing his level and diagnosing the problems that interfere with certain concepts, or in connecting different ideas, etc... in different disciplines. Once these are identified, appropriate remedies for overcoming these difficulties should be identified in accordance with the child's learning style. Teachers can then be trained on the process of identifying and testing, and thus on how to help individual children learn better. Simple remedies for the improvement of classroom dynamics can go a long way in helping children learn better. Unfortunately most teacher training courses focus almost solely on the lesson plan and how to impart content to students and not much on how to cope with different classroom problems encountered and how to help students learn.

Remedial education is a very broad term that can be used on an individual basis and also on a broader basis, i.e. having children with similar problems grouped together. Concepts taken from remedial education can be used to help children who achieve less than their peers due to reasons other than those that cause learning disabilities. Maybe the most important concept that should be taken from remedial education is making the educational system flexible enough so as to cater to a greater number of children, across the board, which can be termed Inclusive Education in its widest sense, as an educational system that has the potential to cater to a wide category of children and includes the concerns of all children nationwide, whether rural, urban, disabled, disadvantaged, etc..

My experience with remedial education on a small scale with working children has also given me a good insight into the nature of the problem of education for this disadvantaged segment of the child population coming mostly from poor homes, many of whom have to combine school with work. Alternative models for non-formal education do exist and might seem to be the obvious solution. However, non-formal education is a complex area, which can be either condensed literacy classes for those who wish to go back into the formal system or others that combine skills training for older children who cannot go back to school. It is questionable whether a separate non-formal educational system is sustainable in the long-run which may end up marginalizing the children further.



Dropout school children obliged to work in labor market

Whatever is done should also consider the problem of scaling up the model into the public school system. Therefore it would seem that Remedial Education within the school system itself is more viable in the long-run. This might initially be high cost but in the long-run it will be more cost-effective than the high rates of failures and repetition which have a higher cost both in material and human terms. The kind of extra classes given in the schools for those children who could not keep up in the morning is not real remedial education. For it is a mere repetition of the same thing that goes on in the morning without any attempt to understand what stood in the way of this child's learning in the first place. In the case of children who spend hours at work there needs to be some special measures to cater to their special needs. Moreover, these children already come to school with their unique experiences, and knowledge and maybe need more innovative ways of learning further. This is why there is a need for diversified curricula that can cater to all the children.

In Yemen, to start with, the teachers are poorly trained, the schools are badly equipped, the curriculum not being able to cater to all the different categories of children, and the lack of existence of any kind of remedial teaching, and it is not difficult to understand why there is a very high dropout rate from public schools. Teaching methodologies put most of the onus on rote learning, and the assessment in examinations follows the same pattern....students have to put down whatever has been memorized. Even if the new curricula are changing to an activity based one, many of these children who come from rural areas which have few facilities for this will not be helped. Teachers need to be re-trained on more innovative teaching methodologies to capture the interest of the students. Moreover, it is not only a curriculum that needs to be changed, it is the whole system which includes the curricular orientation, teaching methodologies which should aim at critical thinking skills, and also the examination system and assessment which needs to be more competent-based rather than content-based.

In conclusion, these small pilots and experiments such as I have described here are only meant to point at some lessons learned and try out several ways of introducing remedial education on a small-scale. However, if these experiments are not scaled up to become systemic, the trend of excluding large numbers of school age children from

the formal educational system will continue. Secondly even for those who manage to go through the system and even get to higher education, there will still be a problem of producing crammers who cannot find jobs because the system has not prepared them with skills they can use in later life. Thus

education has to be looked at with a very long term view beyond passing examinations onto adult professional life. Teachers and the teaching profession have to be accorded the status deserved, for good teachers make for good professionals in later life. Mediocre teachers can only lead to

mediocre unemployable doctors and engineers. It is up to the nation to invest in education and to efficiently use the resources which should become commensurate with the educational outputs. Remedial Education can certainly contribute a few miles towards that long and difficult journey.

UNDP

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A Supplier Profile Form may be obtained by interested suppliers on the submission of a written application to the address below. The application must specify the name and address of the company; contact person, telephone, fax and E-mail must be received by UNDP no later than **18th June 2004**.

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E-mail: nesreen.al-hibshi@undp.org
Tel: + 967 1 448605-8
Fax: + 967 1 448841

Yemeni Press,

A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, 3 June 2004.

Main headlines

- President Saleh takes part in the next G-8 summit
- Human rights minister: The president's directives on not-imprisonment of journalists, a great step for furtherance of the word
- Officials at the justice ministry and American lawyers arrived in Sana'a
- Finishing investigations with Cole explosion suspects in a few days

Columnist Abdulmad al-Qulaisi says in his article that what is happening in Iraq at the present time is but a vicious circle started with occupying Iraq in an illegitimate way, i.e. without the acceptance of the international community. Then the occupation states appointed illegitimately a council for governing Iraq without seeking the opinion of the Iraqi people and this council and the occupation forces have lately named a president for the republic, his deputies, and the transitional government with its prime minister and ministers. Also the future of the coming popular legitimacy would be hostage to a Kurdish personality activity whose main concern is the federal state. Amidst these ceremonial atmospheres the first statement of the appointed premier was that his government would conclude defensive and security agreements with the occupying forces until the government is able to build the alternative military and security formations because it is unable now to protect Iraq against the enemies from outside and from terror inside.

The writer says that it is meant that the goal is an army and security for providing protection for the American interests and to fight America's enemies. If the Iraqis would not discharge the occupation forces despite of themselves, they would not leave Iraq until they make it a typical copy of the regimes existing in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.

Al-Sahwa weekly, 3 June 2004.

Main headlines

- Criminal court listens to defense of those accused of al-Qaeda affiliation
- A youth killed in defense of his sister
- Teenagers storm headquarters of physicians union, Taiz branch
- MP al-Qadhi: The government dealt with its citizens in Guantanamo with informers mentality
- Consumer protection association warns against insecticides

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in an article the problem is that we seem as if we are without ambition. Official politicians and state run media's great concern is to convince themselves that Yemen is experiencing a great progress and an unprecedented comprehensive development. To confirm this vision they impose it on the visitors who walk through paved streets and are received in tidied offices and prepare for them good receptions and then ask them about their impressions on the country, the civilization, history, progress and democracy and freedom. The visitor would have nothing but to reply according to what is dictated.

Popular and official celebrations held in many areas of the republic and screened by the Yemeni satellite channel calls for sorrow and pity because they depict the Yemenis as if have just come out of a famine. Images of misery on their faces, bare-footed and clad in ragtag and the place where celebration is held bears imprint of backwardness and

Main Headlines

- Received a letter from president al-Bashir,
- President Saleh renews Yemen's support for Sudan and its stability and unity
- Yemen welcomes appointment of a president to Iraq and formation of an ir5aqi government
- Yemen contributes with a battalion to international peace-keeping forces in Sudan
- Planning minister Soufan signs in Rome an agreement for funding radar network costing 20 million euros
- Yemeni interior minister and his Qatari counterpart attend graduation ceremony of Coast Guard first batch
- Opposition scores sweeping results in Sana'a University students elections
- GPC: Attempts to confiscate students' will
- Yemenia pilots exposed to security provocations
- Islah welcomes decision of non-imprisonment of journalists, thanks the president
- Islah condemns the terrorist incident in Al-Khobar
- Trials of newspapers and journalists continue
- Sheikh Tariq al-Fadhli: Other are no political backgrounds for attacking my house
- Interrogating some Islah affiliates tried to kidnap a socialist party member
- Truck loaded with forged currencies, seized
- American pressures on Qatar to stop its support for Al-Zindani
- Big financial fine instead of canceling journalist imprisonment
- Oil Ministry concedes 10 billions per year for Jaheef investor
- Suppressing measures against them,
- Yemeni pilots threaten of collective departure from the company
- Expected changes in Waters Establishment
- Demands for speeding up the president's directives for canceling the punishment of jailing of journalists
- Al-Biedh and Al-Attas return, expected
- For becoming points for collecting money,
- Citizens demand abolishing of check-points
- All-out campaign to close down non-licensed professions inside the capital secretariat
- Security team visits Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo
- An announcement of placing the last border markings
- Earth tremors hit residents of Waziea with fear
- Efforts for holding an extraordinary meeting of the Yemeni-Saudi committee
- Yemen's embassy in Washington receives a list containing names of Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo
- Confrontations in the Saudi city of Al-Khobar, American presidential candidates pledges to fight Saudi irreligious men
- FM al-Qirbi: Other elements trying to damage Yemeni-Saudi relations
- Human rights minister: U.S. State Department report on Human Rights in Yemen, positive
- In his meeting with leaders of the ministry of information: Development of the press law and abolishing of journalists imprisonment
- Three companies to implement three bridges in the capital secretariat
- UNHCR opens a new camp in Kharz,
- A law regulating reception and residence of refugees in Yemen.
- Press circles welcome the president's initiative on developing press law,
- The president's directives would enhance rights and freedoms in the country
- The PM emphasizes the historical responsibility of media instruments
- Yemen condemns he terrorist acts in the Saudi city of Al-Khobar
- 16 killed and tens wounded in an attack in Al-Khubar, east of Saudi Arabia

dust rising over it.

I do not deny that our condition nowadays is better than it was a hundred years before and there are projects constructed, but they are still lagging behind our required needs and less than they should. The world presently looks for the better and our situations are in need of a comprehensive and future vision

exceeding hopes and dreams.

Al-Wassat weekly, 3 June 2004.

Main headlines

- Islah bears the same mentality of illegitimate overpowering mentality like the GPC



- Communications ministry teachers
- launched discounts in fees for international communication
- In Thamar, military units besiege physicians union
- Sons of Jabal Habshi appeal to the president to lift injustice imposed on them

Columnist Mohammed al-Ghubari says it is not logical to claim that journalists are a group of angels committing no mistakes, or to describe them as messengers of peace or revolutionaries for defending people's freedoms and rights.

Though there have been a dialogue and talk held for many times inside the journalistic circle about practices attributed to newspapers and journalists, those ideas have not been rendered into declared stances as by individuals or by the syndicate as an entity concerned with protection of the profession ethics and punishing those who abuse the profession. What increased the difficulty of that change is the state of division that the journalists have experienced since after the unity and the political crisis and their being dragged to the political conflict and then the split that befell their union in 1996.

Over the past two weeks journalists and politicians have got engaged in proposed projects for amending some texts in the press law, especially in relation to imprisonment for issues of publication and talk returned about punishments and controls that must be included in the law. It appears that today the journalists are demanded to assert that they are a power and bearers of torches of freedom, defending the tyrannized and not rather extortionists. The unavoidable fact is that we as journalists are afflicted with an unknown number of those who have considered journalism as a means for illegitimate gain.

Al-Shoura weekly, organ of People's Forces Union of Yemen, 2 June 2004.

Main headlines

- More than YR 225 million, financial violations at the ministry of expatriates
- Authority seeks arbitration of sheikh Tariq al-Fadhly, and Al Fadhli refuses the arbitration
- Oil ministry fears confronting investor Tawfiq Abdulrahim
- In Thamar, the governor and directors of security and youth seize by force a citizen's piece of land
- Differences and technical hindrances postpone announcing results of students' elections
- Field research studies behaviour of a million people using mobile phones
- Opposition in Lahj refuses any forthcoming dose
- Al-Shatt School at Mudharaba and A'arah district in Lahj without

Columnist Dr Mohammed Abdulmalik al-Mutawakil says in his article this week that in writing there is a strong relationship between three elements: the writer, the style of his writing and the topic he is writing about. Dr al-Mutawakil maintains that when there is a split between the behaviour of the writer and his practices and what he writes, the words lose their credibility and the reader loses the feeling of interaction with them. You may find someone writes about freedom and democracy and accepting the other's opinion but at his place of work and reality of his practice and details of his life you find him despotic and does not tolerate anyone opposing his opinion and of any criticism directed to him and to any image he sees on the mirror other than his own. Someone may write about cordiality and friendliness and tolerance but in reality he hates all those around him. Another one writes on corruption and he corrupt whereas in his reality he is corrupt from head to toe.

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress, 31 May 2004.

Main headlines

- The vice president stresses the necessity of opening the center for cancer completely
- 20 million euros to fund the project of Yemeni coasts radars
- Aden governor al-Shuaibi: We have finished procedures about 45 files for investment projects after withdrawing the pieces of land that were not used for building projects
- Steps taken for preserving old documents
- In a workshop in Amran, Discussion of the health situation and mechanisms of improving health services of health institutions
- The rural woman enhances her participation in productive work
- Abuhamza al-Misri faces in Washington 1 charges pertaining to terror

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh when I wished the Arab summit not to convene it was not out of the angry popular reactions refusing whatever official stands, but I was rather urged by the force of logic resulting from foretelling the reality and reading the circumstances that renders any goodwill attempt in search of solutions an inlet for more problems leading to block all inlets of hope for restoring all that we have lost of patriotic prestige and international respect.

The summit's resolutions have fallen in three dangerous pitfalls:

- continuation of marketing the peace initiative rejected by the other

party completely,

- immediate response to demands of the American administration for conducting political and economic reforms regardless of producing those demands as if they were Arab demand due to need of the Arab countries for genuine and comprehensive reforms stemming from inside, and lastly the gong after condemnation of what is termed as terror through what resolutions of the summit have affirmed of killing civilians at a time the resolutions did not denounce massacres of children and women in Palestine and Iraq and did not point to the scandal of the American occupation prisons and the violations that took place in them. The Arab leaders who did not attend the summit have done well for themselves and their citizens for they have not been witnesses of the fall of the last Arab summit into the bottom of political begging.

Attariq weekly, 1 June 2004.

Main headlines

- Military men from Radafan appeal to the president
- New security appointees in Aden
- News on measles disease spread in Amran
- New American ambassador expert in terror issues
- A bomb explodes in Sayani area, Ibb
- Electronic press in Yemen goes in broad steps

Columnist Ahmed Ali Othman says there is no development and no stability with security to be felt by the ordinary citizen in the first place. The Yemeni society needs to use potentials and resources, particularly the creation of atmospheres supporting for raising the level of awareness among all segments of the people and enhancement the role of civilian organisations in order to help it reach the stage of rendering the law as an umbrella above all.

There is a program and many goals on the agenda of the ministry of interior it is trying to realize for the stabilization of security in the Yemeni society. The multi stages the ministry has completed in the process of security deployment in all governorates of the republic gives us a positive indicator on seriousness of dealing with the entire security question as par of the regional and international effort for combating terror and on the other hand part of the national effort for the association of security with development process to which our people are aspiring. for the achievement of stability and dignified life. the security issue is a general one and all have to participate in it, particularly the leadership of the ministry of interior.

Elite Spyker cars eye budding China entrepreneurs

BEIJING, June 8 (Reuters) - Elite sports car maker Spyker may have delivered just a handful of dream machines to its global clientele but hopes booming China will soon prove to be one of its most lucrative markets.

The Netherlands-based company which had delivered around 10 cars since its rebirth in 2000 sold an aubergine hued speedster to a Chinese entrepreneur for 6.88 million yuan (\$831,000) last month and was confident of finding more local buyers.

"Currently we sell around 70 percent of our products in the United States. There is no reason in my mind why we could not sell a similar amount of products in China," Chief Executive Officer Victor Muller told a news conference on Tuesday.

Car sales in the world's fastest growing major economy nearly doubled to two million units last year, boosting the bottom lines of foreign auto firms like Volkswagen AG and General Motors Corp.

Other luxury brands that have joined the car frenzy include Italian car maker Fiat's luxury unit Ferrari Maserati which opened its first

showroom in China this month.

While China's eye-popping economic growth has spawned a plethora of rich entrepreneurs, the vast majority of its 1.3 billion people can hardly dream of owning luxury cars.

Even in the capital Beijing, average monthly salaries stand little above 2,000 yuan (\$241), according to official data.

Customers who had ordered sleek, tailor made Spykers were typically entrepreneurs with a taste for global travel and beauty whether in China or the United States, Muller said shortly before taking the car for a spin around traffic-clogged Beijing.

CHINA FIRST

Celebrities who own Spykers include rapper Busta Rhymes and host of NBC's popular "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno".

Executives declined to reveal the identity of the mainland Chinese customer, but said he approached Spyker after hearing the cars would be displayed at the Beijing Auto Show this week.

"The man approached us after hearing through a friend that Spyker was coming to Beijing. He knew the brand and wanted to be the first per-

son in China to have one of our cars," said China marketing manager Martyn Schilte.

BMW AG became the first pure-play luxury maker to begin making cars in China last year.

Spyker, which posted a net loss of 4.8 million euros last year on 2.9 million euros in sales, was banking on parading Spyker cars at a growing number of high profile events in China. The country's first Formula One circuit officially opened in the financial hub of Shanghai last weekend.

Muller sidestepped a question on specific sales forecasts for China this year but said the just listed firm had raised the capital needed to target new markets abroad.

Spyker, which Muller said planned to make between 45 and 50 cars this year, launched an initial public offering on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange last month.

Spyker's roots reach back more than a hundred years to a family firm that once built the Golden State Coach for the Dutch royal family. It was reborn in 2000 and established a foothold in the "super-car" market niche with prices starting at over \$300,000. (\$1=8.276 Yuan)



Chinese and German workers check BMW cars at the production line of BMW Brilliance Automotive Ltd in the north-eastern city of Shenyang, capital of Liaoning province May 26, 2004. Demand is exploding, and there is a waiting list several weeks-long of car-crazy Chinese, despite prices from \$48,000 to \$84,000 putting a BMW beyond the reach of all but the wealthiest. About 1,600 people, dressed in blue BMW-logged T-shirts and overalls, work in the plant now, including 60 overseas engineers. That workforce is set to almost double to 3,000 by end-2005. Picture taken May 26. REUTERS

NHL Future Uncertain Once the Party's Over

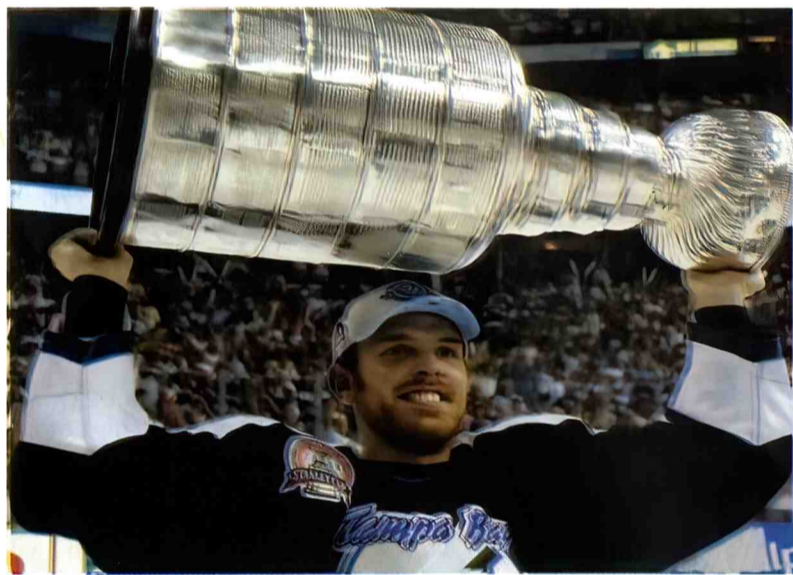
TAMPA, Florida (Reuters) - Tampa Lightning's 2-1 defeat of the Calgary Flames to claim their first Stanley Cup brought the curtain down on an unpredictable NHL season and opened the door to an uncertain future.

Hockey fans, even crushed Canadians who had been expecting to celebrate the hockey obsessed nation's first Stanley Cup champion in 11-years, soaked up every second of Monday's riveting contest.

With an ugly labor dispute looming on the horizon, they all know it could be a long time before they see another meaningful NHL game again.

Even as Tampa celebrated its first Cup in the franchise's 12-year history and made plans for a parade Wednesday, the sport continued to lurch toward a second work stoppage in a decade.

Talks between the NHL owners and the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) are stalled with the Collective Bargaining Agreement



Tampa Bay Lightning Brad Richards holds up the Stanley Cup after they defeated the Calgary Flames 2-1 to win the NHL championship in Tampa June 7. Richards won the Conn Smythe award as the MVP for the series. REUTERS

(CBA) set to expire on September 15.

In the din of celebrations at center ice of the St Pete Times Forum, players and team management embraced while NHL

commissioner Gary Bettman praised their efforts.

But those friendly gestures are likely to be the last exchanged by the two sides for some time as they retreat to their trenches for a labor battle many predict will result in no hockey next season and perhaps beyond.

FINANCIAL WOES

With the Flames and Lightning, two of the league's small market teams with modest payrolls, playing for the Stanley Cup, the league's financial woes did not appear as desperate as Bettman has implied.

But not long ago Calgary was staging "Save the Flames" rallies and "C of Red" referred to the team's finances not their now famous red-clad fans.

The commissioner pointed out that the Lightning had also been in a dire financial situation at one time having personally attended "Support the Lightning" fundraisers. Reuters 2004. All Rights Reserved.

Lightning Claim Stanley Cup with Game Seven Win

TAMPA, Florida (Reuters) - Ruslan Fedotenko scored a pair of goals as the Tampa Bay Lightning clinched the first Stanley Cup in their 12-year history on Monday with a nail-biting 2-1 Game Seven win over the Calgary Flames.

Just the second team since 1971 to erase a 3-2 series deficit to lift the title, the Tampa comeback drove an icy spike through the hearts of hockey-mad Canadians who had been primed to celebrate the nation's first NHL champions in 11 years.

While Fedotenko and goalie Nikolai Khabibulin were Game Seven

stars and Brad Richards picked up the Conn Smythe award as playoff MVP, it was 40 year-old captain Dave Andreychuk who had the honor of hoisting the Cup and parading around the St Pete Times Forum to thundering applause.

In the history of the NHL, no player had endured more frustration in the pursuit of hockey's holy grail than Andreychuk, the veteran playing in a record 1,758 games over a 22-year career before finally realizing his childhood dream.

"You dream about this day for a long time," Andreychuk said.

"It's taken me a while to get to this point and I don't think you can put into words the things going through your mind.

"The years that you got knocked out in the first round, the years that you didn't make the playoffs, all the players you have played with.

"We battled all year long to get home ice advantage and it happens that we win a Stanley Cup in a seventh game in our own building.

"I can't put into words how I feel."

Fedotenko, who missed Game Four of the finals after being slammed into the boards in Game Three, tallied once in each of the first two periods and Khabibulin did the rest stopping 16 of 17 shots.

The Lightning stepped onto the ice knowing that history and a record crowd of 22,717 were on their side.

The 2nd Billiards championship wrapped up

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Under the auspices of Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Kwa'a, Minister of Youth and Sport, the General Federation of Billiards and Snooker organized last week the 5-day 2nd Yemeni Billiards Championship.

24 players from Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, and Ibb participated in the championship.

In the closing ceremony, first, second and third place prizes were awarded and the referees and the administrative staff who had helped to make that championship successfully were also honored.

Mr. Khalid Saleh Hussein, General-Manager of Activities at the Youth and Sport Ministry, praised the great steps of the Billiards Federation in establishing and expanding the base of the game and organizing its activities in spite of the limited support from the ministry. He also acknowledged the increasing standard of the players.

Zaid Al-Qasimi, Head of the General Federation of Billiards, presented in his speech the activities and the efforts of the federation.

Al-Qasimi also revealed the obstacles that they face and the lack of resources to help them to improve the standards and performance of the national game.

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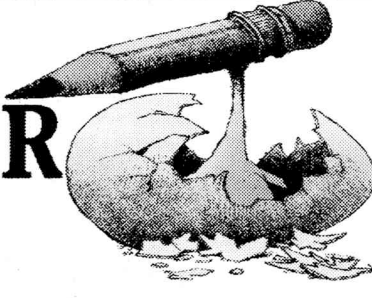
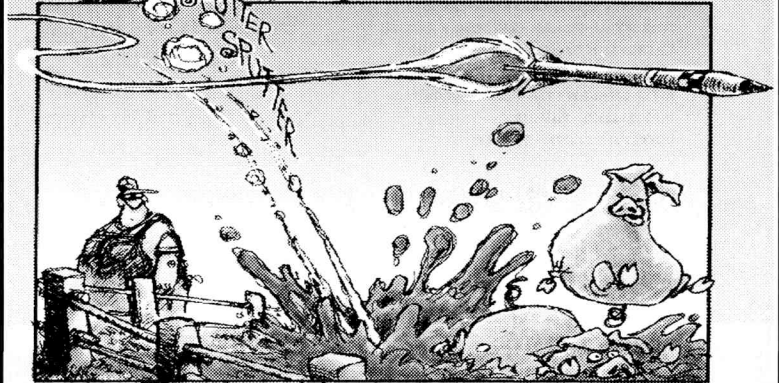
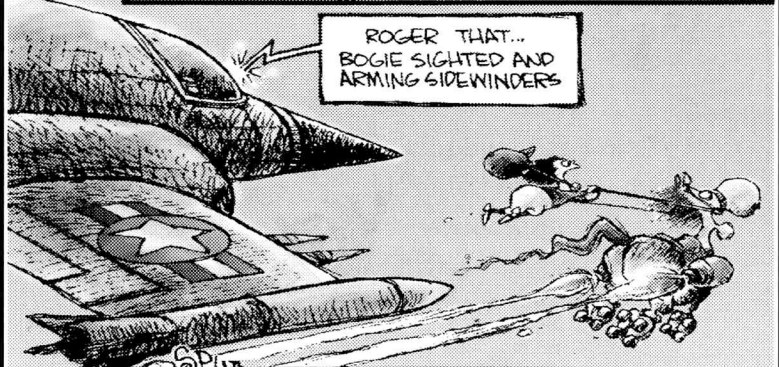
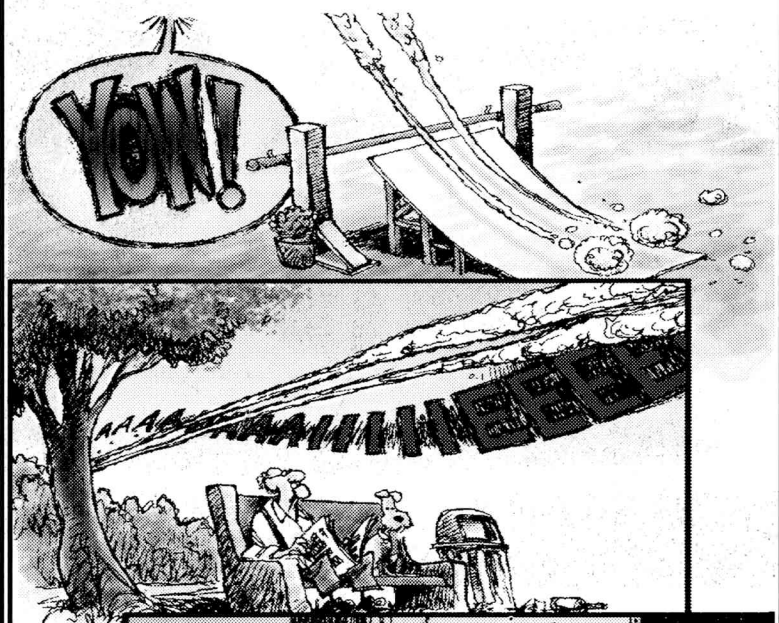
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by Wiley

Separate Contest on Common Names & Symbols
Contest (8) مسابقة



Who is he and what do you know about him? Ebtehal Saeed

Ans cont (7) Spaceteel

*was founded in 2000
*It covers 22 Governorates

Contest No. (16) مسابقة رقم
إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر
Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer
الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز أكسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا
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تخفيض 30% في نظام الدبلوم (إنجليزي أو كمبيوتر) مع ضمان الوظيفة للأول شريطة إصطحاب كوبون المسابقة عند التسجيل ودفع الرسوم مقدماً



نظراً لما حظيت به هذه المسابقة من تجاوب فإننا نكرر التواصل

ليس هناك فائز واحد في هذه المسابقة بل ان جميع المشاركين والمشاركات يعتبرون فائزين بجائزة المعهد المتمثلة بتخفيض 50% من رسوم برامج اللغة الانجليزية او الكمبيوتر سواء في نظام الدورات العادية او الدبلوم لمدة سنة.


Match the words with its opposite

sea	much
poor	land
actor	rich
cold	actress
empty	short
tall	entrance
exit	full
little	hot

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THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY
BY Eugenia



Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
This is the perfect day for you to get to the bottom of any personal paperwork that's been piling up. Hidden assets may be found. Something you know about someone should be kept secret.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
A unique opportunity to make some money will arise. Be cautious, but don't miss out on a good deal. Someone you have been looking out for will help you financially.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Problems will surface at home if you haven't been pulling your weight. Unexpected changes may throw you for a loop. Adjust or compromise in order to keep the peace.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
The more you can do to help others or to address reform, the better. You will attract attention and, if you are in the market for a new relationship, this is a good day to start looking.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Stay calm and don't let anyone know how frazzled you really are today. Nothing will be as bad as it appears. Overreacting will only stir up more trouble.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You owe it to yourself to kick back and have some fun with family or friends. A chance to hook up with someone from your past is possible if you make the first move.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)
Take care of your own business and you won't have to worry about things not getting done. Sudden changes regarding your position are likely.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
There will be lots of changes going on in your life but nothing that you should be worried about. Although you may feel a little insecure, this is not the day to let it show.

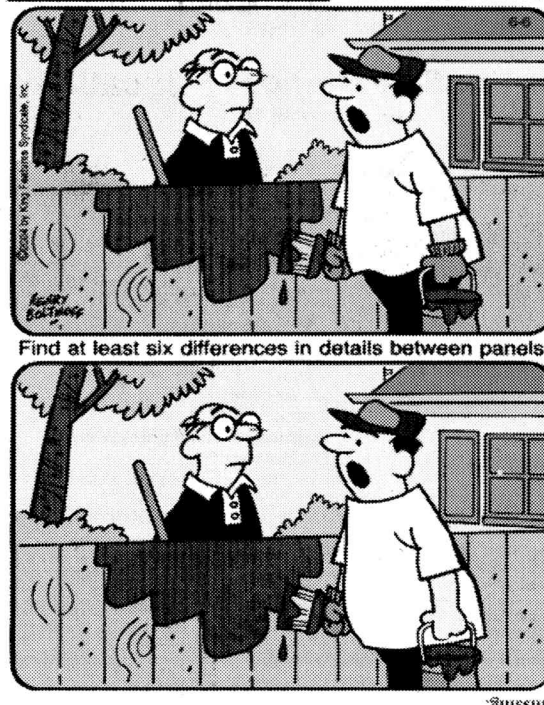
Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Try your hand at something quite different than what you are used to doing. This is the perfect day to find out more about a new position that may lead to earning more money.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Talk about your feelings today. This is a perfect day for love, romance and clearing the air if need be. Being honest about what you want and expect will help you get your way.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You will have some opportunities to use your talents so prepare to promote. Social events are a must to attend. You will encounter someone who is a perfect fit for a partnership.

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)
Discuss the way you feel rather than letting things fester. It may be an emotional time for you but, once you have things under control, you will feel better and you can start anew.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.


Differences: 1. Glove is missing. 2. Button is added. 3. Shutter is missing. 4. Shirt is longer. 5. Ear is smaller. 6. Tree branch is wider.

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 فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤
 ت: ٩٦٧٠١-٢٦٠٨٢٣
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 ت: ٢٠٢١٩٥٠٠٦٧
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 ت: ٤١٥٢١٢/٥
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 ت: ٢٠٢٠٢٠٥٥
 ت: ٦٠٢٣٥٥ - ٦٠٢٣٤٨/٨

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 فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤
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الفالك لمستلزمات الكمبيوتر

Australians set scopes on rare transit of Venus

SYDNEY, June 8 (Reuters) - Australian stargazers focused their telescopes on the South Pacific's blue sky on Tuesday to witness the rare transit of Venus across the Sun, just as England's Captain James Cook did 235 years ago in Tahiti.

The transit of Venus, when the planet drifts across the face of the Sun as it travels between the Sun and the Earth, is so rare that no living being has ever witnessed the celestial event.

Shortly after 3:00 p.m. (0500 GMT) in Sydney a small black dot appeared on the edge of the Sun to begin its westward, six-hour journey across its face.

"All you see is this little black circle silhouetted against the sun, which is why someone beautifully described it as the sun will have a beauty spot," said Fred Watson, head astronomer at Siding Springs Observatory at Coonabarabran in the state of New South Wales.

Five transits of Venus have been recorded. The last occurred in 1882 and

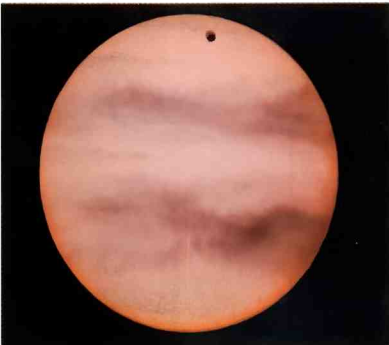


The planet Venus passes across the front of the sun as viewed from Mount White, about 50 km (32 miles) north of Sydney, June 8. Enthusiasts set up more than 20 telescopes at Mount White to view the astronomical event known as the "passage of Venus" which last occurred on Dec. 9, 1882.

Cook witnessed the phenomenon in 1769 after anchoring his ship the Endeavour in Matavai Bay, Tahiti.

Cook had sailed to the South Pacific to witness the transit and to try secretly to discover the Great South Land (Australia), which he did and claimed for England.

Cook said a clear, cloudless sky cre-



The planet Venus passes across the sun as viewed from Tehran, June 8. Venus began a transit across the sun on Tuesday for the first time in more than a century.

ated a perfect opportunity to view a complete transit. "We distinctly saw an atmosphere or dusky shade round the body of the planet which very much disturbed the times...", he said.

But an optical illusion called the "black-drop effect", which makes Venus appear as a series of black drops or dots as it crosses the face of the Sun,



As the transit of Venus begins, the planet starts to cross the sun over the desert town of Azraq June 8. Venus began a transit across the sun on Tuesday for the first time in more than a century.

made it difficult for Cook to measure accurately when the planet was at the centre of the Sun.

Stargazers in Australia on Tuesday were blessed with a near cloudless afternoon sky, but with the transit starting late in the afternoon they saw only the start before the Sun set.

"It's an astonishing sight. It has been said to be a dull event but it's quite exciting," said Jos Roberts, who gathered 40 amateur astronomers at his Mt White home north of Sydney to watch the transit. "I feel very privileged to be alive at the right time, to be in the right place, to have no clouds or monsoons."

Popping champagne corks, the astronomers watched the transit through 15 telescopes of varying sizes.

The entire transit will be observable from Europe, north and east Africa and Asia, except for the far east. In contrast, it cannot be seen from western North America, including California, the eastern Pacific including Hawaii, South America and Antarctica.

NASA's transit website gives details of the times and which cities will and will not have a view.

(www.sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/transit/TV2004.html)

The transit of Venus will happen again in 2012. After that there will be a 120-year wait.



A boy looks through a telescope to see Venus transit across the sun at Bangkok's Sanam Luang royal ground June 8.

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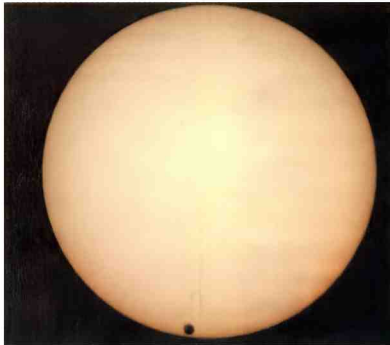
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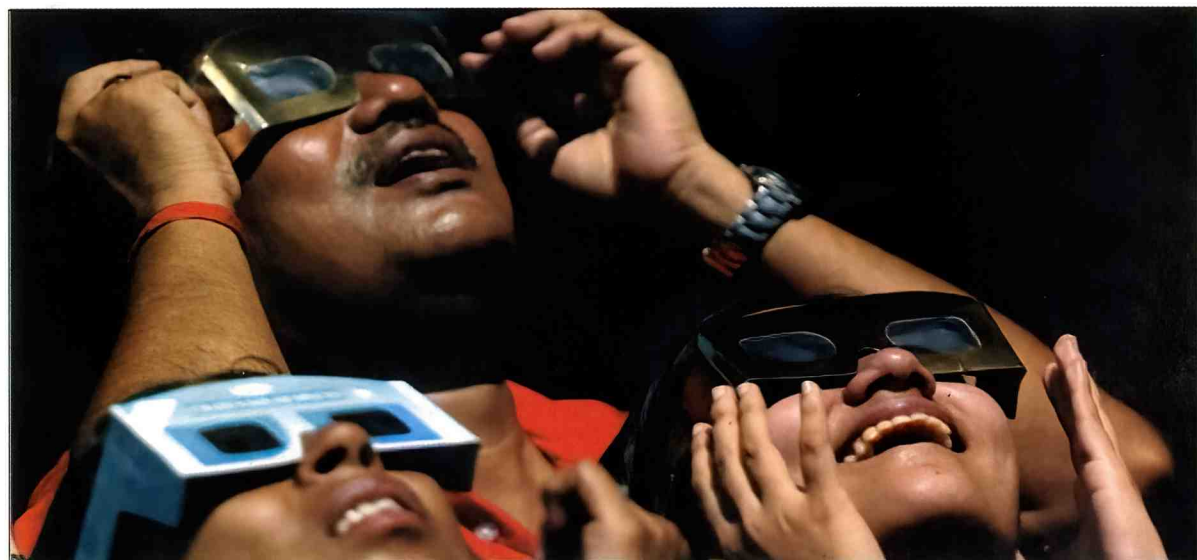
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Indian astronomy enthusiasts watch planet Venus pass across the sun in Bombay June 8. Enthusiasts thronged Bombay's Nehru Planetarium to view the astronomical event known as the "Passage of Venus" which last occurred on December 9, 1882.



A boy looks through a telescope to see Venus transit across the sun at Bangkok's Sanam Luang royal ground June 8.



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