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Another ugly mosque massacre

Yemen Times Staff

The recent attack in a mosque in A'ns district, Dhamar province resulted in great concern and worry throughout the country as it is the last in a series of deadly attacks in the last few years. In this latest incident, a gunman opened fire on worshippers in a mosque during Friday prayers, killing four people and injuring six.

The shooter, identified as Abdel Fattah Saleh, was seen using an automatic rifle to fire randomly at the praying men in the mosque, causing chaos and outrage.

According to Yemeni authorities, the attacker was then found dead in his house where he fled after refusing to turn himself in to authorities. Police had to storm the house of Saleh who is believed to have died along with his daughter in an exchange of gunfire.

Investigations were under way, an official said. But he added that Saleh was not a wanted militant and that he has no record of violence or terrorist activities or plans. It is thought howev-

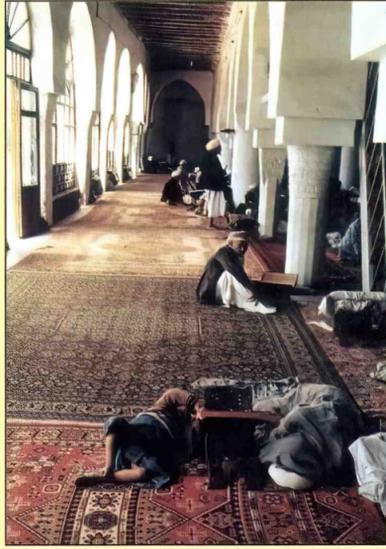
er, that financial or social disputes may have been the real factors that prompted the shooting.

Neither the first, nor the last

This incident comes after two people were killed and two were injured last month when a man detonated a hand grenade in a mosque in the southern province of Ibb. Another armed man in the same mosque was able to shoot and kill the attacker on the scene.

The phenomenon has become widely noticeable in various parts of the country, which is estimated to have some 60 million firearms - or three for each citizen - in the largely tribal and, in some remote areas, lawless country.

Many complain that the security problems in Yemen may be largely attributed to the lack of law enforcement in many areas and due to the high number of firearms throughout the country. A new law to enforce an arm ban on all citizens would have been passed in the past if it were not for the strong opposition of tribal sheikhs and leaders who resisted the law fiercely.



Mosques in Yemen have always been known for their peace and security. It is unfortunate that in the past few years, many attacks took place in mosques raising questions about the possible need to prevent entrance of armed worshippers into them.

(Shown: Photograph of the Great Mosque of Old Sana'a).

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Trial postponed

By: Hassan Al-Zaidi
Yemen Times Staff

The Criminal Court specialized in cases related to terror postponed the court session concerning 12 suspects accused of terror-related activities until next Saturday based on the request of the defense lawyers to enable them to obtain copies of the charges files.

Lawyer Mr. Mohamed Najy Alaw, in a statement to the press, said that the court requested that the lawyers syndicate designate 12 lawyers, one for each defendant, in addition to the current two lawyers, he and Al-Saqaf.

He expressed his hope that legal procedures will be followed and that the court's decision was intended to



The father of Fawaz Al-Rabae, one of the tried suspects, openly declared his son a hero for what he 'has done to America and the world'. Photo by Hassan Al-Zaidi.

avoid discrepancies in the suspects' cases despite the fact they are accused in a single case. He said that the court has ordered copies of the files of the prosecution despite the objections of the prosecution in a previous session.

The lawyers will obtain the copies of files on Sunday, and they will be able to hold separate meetings with suspects. Journalists were not allowed to attend the session despite the court's decision to allow them.

Yemen Times met the family of Fawaz Al-Rabae, one of the suspects. They stated that they consider their son a hero for what he had done to America and the world. His brother, Hassan, said that he was detained as a hostage for one year and four months until his brother reemerged. He said that he has not been permitted to talk to his brother while his brother has been in custody and has also received threats from the security to detain him.

Danish initiative takes serious steps to develop and reform media

Yemen's Media: Now the donors' target

The first ever large-scale media related development program has now started for Yemen. The initiative was taken by the Danish mission that had visited the country in March 2004 as a fact-finding mission to determine the priorities of democratic development in the country.

The mission took this initiative as a step towards enhancing and strengthening democracy, which will in turn help in poverty reduction and

overall development.

The decision to start with a 5 to 10-year project to support the media within the framework of 'enhancing and strengthening democracy' has been taken by the Danish mission based on the long-time neglect and ignorance of this important sector that could have played a much greater role in developing the country if it had been given due attention.

Continued on Page 13

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In Brief

Sana'a Water in Danger
Ministry of Water and Environment has revealed the serious consequences of exploiting and utilizing water in Sana'a basin for the plantation and growing of Qat. The Ministry also confirmed that there are more than 50 thousand water wells that are depleting drinking water in the Sana'a basin.

The rapidly reduction of water reserves in Sana'a will definitely lead to an environmental catastrophe and a sharp crisis in the availability of drinking water for the population in Sana'a City and in nearby governorates.

**A brother kills his brother...
A friend kills his friend**
TAIZ BUREAU

The carrying of arms, for prestige and as a show of power, began once again to worsen in the hands of careless people. On Monday, 31 May in Al-Hoban area, Taiz, the young man Nasser Mohamed Qassem, 20 years old, died instantly of multiple gunshot wounds from his brother, Habeeb who was fiddling with a machine gun.

In Al-Rounah village, Taiz, the boy Abdullah Farhan, 13 years old, was unnecessarily killed by gunshots from the machine gun of his friend Ragheb Abdullah, 12 years old when he was again fiddling with his machine gun.

Half a million students head for final exams

512,858 students, representing the ninth until the twelfth grade, began on Saturday June 12 their final exams at 4568 examination centers scattered throughout the Republic.

The High Examination Commission confirmed that the final exams would be conducted according to legal procedures and strict scrutiny to prevent cheating, and in accordance with the mechanism approved by the commission.

Red Crescent Organizes Lectures on First Aid
TAIZ BUREAU

The Yemeni Red Crescent, Taiz Branch, as part of its awareness activities, organizes during the period 15-20 June, fourteen lectures in the field of first aid will be delivered by several academics and specialists.

The lectures aim at spreading awareness and knowledge of how to conduct first aid when encountering several incidents including broken bones, burns and serious wounds. The lectured also covered responses to a range of common diseases and giving artificial respiration.

Several lectures will focus on training to bandage wounds and restore broken bones.

Russia Celebrates National Day

On the occasion of the Anniversary of the National Day of the Federal Republic of Russia, the Ambassador of Russia at Sana'a, H.E. Alexander Zasytkin held a dinner reception at his residence on Saturday evening, June 12th.

The reception was attended by members of the Russian community in Yemen, several Yemeni military and civil officials, some media people and journalists and a large number of Arab and foreign diplomats and representatives of international organizations accredited to Yemen.

Three killed in two days
TAIZ BUREAU

Ameen Ismail, a citizen in Al-Taizeah Province, 30 years old, was brutally killed on June 1st, by another resident in the province Mr. Abdul Aziz Abul Razaq, over a land-related dispute. The perpetrator was able to escape the site, whilst the security forces has his father in custody.

Mohmed Saif Mahyoud, 29 years old, a teacher in Sharab Province was killed by Abdullah Mahyoud, on June 2nd, again in a land-related dispute.

The corpse of a third has found. He has not yet been identified. He had received multiple gunshot wounds. The security forces are pursuing the perpetrator.

A workshop on oil technology
By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI

Schlumberger Information Solutions, a company working in oil services in Yemen for 20 years ago, organized a workshop on the latest technology programs and information in oil production, exploration and analysis.

The workshop was attended by nearly 50 persons representing oil Companies in Yemen, the Board of Oil Production and Exploration and the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources.

Foreign experts also attended the workshop at the expense of the company.

Government fails to use flood of debts

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Council of Ministers, during its regular session on Tuesday June 8, presided over by Prime Minister, Mr. Ba Jamal, discussed the special report related to foreign debts of the Republic of Yemen until the first quarter of 2004.

The report indicates that the current balance of foreign debts stands at 5,362 million USD. The sum of previously paid installments with interest stands at

3,106 million USD.

The report also stated that the government was able to reach some settlements with some donor countries regarding loans, including the elimination of 68,035,291 USD from debts to Bulgarian government and the sum of 960,011,544 Japanese Yen was also cancelled from debts to Japan.

The council approved the report and confirmed that the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation will present a comprehensive report about the projects financed by loans and on the progress of these projects and to explain what are the obstacles hindering their completion.

The Prime Minister commented on the report by confirming that the size of foreign debts is ideal considering the situation of Yemen comparable to other developing countries.

According to government sources, Yemen has begun an intensive campaign to obtain more assistance from international organizations and donor countries.

Officials at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation say that they are undertaking a campaign to implement the decisions taken during the Millennium 2000 meeting in New York, and to translate them into reality

by the year 2015, during which the governments of the G8 would present reports about the level of accomplished goals. They point out that Yemen is estimated to need billions of dollars that could be gathered from donor countries and international donating organizations, in addition to the revenues from investment projects.

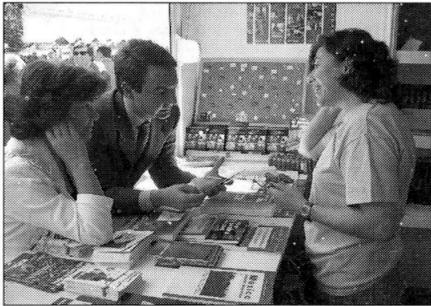
However, Yemeni and Arab investors are afraid to launch many investment projects due to insufficient guarantees to protect their funds, as well as other obstacles.

Sources indicate that Yemen needs three billion USD in loans and assistance during the years 2001-2010 to achieve its goals.

An economic expert confirmed that Yemen doubled its foreign debts in recent years in an unprecedented way after some of its debts were canceled by the Paris Club. This increase constitutes an additional threat to the country's future economic and development advancement on the long and short terms.

Spanish PM interested in Hassan's case

Newly elected Prime Minister of Spain, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, and the Minister of Culture, Carmen Calvo visited the Amnesty International stand in the Madrid Book Fair recently. He talked to Cecilia, a member of Group 66, which is working on the case of the Yemeni citizen Hammoud Murshed Hassan Ahmed.



The Spanish Prime Minister was told about the ten years that Hammoud has spent in prison and the difficulties he has had in getting a fair

trial. Zapatero took an interest in the case and expressed his support for the work of Amnesty International in this regard. It is hoped that this will boost the possibility of enabling Hammoud to get a fair trial in Yemen.

A session on veterinary quarantine

TAIZ BUREAU

Wednesday, June 9th, Taiz- The Animal Wealth Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development organized an integration session on veterinary quarantine.

The three-day session, held under the slogan, "Organized importation is a precaution for animal wealth, public health and environment", included 14 participants representing Taiz, Aden, Hodeidah, Hadramout, Hajjah, Marib, and Sadaah governorates.

It aimed at introducing the participants to the methods and techniques related to veterinary quarantine and the

isolation of epidemics that threaten humans and animals. In addition, projects in combating fatal contagious diseases and epidemics were also discussed.

The session also aimed at pointing out the importance of spreading veterinary quarantine practices at the various land and marine exist/entry points and airports to prevent the transmission of diseases and epidemics to other members of society.

Mr. Saleh Mothana, Undersecretary at the Ministry and Engineer Sulaiman Away, Director of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and Mr. Abdullah Al-Junaid, Director of Agriculture Office in Taiz, attended the opening session.

Special meeting

TAIZ BUREAU

Sunday, June 13, Taiz- The Women's Forum for Research and Training (WFRT) and the Arab Network for Civic Education in Yemen, organized a special meeting regarding displaying and exhibiting students' works in the schools that participated in the civic education activities.

It is worth mentioning that the

WFRT participated in the foundation of the Arab Network for Civil Education in 2002. It continues to carry out activities related to spreading awareness and shaping public opinion on the importance of integrating civic education activities into school's curricula. Early this year, a number of teachers in six schools representing six governorates were trained to commence practically the first phase of the program's activities.

Inquiry commission recommends new director of electricity station

TAIZ BUREAU

The Minister of Electricity, following repeated complaints from engineers and technicians working at Osaiferah Power Station of the hardship, harassment and deprivation of their rights they constantly encounter from the Director of the Station, Eng. Abdullah Bazal, has ordered the formation of a Commission of Inquiry.

The report submitted by the Commission of Inquiry, signed by Eng. Abdul Motae Al-Junaid, the Director of Public Electricity Corporation, recommended the replacement of the Director, the return of previously transferred engineers to the station, and the return of the electricity poles at the Director's house. It also recommended periodical field visits to inspect and check the performance of the station.

Yemen exempts Palestinian products from custom

The Palestinian Trade Center declared the Republic of Yemen the first country to abide by the decision to exempt the Palestinian goods from custom tariffs, in accordance with the decision taken during the Arab Summit in 2000.

The Center described the Palestinian Products Exhibition, held last May in Sana'a, as very successful by all standards. Several commercial contracts were signed between Palestinian and Yemeni businessmen and companies.

26 Palestinian companies participated in the exhibition from the West Bank, although companies from the Gaza strip could not attend due to the Israeli military embargo imposed on Gaza.

8 years of combating revenge, violence and misuse of arms

Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Dar Al-Sallam (House of Peace) Organization organize, during the period 9-14 June, a cultural carnival under the slogan, "Culture and awareness are important tools toward globalization of human rights and a society free of revenge and violence".

The activities of the carnival included a 1500-photo exhibition to display the efforts of the organization in the field of combating revenge, violence, misuse of weapons, and deepening the culture of forgiveness

and peace during eight years of fieldwork.

Several academics, actors, and directors of plays targeting the treatment of these phenomena were also honored.

Minister of Culture and Tourism, the British Ambassador and other Ambassadors who attended the opening ceremony expressed their admiration for the efforts of the organization and described it as the first step toward the comprehensive development of Yemen.

Sheraton's first renovation phase completed



Yemeni Minister of Tourism and Culture, Mr. Khalid Al-Rowaishan inaugurated last Saturday of the newly renovated sections of the Sheraton Sanaa Hotel, which completed its first renovation phase successfully. The event took place the presence of Arab Hotels Company Board Members, Fahed Abu Shaar - Starwood Hotels Area Director of Operations, GM of Sheraton Kuwait Hotel and Towers, along with many distinguished officials, ambassadors, top corporate accounts, travel agents, airlines and media representatives.

A live presentation and formalization tour to the new executive floors and lounge was organized for the invitees, who expressed admiration at the new look of the 5-star hotel.

Emirates Airlines honors agents

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Wednesday, June 9th- The United Arab Emirates Official Airlines, Emirates Airlines, held a reception at the Sheraton Hotel during which it honored its most successful sales agents in Yemen.

The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirate in Sana'a and Mr.

Bader Abbas, the Regional Director in Yemen, handed out several prizes to different travel agencies working in sales services for passenger tickets on Emirates Airlines.

As expected, the first prize went to Universal Travel and Tourism Co..

The Director confirmed that the dinner reception was part of the company's efforts to motivate and to promote its sales in Yemen.



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UNDP Disaster Management Project in Yemen gains momentum

BY NADIA AL-SAKKAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of H.E. Dr. Rashad al-Alimi, Minister of Interior, the United Nations Development Programs and Disaster Management Training Program in Geneva in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior organized a Disaster Management and Training Workshop at the Taj Sheba Hotel between the 12th and 14th June.

The workshop was inaugurated by a welcome speech by Mr. James W. Rawley, UNDP Resident Representative, followed by a brief overview of disaster management, the workshop, and the project of UNDP and Civil Defense by Mr. Mohammed Mukalled, the Project Chief Technical Advisor. Mr. Mukalled congratulated the Yemeni Government for taking this step and recognizing the importance of disaster management, and he emphasized on the partnership between the government, donors, civil society organizations, NGOs and the private sector as well as the communities. He explained that there are three new phases through which the disaster management takes place: prevention, reaction and rehabilitation. Dr. Rashad al-Alimi delivered a speech in the inauguration ceremony in which he praised the launch of the Disaster



Scene from the panel

Management Program through efforts from the UNDP and in cooperation with the Yemeni Government. He described the dire need to manage risks and hazards in Yemen, describing a disaster as an event of a few seconds that could destroy civilizations built through centuries.

This workshop is a part of the Disaster Preparedness, Management and Recovery Project executed by the Ministry of the Interior and implemented by the General Directorate of Civil Defense and funded by the UNDP. It will be implanted in close partnership with the United Nations Disaster Management Thematic Group and other local and international

partners to build national capacity to respond to natural and man-made disasters. The United Nations Disaster Management and Training Program was established by UN decree number 182/46 from the 78th General Assembly in December 1991. It includes a large number of UN organizations as well as other international organizations concerned with humanitarian issues. The purpose of this program is to build capacities in order to face and manage disasters, hazards, and risks in the world especially in developing countries where the vulnerability is highest. The UN Country Team works in these terms in Yemen in order to build the capacities of the

concern authorities in the government and related associations through the Disaster Preparedness, Management and Recovery Project 2003-2006.

This project, whose budget is a little less than one and half million US Dollars and to which the Government of Yemen contributes more than half, aims to provide the Yemen with the capacity to respond to the scale of vulnerability and recurrent localized disasters, which include earthquakes, floods, droughts and various epidemics through disaster mitigation, disaster response and recovery. This will be achieved through the following outputs:

- Establishing the necessary institutions (Disaster Management Unit / National Emergency Operations Center) with clear structure and functional procedures for disaster planning, management and prevention
- Formulation and implementing disaster management contingency plan
- Establishing a disaster management information system (DMIS) database
- Establishing a disaster management communication system
- Building the national staff capacity at the central and governorate levels in disaster planning, preparedness, management, mitigation, emergency response and recovery.

The establishment of the Disaster Management Unit at the Ministry of the Interior was the first output achieved and it is a promising reference for information on disasters in Yemen and a center for emergency work as well. The workshop conducted by the UNDP in Disaster Management and Training also contributes to the success of this project as it builds the capacities of the participants who have come from all parts of the country and from the various ministries and concerned organizations.

Ba Jamal refuses to appear before Parliament for questioning

Parliament rejects compensations for buying company

The Parliament agreed to grant the government of Ba Jamal a two-month grace period to cancel the sale agreement to sell the government's oil share in

Sector 53 in Hadramout Governorate. The grace period was issued in order to enable the government to take the necessary measures to implement the recom-

mendations of the Parliament related to the Oil Ministry's sale agreement of 60% of the shares of the Yemeni Oil Company in the above sector.

Parliamentary sources said that the Prime Minister was scheduled to appear in Parliament on Wednesday June 8. Instead, a letter was received by the Parliament from him requesting that Parliament grant the government a period of 60 days from date of the letter to enable the government to implement the Parliament's recommendation and to terminate the agreement with the buyer cordially, in the interests of the reputation of the country.

Parliament rejects any compensation from the state treasury for the buying company, as the compensation means the continuation of tampering with public funds. The PGC bloc in Parliament is under pressure to meet the government's demand for compensation.

Bidding farewell to G. Vassallo

A farewell party took place last Friday in Sanaa to say goodbye to Mr. Gianluigi Vassallo, the Charge de affairs of the Italian Embassy in Sanaa. Mr. Vassallo will be leaving the country in late June. He has been assigned to a mission in Germany.

Tens of guests representing the diplomatic community and friends, Yemenis and foreigners, were present at the farewell party which extended throughout the night.

Despite being one of the youngest diplomats to serve in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vassallo has been known for his charisma, handwork, and excellent public relations. He succeeded in implementing and facilitating many projects funded partially or fully by the Italian government. He has enjoyed many strong relations in the diplomatic community and with Yemenis as well.

On behalf of Yemen Times, we would like to convey to Mr. Vassallo our best wishes for a bright future ahead.

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During Press Day in Yemen

Journalists hail President Saleh's initiative to abolish imprisonment of journalists

Yemeni journalists revived on Wednesday June 9th, at the headquarters of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate the Press Day by directing a salute to the President's initiative to abolish the imprisonment of journalists.

The gathered journalists from private, government and political parties' newspapers called for their involvement in the amendment process of the

Press and Publishing Law to ensure the implementation of the President's directive to cancel the imprisonment of journalists, which is contrary to the freedom of expression and opinion.

The journalists also welcomed the call by Yemen Journalists Syndicate to halt the quarreling and wrangling of colleagues in the press profession. They called for opposition to any attempt to distort the press profession and its social duty and noble message by anyone inside or outside the profession.

Italian music brings joy to Yemen

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Italian musical band, Nakaira, currently visiting Yemen, held on Thursday June 10th, a concert attended by the Ambassador of Italy.

The band played several traditional Italian pieces and famous songs.

The Italian Ambassador confirmed that the Italian band participated in carnivals on the occasion of Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004. It also held several concerts that reflected the spirit of friendship between Yemen and Italy.



Leadership and gender in a workshop

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Yemeni Women Union (YWU) concluded on Tuesday 8 June a 4-day workshop that devoted to discussing the issues of gender and leadership.

The participants were from all the branches of YWU in different governorates.

Wafa'a Ahmed Balfaqih, member of the executive office and Officer for Projects and Training at YWU, told

Yemen Times "This course of training comes under the frame of building the institutional capabilities project for YWU. There are a number of training courses and workshops aimed at training woman leaders in various fields. The workshop of today is the conclusion of a 3 former workshops that tackled the issues of the gender and leadership in which the participants focused on the role of the man and women besides the developmental gaps in jobs and reinforcement of the role of woman

in development process that can be achieved by the effective participation for women in education, health, managing the projects taking decisions and etc.

We divide the governorate members into groups through which they can exchange experiences.

There are a number of specific dimensions to be discussed today and CARE organization is playing a pivotal role in rehabilitating the female cadre on which YWU can depend in future."

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Abduljabar Saad reveals the whys for his dismissal

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Abduljabar Saad, 53 years old, with a masters' degree in economics from the United States of America, is a writer known for his stances in defending losing cases as his adversaries proclaim, and also for defending fundamental issues as his supporters think of him. He defended the Yemeni Socialist Party and 16 of its prominent figures, the most notorious persons following the 1994 civil war. He had fought against those in Islah, who accused him of being an infidel. A court verdict was issued, 80 lashes, against him and his brother, the deceased Abdullah Saad, former Editor-in-Chief of "Al-Shoura" newspaper.

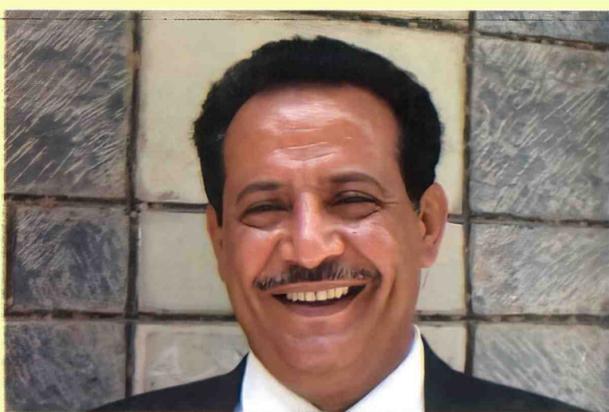
This time, he is facing court for defending Saddam Hussein. He does not know what the consequences might be of his action this time. He has been suspended from his job because of it, even before the judiciary has its final say.

Abduljabar, as his friends describe him, is an iron-man, querulous, and stubborn as his name "Abduljabar" means. He has grown up accustomed to

saying the truth and to defend the weak. This is just his life and behavior. He does not care about the consequences of expressing his beliefs and opinion, whatever that might be. This time, "The decision of Ba Jamal, the Prime Minister, to suspend him from his job, was unjust, irrational. It was taken randomly and moodily. It was not based on acceptable moral ethics or legal considerations. The decision was a merely political comity for Saudis, nothing more", as "Al-Ebhar" newspaper portrayed it.

Abduljabar is a radical man. He studied in the United States of America. He loved it. He was influenced by its culture. He was never cordial to extremists of any religion or political preferences. He has blended with different cultures and religions, he respects all as long as they call for peace, justice and freedom. He is the idealist by all means. The more you get to know him, the more you feel his exaltedness and realize his distinction.

I find it difficult to compare him to any distinguished personality in our present time. There is absolutely nobody who resembles him. Support him against the injustice he has encountered, if you were siding with justice and fairness, even rhetorically. Support the right of expres-



Abduljabar Saad

sion and opinion!

Yemen Times realized what lay behind this magnificent statue of secrets, and thus it visited him at his remote house situated on the coast of the Red Sea hopefully to unveil at least a few of his secrets, to disclose some facts about

the man's issues and aims, and to point out the official injustices and arbitrariness he has encountered that can be described only as irresponsible, unjustified, and inhumane. During our visit, he was brief and direct to make his points clear.

Thowra" newspaper for its unacceptable remarks and descriptions of me, which were not appropriate, by its writers and America's agents or its subordinated states such as the big sister "Saudi".

Q: But some say that President Saleh, whom you bet on, is American just like the rest of your adversaries?

A: I am not satisfied with previous

actions such as the killing of Al-Harethi inside his country by America with Yemeni blessing, but I am convinced that such actions were taken under US pressure. If proved contrary, I would have another stance. But generally, I am satisfied with the stances and actions of President Saleh about Iraq, Palestine, the US occupation, and the Arab betrayals etc. I do not expect more of him at this present time.

Q: What is the story that upset the state and our brothers in Saudi?

A: Honest to God, I do not consider it a story, but some of our brothers here in Yemen have become enthusiasts in creating and fabricating stories, otherwise, the whole issue was a message of patriotism and advice I directed to H.E. Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, blaming him for the unsatisfactory role of the kingdom in the invasion of Iraq and its violations of the dignity and sanctity of Muslims' shrines. I blamed him for continuously supplying and providing America and her allies fuel and the other facilities that sustain the occupation. I demanded that the Saudis, as atonement for their sins, ought to support the Iraqis in their struggle to liberate Iraq under the leadership of their President Saddam Hussein. That is the whole story.

But our brothers in the official media rushed to insults and to heap curses upon me personally and everyone like myself on the front page of "Al-Thowra" newspaper. They accused us of supporting and provoking terror and insulting relations with our brothers in Saudi. They accused us of being ungrateful and unappreciative of our jobs, I do not know how that got into it, and finally they decided to fire me from my job as the Director General of Hodeidah Customs Office and transferred me and Mr. Abdul Wahed Hawash, the Editor-in-Chief of "Al-Ahya Al-Bahry" newspaper to the judiciary.

Q: What is the current status of the case?

A: As far as my job is concerned, I have handed it out to the designated appointee in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Customs Authority. With regards to the judiciary side, the two of us have been questioned and transferred to court, which has assigned Tuesday June 15 for the first court session to look into the case. We will attend and we will see what will happen.

Q: What are exactly the charges against you?

A: The charges are, "We published false news with no evidence that Saudi provides America with oil at prices below the actual cost price for its extraction and the Saudi Kingdom and its monarchs have betrayed God and the Prophet Mohamed and colluded with the occupational forces, and finally we offended the relations of Yemen with our brothers in Saudi."

Q: How did you plea to these charges?

A: We said that Saudi in particular and the other Gulf States in general have provided America since the so-called the Gulf War all their bank accounts and oil in return for the protection of their crowns, and this is no secret to anyone. We also said that the conspiracy of the Saudi Kingdom and their betrayal of God and Prophet Mohamed and Muslims are something Saudi monarchy family is bragging about and does not deny. There are numerous pieces of evidence if the judiciary needs it, although it is something everybody knows.

Q: What about the offense against relations with Saudi?

A: We told them that this is something strange to be accused of. We did not talk at all about the wars it launched and financed against Yemen, or about the various economic or military conspiracies, or about the expulsion of two million Yemenis in one night after they had built the Saudi Kingdom brick by brick and palace by palace or the thousands of kilometers that they forced us to give up. All what we did was criticise them on fundamental issues related to Arab and Muslim identities. We are along with all Arab and Muslim countries are also targeted.

Q: Regarding the job, is the dismissal permanent or temporary?

A: I really do not know yet, but they requested that I hand over the post to another person and I have not received any

notice about my future situation. I really do not know if the suspension is temporary or permanent.

Q: Do you believe that President Saleh knows about these measures and that he is satisfied about them?

A: I am certain that President Saleh has received inaccurate details about the subject. I can confirm that he is not satisfied with the government's irrational reactions and measures, headed by my suspension from my job. The President would confirm that if there was a violation, let the judicial system decide on it. This is of comfort to me since if I could confirm that he approves of them, I would have felt sorry for the loss of the country and citizenship. I hope that will not happen and God willing it won't.

Q: You are charged with supporting the fallen regime of Saddam Hussein and have utilized your writings in defending him, and this is a felony in the eyes of rulers and in the opinion of the West, the controlling power of the world. Is this a fair description of your situation?

A: That portrayal of me is something of an honor to me before God and the people. Saddam Hussein, as far as I am concerned, is the honor and dignity of every person with faith on the face of this planet. Giving up on him is giving up on human dignity. The Arab and Muslim rulers that I have mentioned are mercenaries, and the West is attempting to present to us its alleged values and democracy. These values and democracy are clear us through the oldest Islamic democracy (Turkey). They have chosen for us a democracy that prohibits us from wearing the clothes that suit our values and personal conviction and to ban us from saying 'Peace upon you' as a salutation, did you know that?

It is a democracy that prevents us from teaching our children Islamic values and principles. This democracy permits the marriages of two males or two females as happens in America, in the first legislation on this matter in the State of Massachusetts. We do not want that. We want to establish a system based on our own values.

Q: How do you assess the internal situation, the issue of inheriting power and the talk about corruption etc.?

A: I would prefer the hell of Ali Abdullah Saleh to the American paradise. When we are alone on the arena and the confrontation is between the people and the authority and America is not involved, we will talk and we have talked and the President and others have heard our voices. But when America wants us to rebel against our rulers in order to install new rulers like Al-Yawor, Alawi and Al-Bajah Jee, we have no other choice except to become "Fedayeen" sacrifices to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, similarly for the Iraqi resistance to Saddam. I do not care if I please or upset anyone, I welcome death, to be imprisoned and to be fired from my job as long as my honor and dignity are intact.

Regrettably all that is written or more precisely the majority of what is written is issued by writers who are leaning their backs on the walls of the American Embassy. They are predicting a new future that comes out from the rubbles of the September 11 incidents while America presents it to us from Abu Ghraib prison and Guantanamo detention camp.

Q: Isn't your stance odd at the time everybody walks behind the democracy supported by America?

A: As a matter of fact, yes, it is, but I have no choice, I am odd and my stance is eccentric, "Bless the eccentric" as Prophet Mohamed said, peace be upon him.

Q: If the case ends up in your dismissal permanently from your job, will you sue the state?

A: No, I will not sue the state on the job issue, but I will sue the state on the issue of dignity. I have filed a lawsuit against "Al-

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Q: Do you have any support in your confrontation?

A: Yes.

Q: Who?

A: God and faithful people.

Q: Others?

A: I do not need others.

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Iran rejects demand to drop heavy-water reactor

TEHRAN, June 12 (Reuters) - Iran on Saturday rejected European demands that it freeze additional parts of its atomic programme, saying it would push on with plans to build a heavy-water reactor. "We will not accept any new obligation," Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told a news conference.

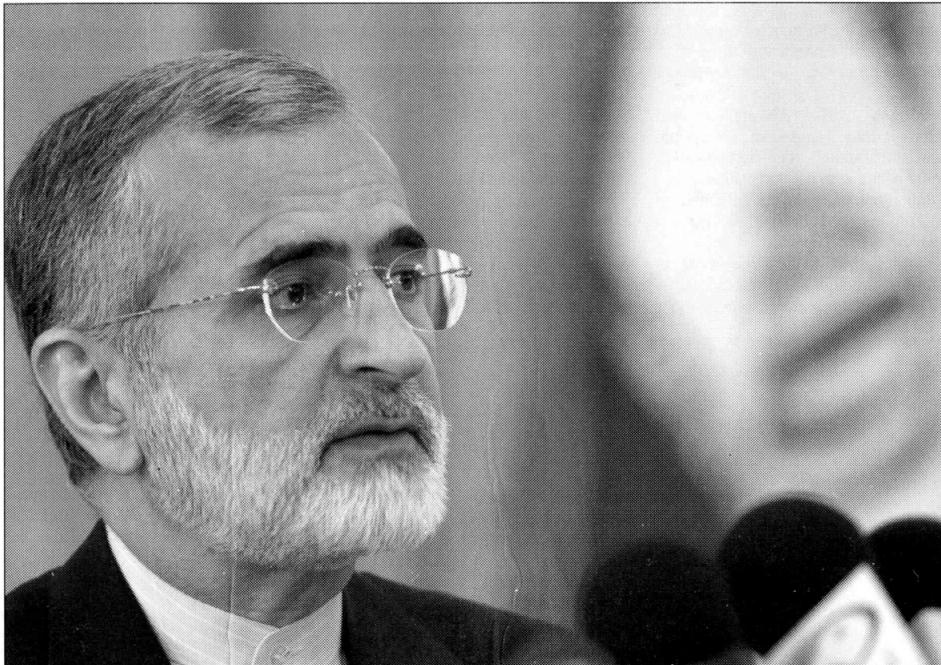
"If anyone asks us to give up Isfahan industries to change yellowcake into uranium hexafluoride gas or to give up heavy-water facilities in Arak, we cannot accept such an extra demand that is contradictory to our legal rights."

Yellowcake is processed uranium ore, mined near the central desert city of Yazd. Uranium hexafluoride gas is pumped into centrifuges that enrich uranium by spinning it.

The United States says Iran is using its programme as a smokescreen for building an atomic bomb, but the Islamic Republic insists its scientists are working only on ways to meet booming domestic electricity demand. Britain, Germany and France penned a tough draft resolution this week deploring Iran's failure to cooperate fully with the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The document, to be debated at an IAEA board meeting starting on Monday, asked Iran to freeze its operation of a uranium conversion facility near Isfahan and reverse its decision to construct a heavy-water reactor near the central industrial city of Arak. Kharrazi said he hoped IAEA board members would resist U.S. pressure and not only soften the resolution but also drop Iran's case.

"It is not fair that Iran's case remains on the agenda for two minor issues," he said.

Iran must explain how traces of bomb-grade uranium came to be found



Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi attends a press conference in Tehran, June 12. Iran on Saturday brushed off European attempts to increase freezes on its atomic programme, saying it would push on with a heavy-water reactor capable of producing weapons-useable plutonium. REUTERS

on components, and what it plans to do with advanced uranium-enriching centrifuges it initially failed to declare.

The heavy-water reactor Tehran has decided to build would be capable of producing weapons-usable plutonium. Kharrazi said the reactor was still being designed and he did not know when construction work would start.

Fresh European demands

Iran promised to suspend its uranium enrichment last year but the call by the three European powers to halt work at

Isfahan and drop plans for the Arak reactor is new.

The United Nations does not define Isfahan and Arak as enrichment sites, but European diplomats have argued that the gas pumped into centrifuges is integral to the enrichment process. Low-enriched uranium can be used in nuclear power stations such as the one Iran is building at Bushehr on its south coast, but if enriched further it can be deployed in warheads. If Iran cannot resolve its nuclear wrangle with the IAEA, it can be

referred to the U.N. Security Council, which could impose sanctions on it. Hossein Shariatmadari, an influential hardline newspaper editor, appointed directly by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Iran should do away with U.N. interference and follow North Korea's lead.

"Finally the only logical way is to pull out of the Non-Proliferation Treaty," he wrote in the Kayhan newspaper.

Gunmen kill Iraqi foreign ministry official

BAGHDAD, June 12 (Reuters) - Gunmen fatally wounded a senior official of Iraq's foreign ministry in Baghdad on Saturday, a foreign ministry official said.

Attackers fired at the car of Bassam Qubba, the director-general of the ministry, as he was on his way to work from his home in the Adhamiya district, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Qubba, appointed director-general of the ministry two months ago, died in hospital at about 8:30 a.m. (0430 GMT).

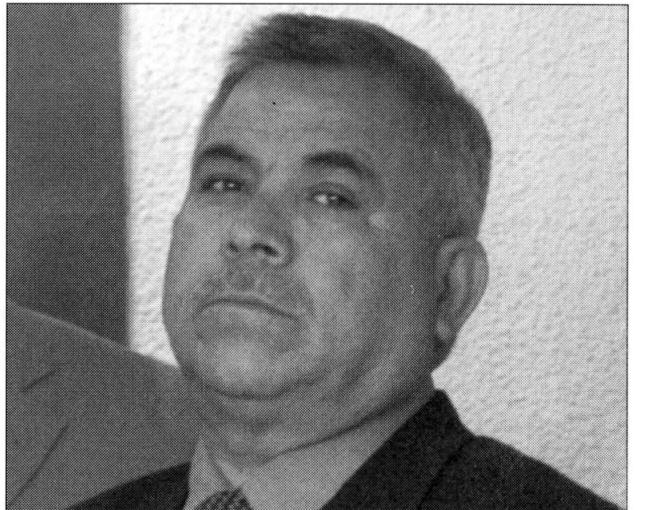
Qubba, a Shi'ite Muslim from the holy city of Najaf, was the first senior

official to be assassinated in Iraq since a new interim government took office on June 1 with a pledge to make security its top priority.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility or word on the identity of the assailants.

U.S. officials have said they expect insurgents, who have frequently targeted Iraqis seen as cooperating with the Americans, to step up attacks before the U.S.-British occupation formally ends on June 30.

Qubba was a career diplomat who had served as Iraq's ambassador to China during Saddam Hussein's rule.



Iraqi foreign ministry official Bassam Qubba (R) attends a press conference in the capital Baghdad in this May 3. Attackers fatally wounded Qubba, the foreign ministry's director-general, in the first high-profile assassination in Iraq since an interim government took over on June 1. REUTERS

Militants say Jordanian top brass toured West Bank

JENIN, West Bank, June 12 (Reuters) - Palestinian militants accused Jordan on Saturday of sending officers to scout the West Bank unbeknown to President Yasser Arafat, raising fears Amman could set terms in a territory Palestinians want for a state.

Jordan, which with Egypt has offered to train Palestinian security forces to take over areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip where Israel plans to end its occupation, denied the report that Jordanian army officers had secretly toured Jenin.

Palestinian Authority officials said they asked Jordan for clarification. Israeli officials did not immediately comment.

Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war. Many West Bank Palestinians hold Jordanian passports, and in the 1980s Israel held short-lived talks with Amman on restoring Jordan's civil administration over the territory. According to the Jenin head of al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group in Arafat's Fatah faction, five Jordanian high-level officers visited the West Bank city on Friday as civilians.

"First they told me they were here to make a film, but then they told me they were touring the West Bank and other parts of the Arab world," Zakaria al-Zubaidi told Reuters. "They met with junior Palestinian security officials and were interviewing people after Friday prayers."

Zubaidi said he asked the officers to leave Jenin after discovering that their visit had not been coordinated with Arafat, whom Israel has tried to sideline by confining him to his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

"I told them we welcome the Arab presence to retrain our security forces, which Israel destroyed, but with conditions," he said.

"First they have to talk to our president, Yasser Arafat...and we are against retraining security forces that will work on aborting the intifada," Zubaidi added, referring to a Palestinian uprising that has raged since September 2000.

The Foreign Ministry in Amman, which on Thursday rejected rumours of a joint military patrol with Israel of the West Bank's Jordan Valley, on Saturday reiterated this denial. "There is no presence of Jordanian personnel in the West Bank," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Uncertainty has flooded Palestinian streets since Israel's government approved in principle a plan by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to remove all settlements from all of Gaza but only four in the West Bank — all of them in the vicinity of Jenin.

Sharon casts his "disengagement plan" as a bid to break the Middle East deadlock, but many Palestinians fear it is a ploy to cement Israel's hold on much of the West Bank and deny them a viable independent statehood.

Seven hostages released in Iraq, three killed

BAGHDAD, June 12 (Reuters) - Seven Turkish hostages seized in Iraq this week were freed on Saturday, but a Lebanese and two Iraqi hostages abducted in a separate incident were killed, diplomats said. The Turks, employees of Turkish food services and construction firm Serkat Insaat, were kidnapped by gunmen in the restive town of Falluja on Monday. Dubai-based Al Arabiya television aired a videotape on Thursday showing what it said were four of the seven held by a group calling itself the Jihad Squadrons, an Iraqi Islamist group, which demanded that Turkish companies leave Iraq.

"They have been released, they are in good health," a Turkish diplomat in Baghdad told Reuters, adding that the seven former captives were on their way home to Turkey. The diplomat said he had no further details on who had abducted the Turks or why. "No one has claimed responsibility," the diplomat said, declining to say whether the embassy had helped to negotiate their release.

Another Turk, identified as Adnan Azizoglu, had been kidnapped on the same day along with an Iraqi driver, but

was freed a day later. There was no word on the fate of the driver.

Dozens of foreign workers have been taken hostage by Iraqi armed groups who are battling the U.S.-led presence in Iraq. Some hostages have been released but others have been killed. A Lebanese diplomat said on Saturday Iraqi kidnappers had killed a Lebanese citizen and two of his Iraqi colleagues after seizing them as they travelled to work in Baghdad on Thursday.

The body of Hussein Ali Alyan, 28, from Qalawiya in south Lebanon, and those of the two Iraqis were dumped on a road between Falluja and Ramadi, west of Baghdad, according to sources at Lebanon's Foreign Ministry.

The three men had been working for a Lebanese telecommunications company. Two other Iraqis who were seized with them were released.

Troops from the U.S.-led force in Iraq raided a hideout south of Baghdad on Tuesday and freed three Italian hostages held for almost two months and a Pole abducted the previous week.

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American shot dead in Saudi capital

RIYADH, June 12 (Reuters) - A U.S. national was shot dead in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Saturday in the sixth attack on Westerners in six weeks, security and diplomatic sources said.

"The victim is believed to be an American male. There has been a shooting death," a U.S. embassy spokeswoman said.

Witnesses said the man was shot as he parked his car in front of his villa in the suburb of Malazz. "There were bullet holes in the rear window of the car and the driver's window was also shattered," one witness said.

Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television said police were chasing suspects in the east of the city. A Saudi Interior Ministry statement confirmed the man was American and said he was killed in the late afternoon.

On Tuesday, a U.S. military contrac-

tor was shot dead at his house in Riyadh in the fifth attack on Westerners in the world's largest oil exporter since early May.

Saudi officials have so far remained silent on what measures they have taken to safeguard foreigners from militant attacks.

The attacks have heightened fears among tens of thousands of expatriates and raised doubts over the grip of security forces. An estimated six million foreigners work in Saudi Arabia, including 35,000 Americans and 30,000 Britons.

Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda has vowed that 2004 would be "bloody and miserable" for the kingdom, a key U.S. ally. Saudi Arabia has been fighting militants for a year, arresting and killing many, including eight on a wanted list of 26 militants. Riyadh says the militants are going for soft targets after the clampdown.

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Pakistani warplanes bomb militant hideouts

WANA, Pakistan, June 12 (Reuters) - Pakistani warplanes bombed hideouts of al Qaeda-linked militants on Saturday in barren mountains bordering Afghanistan where 54 people have been killed in four days of fighting.

A bomb exploded in Dera Ismail Khan town, 130 km (80 miles) east of the heart of the battles between the army and militants around Wana, killing one man and wounding four at a house of a senior official in Pakistan's paramilitary border force.

"I woke up to the roar of jets. Then I

saw three helicopters flying in the direction of Shakai," said one resident of the area, about 400 km (250 miles) southwest of the capital, Islamabad.

"There was a lot of firing like a guerrilla battle going on all night," said a resident of the mountainous Shakai area of South Waziristan where brush and boulders provide fine cover for guerrillas.

Residents of Shakai saw air strikes in the nearby Tangari hills.

The Pakistan army launched an offensive this week to hunt down foreign

militants and the Pashtun tribesmen who are defiantly protecting them after attempts to negotiate an amnesty failed.

"The fighting is going on," military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan told state-run Pakistan Television, adding that the operation would continue to its "logical end".

Sultan said on Friday 35 militants and 15 soldiers had been killed on Wednesday and Thursday.

Updates on casualties were scant on Saturday, although a government officer in the area reported another soldier

killed. Three civilians have also been reported killed.

Al Qaeda sightings

Air strikes this week targeted a house frequented by a known al Qaeda member, another al Qaeda safe house and a militant training camp.

While the gunships have been used in earlier operations in the tribal areas that have failed to net any senior al Qaeda or militant leaders, air force jets were sent in for the first time this week to bomb houses where militants had been spotted.

In late March, more than 120 combatants, including at least 46 soldiers, were killed when the army launched its first major offensive in South Waziristan.

Up to 600 foreign militants, including Arabs, Chechens and Uzbeks linked to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, have been hiding out in Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal areas, protected by Pakistani tribesmen.

The latest unrest has spread into neighbouring North Waziristan agency where militants fired rockets at paramilitary checkpoints on Friday night and soldiers returned fire.

In Miranshah, the capital of North Waziristan agency, one checkpoint outside the town was damaged but no casualties were reported, officials said.

The government suspects an attempt to kill the military commander in the southern port city of Karachi on Thursday may have been retaliation by militants for the latest attack on their tribal redoubts.

Six months ago, Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf survived two assassination attempts that were blamed on al Qaeda-linked militants, although Musharraf later revealed that several low ranking military personnel were also involved.

Four killed in explosion in Kashmir tourist hotel



Kashmiri doctors and paramedics attend to an Indian Hindu woman tourist after an explosion in Srinagar, June 12. Four people died and 22 were injured when militants threw a grenade into a hotel packed with tourists in Pahalgam, Indian Kashmir on Saturday, police said. REUTERS

SRINAGAR, India, June 12 (Reuters)

- Four people died and 22 were injured when militants threw a grenade into a hotel packed with tourists in Indian Kashmir on Saturday, police said.

Another 20 people were wounded in a separate grenade attack in another part of Kashmir, also blamed on militants fighting Indian rule in the troubled Himalayan region.

"There was an explosion in Hotel Purnima in Pahalgam. Four people died and 22 were injured," a police official told Reuters. "Apparently there were no foreigners among the casualties."

A little-known group, Al-Nasreen, phoned a local news agency and claimed responsibility for the blast at Pahalgam, a popular tourist town.

Indian tourists have flocked to Kashmir this year to take advantage of a lull in violence since India and Pakistan began a peace process in 2003.

In the second incident, 20 civilians were wounded when a grenade was thrown in a crowded part of a town north of Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar.

"Militants attacked a security picket with a grenade which missed the target and exploded on road injuring 20 pedestrians," a police spokesman said.

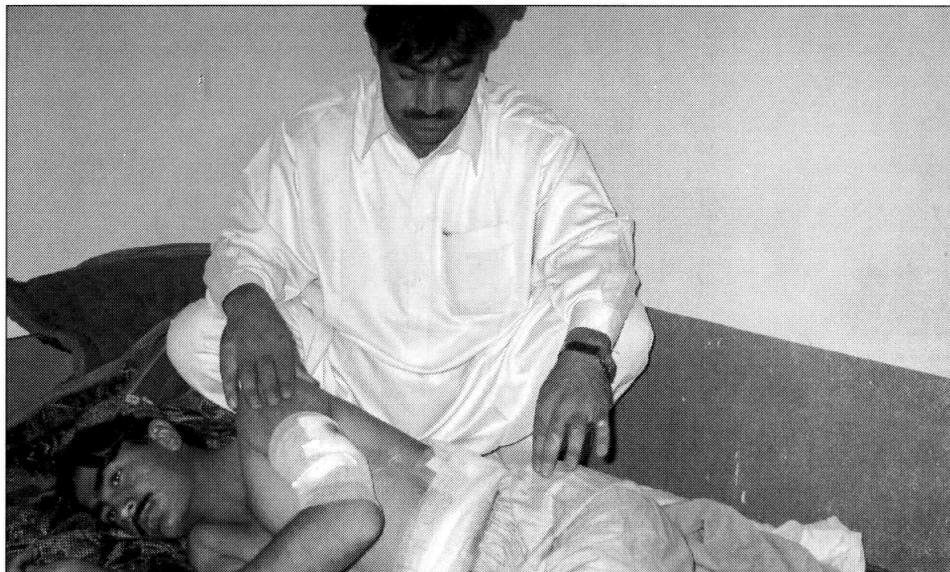
No militant group has claimed responsibility for the attack in Handwara town.

Officials say the number of grenade attacks have increased in recent months even though violence has declined in the region since relations improved between India and Pakistan.

A government statement said 32 civilians were killed and 324 wounded in 131 grenade attacks between January and May this year against 73 such blasts in the same period last year.

Nearly a dozen militant groups are fighting New Delhi's rule in Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state, where officials say more than 40,000 people have been killed since 1989.

India's interior minister said on Friday the government was likely to hold peace talks with Kashmiri separatists in July, aimed at ending the 15-year-old revolt in the region.



Pakistani tribesman Mohammad Allah Khan, who was injured during a military operation, lies in a hospital bed beside his relative in Wana, the main town of Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal region, near the Afghan border, June 12. Pakistani warplanes and helicopter gun ships flew over nests of al Qaeda-linked militants on Saturday, in the barren mountains bordering Afghanistan where at least 53 people have been killed in four days of fighting. REUTERS

Djibouti repatriates about 3,000 Ethiopians

DJIBOUTI, June 12 (Reuters) - An operation is under way to repatriate about 3,000 failed asylum seekers from Ethiopia, a Djibouti government official said on Saturday.

"These people have been here for 10 years. Indeed, there is no war, no combat, in Ethiopia now. There is democracy," said Interior and Decentralisation Minister Abdoukader Douleh Wais.

In September 2003, Djibouti gave the country's 100,000 illegal immigrants an ultimatum: leave the country or apply for asylum. More than 80,000 immigrants left voluntarily.

Roughly half of the 8,000 immigrants who did apply for asylum have been turned down - including 3,091 Ethiopians and 521 people from northern Somalia's breakaway Somaliland enclave.

The operation to repatriate these people by road and rail from the temporary transit camp at Awr Aousa in southern Djibouti will end on Tuesday. The remaining immigrants, more

than 4,000 Somalis and 100 Ethiopians whose asylum requests have been accepted, will be transferred to other refugee camps in the country. The Awr Aousa camp will be closed.

It has taken five months for the Refugee Status Determination and Appeal committees operating with UNHCR support to work through the 8,000 asylum applications.

In October, President Ismael Omar Guelleh explained his decision to expel the illegal immigrants in Djibouti.

"We have gone beyond our tolerance threshold. There was not one street which was devoid of them. They were squatting everywhere, sleeping on pavements, taking all the small jobs - it became intolerable," he said.

In a recent interview with Reuters, William Asare, the UNHCR representative in Djibouti, said he expected the remaining refugees from the original 100,000, mostly from Somaliland, to be repatriated by the end of 2005.

US military in Afghanistan says arrests bomb maker

KABUL, June 12 (Reuters) - The U.S. military in Afghanistan has arrested a bomb maker, who a U.S. spokesman described on Saturday as a "medium-value target", during a raid south of the capital, Kabul.

"The target was an improvised explosive device maker. The capture was accomplished without a shot fired, with no injuries and no damage," a U.S. military spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Tucker Mansager, told reporters.

The bomb maker, who Mansager said was not a foot-soldier, but a medi-

um-value target, was captured by U.S. troops on Friday night, about 70 km (45 miles) south of Kabul.

The spokesman declined to give any more details.

The U.S. military, which leads about 20,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan, comes under regular bomb attack in southern and eastern parts of the country where anti-government militants are most active.

The blasts rarely cause serious casualties but five U.S. soldiers were killed in two separate blasts in the past two weeks.

Uganda army says kills 32 LRA rebels in Sudan

KAMPALA, June 12 (Reuters) - Ugandan troops killed 32 rebels from the shadowy Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in a helicopter gunship attack in neighbouring southern Sudan, an army spokesman said on Saturday.

The report, which could not be immediately verified because of the remoteness of the area, came just days after the cult-like LRA was accused of killing at least 41 villagers in another part of lawless southern Sudan.

"We found them yesterday on the Juba-to-Nisito road and killed 32 of them," said Lieutenant Paddy Ankunda, army spokesman for northern Uganda.

Twenty captives, mostly children, were rescued from the rebels, he said.

No Ugandan troops were hurt in the clash that took place some 90 km (55 miles) inside Sudan.

"Some of those that survived the air raid fled, dropping many looted food items which our infantry collected," he added.

In 2002 the Khartoum and Kampala governments struck a deal to let Ugandan troops pursue LRA members across the border into southern Sudan.

The LRA, led by self-proclaimed prophet and former altar boy Joseph Kony who is believed to live in southern Sudan, has waged a civil war against the government of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni for 18 years.

The group is notorious for its brutality, routinely targeting civilians, mutilating its victims and abducting tens of thousands of children as fighters, porters and sex slaves.

Most Ugandans say the group appears to have no clear aims or political objectives, but repeated clashes and raids have forced some 1.6 million people to flee their homes in northern Uganda and move to more than 60 squalid refugee camps.

The United Nations said in a report released on Friday that in the past month the LRA had killed 125 people at camps within Uganda for displaced people.

In southern Sudan, a local Anglican

church leader said the LRA killed at least 41 people on Tuesday. He accused the Khartoum government of supporting the rebel group, a charge Sudanese officials have consistently denied.

Despite the attacks on refugee camps in northern Uganda in recent weeks government officials continue to say they are winning the war.

Museveni told parliament recently that between January 2004 and the end of May, troops killed 781 LRA rebels, including 41 commanders. A further 372 had surrendered, including 52 commanders, and 179 were taken prisoner.

Ugandan forces had also freed 1,565 abductees, he said.

Open invitation

An open invitation is extended to all those interested in developing the media in Yemen - especially editors, journalists, diplomats, officials, donors, and non-governmental organization representatives- to attend the different sessions to be held by a Danish mission currently in Yemen to explore potentials and opportunities for supporting the development of the media.

The timetable for the sessions is as follows:

- 1- Monday 13 June: Session on Independent and Professional Media - venue: Yemen Times building, Sanaa - Time: 09:00 in the morning.
- 2- Tuesday 14 June: Session on Access to information - venue: Yemen Times building, Sanaa - Time: 09:00 in the morning.
- 3- Wednesday 15 June: Meeting with Yemeni stakeholders for comprehensive and general discussion on the priorities of supporting the media and plans ahead - venue: Taj Sheba Hotel - Time: 09:00 in the morning.

For further information, please call Yemen Times at (01) 268 661 during working hours.

دعوة عامة

نعلن عن دعوة عامة لجميع المهتمين بتطوير الإعلام اليمني، وخاصة الصحفيين، الناشرين، المسؤولين، ممثلو المنظمات الحكومية، الدبلوماسية، المانحين، اساتذة الجامعة، المثقفين، وغيرهم؟ لحضور الجلسات التي تعقدتها في الوقت الراهن بعثة التحضير والاستشارة الدنماركية في صنعاء من أجل دعم وتنمية الصحافة اليمنية.

علماً بأن البرنامج كالتالي:

- جلسة حول الصحافة المهنية والمستقلة في يوم الإثنين 14 يونيو في مقر صحيفة يمن تايمز في التاسعة صباحاً.
- جلسة حول حق الحصول على المعلومات في يوم الثلاثاء 15 يونيو في مقر صحيفة يمن تايمز في التاسعة صباحاً.
- جلسة حوار عامة حول المهتمين والمعنيين بالإعلام اليمني في يوم الأربعاء 16 يونيو في فندق تاج سبأ في التاسعة صباحاً.

للإستفسار، يرجى الاتصال بصحيفة يمن تايمز

خلال ساعات الأوام الرسمي

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US officer granted latitude at Iraqi prison-report

WASHINGTON, June 12 (Reuters) - The top U.S. military officer in Iraq approved letting officials at a Baghdad jail subject detainees to temperature extremes, reversed sleep patterns and diets of bread and water whenever they wished, the Washington Post reported on Saturday.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez borrowed heavily from a list of high-pressure tactics used at the U.S. detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, when he granted wide latitude to officers overseeing detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison, the Post reported citing newly obtained documents.

The documents spell out in greater detail than previously known the interrogation tactics Sanchez authorized in early September 2003, and make clear for the first time that, before last October, these tactics could be imposed without seeking the approval of anyone outside the prison.

Unnamed officials at the Florida headquarters of the U.S. Central Command, which has overall military responsibility for Iraq, objected to some of the 32 interrogation tactics Sanchez had approved.

As a result, Sanchez removed several items on the list in October and required that prison officials obtain his direct approval for the remaining high pressure methods, the Post reported.



File photo of a hooded and wired Iraqi prisoner at Abu Ghraib prison who reportedly was told that he would be electrocuted if he fell off a box, is pictured in this undated photo. The U.S. military has reprimanded six senior commissioned and non-commissioned officers in connection with the abuse of prisoners, a senior U.S. military official said May 3. REUTERS

Libya fails to agree deal with Berlin victims

BERLIN, June 12 (Reuters) - Libyan officials failed to agree compensation for victims of the 1986 bombing of a West Berlin nightclub during a fifth round of talks that ended on Saturday, a German lawyer representing victims said.

A settlement would remove one of the remaining hurdles barring Tripoli from joining the European Union's trade and aid partnership with Mediterranean countries and be another step to ending the pariah status of the oil-rich North African nation.

German lawyers and members of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's charitable foundation have been negotiating a

deal covering the over 160 non-American victims of the attack and the relatives of the Turkish woman killed.

"The positions of the Gaddafi foundation and the victims' lawyers have become closer," said a statement from Hans-Joachim Ehrig, who is one of the two main negotiators for the victims.

The lawyer said the talks, which began on Friday and had been conducted in an "open and constructive atmosphere", would resume at a later date. He gave no further details.

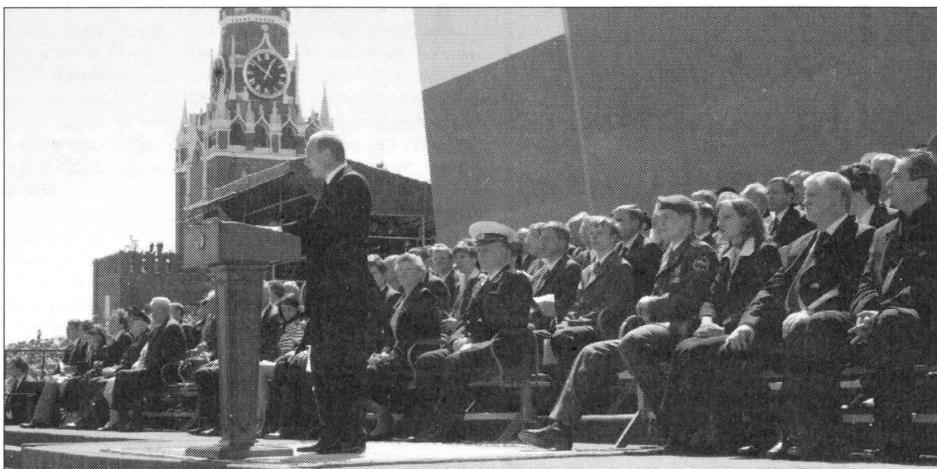
Negotiators have yet to settle a final compensation figure, which could reach about \$40 million.

Two American soldiers and a Turkish woman were killed and more than 200 other people were wounded in the explosion at "La Belle" disco in West Berlin that had been popular with U.S. soldiers.

Libya has already agreed to pay \$2.7 billion to families of victims of the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing, for which a Libyan secret agent was convicted. It has also pledged \$170 million for the 1989 bombing of a French airliner over Niger.

Gaddafi announced in December he was renouncing weapons of mass destruction, a promise which helped earn him a visit to Brussels for talks with EU officials.

To Soviet music, Russia marks end of Soviet era



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during festivities in Red Square in Moscow, June 12. The holiday, mostly commonly known among Russians as "Independence Day", marks the adoption by the parliament in 1990 of the declaration of Russia's sovereignty and the affirmation that its laws took precedence over those of the Soviet Union. REUTERS

MOSCOW, June 12 (Reuters) - To Soviet-era music, Russians marked with marches and gun salutes on Saturday the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union 14 years ago, even though many people could not quite recall the event they were celebrating.

Soviet military songs echoed across Moscow and artillery blasts rumbled in a cloudless sky. Hundreds of troops, some in camouflage and some in period uniforms from Russia's imperial past, slow-marched across Red Square past a podium where President Vladimir Putin took the salute.

The Soviet anthem — re-introduced by Putin in 2000 with new words — reverberated across the square in front of the Kremlin walls and dancers from ethnic minorities performed.

The holiday, commonly known to

Russians as "Independence Day", marks the adoption by parliament in 1990 of a declaration of Russia's sovereignty and the affirmation that its laws took precedence over those of the Soviet Union.

A failed coup attempt the following year led to Putin's predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, pushing aside Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and phasing out the Soviet Union in December 1991.

"This is the day for everyone who has contributed to our country's prosperity and might," Putin, an ex-KGB agent, said in a televised speech.

"We've chosen patriotism, freedom and democracy as our values... We all, hand in hand, are building a free and democratic nation."

Putin's words were greeted by the military's earsplitting "hurrah!" as thou-

sands of government officials, politicians and businessmen seated around Putin's podium clapped.

But Russians on the streets, many waving small flags and sipping beer, were not quite sure what they were celebrating.

"It's a shame but I have no idea what the occasion is," said Dmitry, a 34-year-old Muscovite. "But it's always good to have a party, even a slightly Soviet one."

A survey of 1,592 Russians by the VTSIOM polling agency showed that 25 percent of people did not know "what Russia became independent from", while a third of respondents thought it was "just a holiday".

"It doesn't matter whether we know or not. What matters is that Putin truly cares about us," said Lyuba, a company manager in her 50s.

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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

I can see it in their eyes:

Our youth
can make a
better Yemen

It has not been a surprise for me to see that a growing number of young Yemenis studying in or who have graduated from local universities or universities abroad have the desire to develop their country and make it a better place.

I have no doubt at all that their number is increasing by the day. I have noticed many forums and communities of young Yemenis nowadays eager to help develop their country in the way they see fit.

I recall writing about the great initiative of the Yemeni Global Network of Volunteers for Development (ygnvd.org), whose members have brought about a clear vision of the need to start on a voluntary base to help develop Yemen and other countries of the world.

Then I noticed the Yemeni Students Association Abroad (ysaa.org), whose objective was to bring Yemenis studying abroad together, explore their potentials and ideas, and help develop projects for the enhancement of their role in helping Yemen to develop, especially by providing them with opportunities to present their qualifications on the website, which in turn will help them work in fields they see themselves capable of handling, hence replacing foreign labor with locals.

Then, just last week, I was delighted to have received two young and inspired Yemenis representing yet another promising initiative: The Yemeni-Canadian Relations Council (ycrc.ca). The two fine gentlemen have told me that they are already on the verge of holding the first ever youth conference in Yemen in an international scale. The Youth Development Conference 2004 is probably a pioneer step that could bring many of the ambitions of Yemeni youth to life through their practical involvement and participation in activities that could help develop the country and create opportunities never thought about before.

As I hail this courageous and inspired initiative, I would like to confirm the solid and strong stance of Yemen Times in support of such actions, which represent a glimmer of hope for a better future and a developed Yemen.

I also seize the opportunity to urge our government and also the international community to support those civil society initiatives coming from a segment that has long been ignored.

It is about time to allow the young to do what the earlier generation wanted to but couldn't accomplish. We ought to realize that this is the era of creativity, new ideas and revolutionary initiatives. We must understand that in such a rapidly changing world, only those with the energy and new ideas are the ones who could constitute the pillar of a large-scale revolt against stagnancy and backwardness.

I have great faith in our youth, and I believe they should have faith in themselves too, especially as they are the ones who are not only willing, but who will be able to change today's Yemen to the better, far beyond our expectations.

May God bless them all in their genuine and sincere efforts.

Amen...

The Editor

The slum where BBC's
Frank Gardner was shot

BY JOHN R. BRADLEY *

The slum in a southern district of Riyadh where an Irish cameraman was killed and a British BBC reporter was critically wounded last week is only a short drive from the bright neon lights, towering skyscrapers, gated royal palaces and walled residential compounds of one of the world's wealthiest capitals.

But, as the impoverished epicenter of the kingdom's new Islamic insurgency, it is a world away from Riyadh's veneer of twenty-first century modernity.

The Al-Suwaidi district has a reputation as a bastion of strict Wahhabism even among the other residents of the ultraconservative Islamic kingdom. It attracts a steady stream of villagers from the surrounding countryside in search of a better life in the city.

The more than half-a-million people already crammed into the district live in a massive entanglement of narrow lanes, pot-holed roads and open sewers, and suffer frequent power and water outages.

Since they are the people most attracted by the Al-Qaeda's call to rid the kingdom of corruption and decadence, the slum has predictably become fertile breeding ground for Islamic extremism.

It is also a perfect environment for the kind of guerilla warfare Al-Qaeda's leader in Saudi Arabia, Abdul Aziz al-Muqrin, called for just two days before last week's attacks in Khobar, which left 22 people dead. But until now, the

radicals had by necessity taken their fight from the slums and into the cities. Freelance cameraman Simon Cumbers and BBC security correspondent Frank Gardner were therefore comparatively easy prey. The assailants would have slipped away undetected into the maze of back alleys within seconds of carrying out the attack.

Riyadh is well on way to becoming the first mega city of the Gulf, with a population projected to exceed 11 million by 2020 - one of the highest ratios of capital to national population anywhere.

In recognition of its slums' potential for providing recruits to the cause of Osama Bin Laden, reform-minded de facto leader Crown Prince Abdullah made a tour of the Al-Suwaidi district last November.

On live TV, he admitted to a socio-economic problem that many rich Saudis and conservative members of the royal family would still prefer not to acknowledge, even privately.

Nevertheless, the Saudi people know how untrustworthy are promises of reform from the Al-Saud ruling family, and the young men of the slum's families contrast their own lives with the opulence and indulgence of the Saudi princes and "infidel" Westerners just a few miles away.

Although Al-Suwiedi, like the other slums on the edge of all the kingdom's new urban centers, effectively becomes a police no-go area after dark, in the last eight months it has been the scene of at least two armed clashes between the Saudi security forces and

suspected militants.

Mr Gardner was on his way with his cameraman to film the family home of Ibrahim al-Rayyes, a terror suspect killed in a shootout with security forces in the slum last December.

Al-Rayyes was on a list of the 26 most wanted militants issued by authorities in December, whose photos and names were splashed across the front pages of Saudi newspapers last year.

An estimated 14 of the 26 other listed suspects either originally come from, or had recently moved to, Al-Suwaidi, including the kingdom's Al-Qaeda leader Al-Muqrin.

In November, an overnight siege in Al-Suwaida left one presumed Islamist militant dead, several security men wounded, and five suspected militants in custody.

Al-Arabiya television showed footage of Mr Gardner sitting on the tarmac with multiple bullet wounds. According to a police officer, he pleaded for his life while shouting to onlookers to help him.

As shocking as the bloodstains on his white pullover was the fact that locals appear to have merely looked on, apparently unmoved by the sight of this "infidel" in such distress.

* John R. Bradley, formerly managing editor of Arab News, Jeddah, is author of the forthcoming book, Saudi Arabia Exposed: Princes, Paupers & Politics in the Wahhabi Kingdom (Palgrave-Macmillan, March 2005). His website is www.johnrbradley.com.

Iraq sovereignty: A
given or handoverBY ABDUL KARIM AL-HUBAISHI
FOR YEMEN TIMES

With only weeks to go to the decisive day of the handover of sovereignty to the Iraqis after a gruesome year of occupation in which as much Iraqi blood as oil was pumped, uncertainty overshadows how the new US-favored Prime Minister and his government will fare in the prevailing chaos.

Hopes of full sovereignty have already been shattered weeks before the day by Colin Powell, when he made it clear that the would be new sovereign regime of Iraq will accept US forces, and will not have a say in their movement on the Iraqi soil. It is rather the Iraqi's being asked to give up sovereignty that to hand it over.

Latterly, the neocon - run Bush administration, the masterminds of the war on Iraq, appear to have withdrawn from the limelight. We don't see Richard Pearl, Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld and Cheney on shows like the press conferences they used to conduct. It looks they shifted from their strategy of preemptive strikes to preemptive diplomacy. Paul Bremer struck his preemptive diplomacy and managed to outmaneuver the UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and some of the Iraqi administrative council members who had different views in the formation of the new regime. Bremer is said to have exercised dictatorial power, imposing and threatening as one council member described (in a manner harsher than the former dictator Saddam Hussein).

Colin Powell's statement was itself a preemptive diplomatic message to the Iraqis and the international community that there is no full sovereignty handover. Then comes George Tenet, the CIA Director, tendering his preemptive resignation ahead of an upcoming Senate committee of inquiry report accusing him of presiding over a gross national intelligence failure. This was followed by Bush's preemptive tour to Europe to mend ties with the French and Germans, old Rumsfeld's old Europe, to say "excuse us". The whole campaign is to get a UN resolution that legitimizes the illegitimate coexistence of sovereignty and occupation which they, at the end of the day, will get under the current suspended state of international law.

Letters to the Editor

Christian opposes war &
call for peace

As an American citizen and a Christian, I am appalled and disgusted by the violence of war. There is no justification for what is happening and no way for me to stop it or truly express my grief for all those being injured, humiliated and murdered in these terrible times.

It is important for those of us still able to be conscious to focus the love of God on the people being forced to endure such atrocities. Only God can heal such damage yet I believe we as humans have a responsibility to speak out in protest. I do not want to contribute one minute of anger and hatred to those who perpetuate these crimes against humanity, these crimes against life, these acts against God who loves us in spite of what is now happening around the world.

Instead I call upon all those who love God to focus on that love which is pure and unconditional. All life is suffering from these wars; no one is immune from the effects of evil. Let us use our free will to

change the human race into a force for good on this beautiful planet. Focus on the light and Love of God, do not be led into the illusion that all is darkness and despair.

Visualize a world where peace and love flow from the heart of God. See this love flowing from the sun and the moon and all sources of light. Our destiny is to be reunited with God, remember this no matter what is being done to you. God created us all in his image, we have only to ask and help will come. Do not believe in the powers of darkness, they have no power over God; they have no power over the part of you that is one with God. Create peace in your heart and it will manifest in the world around us.

Marin Olson
movitt6600@msn.com

Dirty politics between Arab
regimes & Bush

Along with new revealing photographs and disclosure of another secret interrogation site at Baghdad Airport, ABC news reported on May 21, 2004 that prison-

Letters to the Editor

ers at Abu Ghraib were forced to "praise Jesus". One Moslem prisoner with a broken leg testified that he was chained to his bed and beaten on his broken leg until he "agreed to curse Islam" and "praise Jesus". Although routine torture by U.S. troops from Afghanistan to Iraq to Cuba has the express approval of the Bush Administration, it is often forgotten that Christianity is essentially the leading philosophy behind the mistreatment. George Bush labeled his "war on terror" as "a crusade" and you can now be certain he meant a Christian Crusade against Islam. The Bush family are all Christian Extremists and George Bush is no exception. In this respect, President Bush's tacit approval of torture of Moslem prisoners is simply an extension of his religious beliefs.

It is amazing that some Arabs are still willing to play politics with Bush when it is obvious what Bush has in mind for the entire Moslem world - the destruction of an entire culture and religion. If

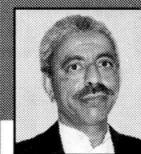
you don't think he's willing to bomb you back into the stone age, take a look at Afghanistan and Iraq. Shock & Awe? Make no mistake, unless Bush is stopped in Iraq he will destroy you and your civilization. President George Bush is a Christian terrorist and the most dangerous threat to world peace in the past 100 years.

Robert Lindh
lindh@swnebr.net

Proud of YT & proud of
my country

I am very proud of your site, because it connects us to our land and also give a very good views on Yemen to the world. A country that was in the dark for most of the world. Today everybody knows about it from your site and most of all we know the opinions of the people inside the country. I am amazing that, Yemen became that democratic and free. That is really shocking to me. I have not been in my country for the last twenty years.

Sam Kaid
saddikaid@yahoo.com

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Last dispatch from Malaysia:
An International
Family

The most amazing thing about the International Visitors Programme, sponsored by the Institute for International and Strategic Studies (ISIS) of Malaysia is the theme of the international family of the world that the program seeks to instill amongst the participants. This was the obvious observation of this observer and the 15 other participants or so, who took part in this innovative approach to international relations. The group that participated in the well organized and synchronized program was made up of highly prominent representatives of the media, who were not there so much as to take back memories of what they saw in Malaysia (and believe this observer, we indeed saw a lot), but rather that the participants, who represented Yemen (1; i.e., this humble observer), the Arab Republic of Egypt (1 participant, who shared much of what this observer had in mind for our pathetically mismanaged Arab World), the People's Republic of China (2 lovely and vibrant young ladies, who really seemed to reflect what modern China is really all about), Pakistan (1, with his charming spouse), the Russian Federation (1, an all around scholar, with a broad knowledge of the Arab and Moslem worlds), the International Committee of the Red Cross, based in Switzerland (1 warm participant and his friendly and elegant wife), Singapore (1 fatherly participant with his down to earth wife), New Zealand (1 well informed and idealistic participant, who rightfully saw justice and equity as the best solutions to most of the problems of the world), the Philippines (1 kind inquisitive and warm lady), Japan (a towering participant, who indeed made all of us feel that Japan was a giant nation in more ways than one), the United States (1 scholarly participant, who unfortunately but understandably could only give us a short view of his broad perspectives on current events and another participant, a Fulbright scholar, who really showed us that the United States still had the potential of showing constructive world leadership and openness to the real peaceful world we all aspired for) and last but not least, South Korea (a charming and congenial participant with an unbeatable sense of humor and an endless stream of anecdotes that continuously had us laughing all through the programme, not to mention his wife of fine statuesque features) were all there to prove once and for all that all the maladies and tragedies that are prevalent in the world need not be there and are indeed irrelevant to the world that the Al-Mighty would truly like to see.

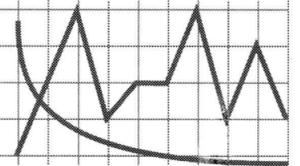
Needless to say, this rather successful effort at international harmony and cohesion was blessed with the astute management of the ISIS staff, who ensured that the programme ran smoothly without any cause for complaint or shortcoming by any of the participants. More important, one cannot fail to point out that the cooperation and attitude of all the senior officials we met throughout the program, were paramount in showing us that Malaysia indeed has a leadership that recognizes its responsibilities, not only to its people, but to the international community as well. No effort was spared by all of these officials to respond to our nagging questions about all facets of the development approach pursued by the Malaysian Government over the last three decades, including our scrutiny into such sensitive issues as the Civilized Islam policy that has been adopted successfully by the Malaysian Government, the views on terrorism, and some of the prominent issues of the day, such as Palestine, Iraq and the Malacca Straits. One cannot also fail to reflect on the sincere and often candid reflections portrayed by almost all the senior officials including the candid and sometimes even personal views of the Inspector General of the Malaysian Police, who had the difficult task of safeguarding the successful achievements of Malaysia amidst a world of potentially hostile evil mongers, who might be tempted to spoil the hard work that went into producing the masterpiece of development that Malaysia has come to be.

None of the participants could find any fault in the way that Malaysia strives to join the international community of responsible economic powers, which should be visualized very soon, as Malaysia continues with its impressive development indicators and responsible attitude in confronting world issues. When asked why Malaysia was ignored in the latest G8 Summit, in view of its chairmanship of the Organization of Islamic Conference, a senior official in the Foreign Ministry commented, "we are not out to compromise our beliefs and principles just to shake hands with world leaders, who have ignored their principal responsibility of fomenting world peace and harmony. We sympathize for their narrow views and we hope the world can be spared their rather naive perceptions of how the family of nations should be steered towards peace and international tranquility".

In retrospect, one can only confirm that Malaysia is worthy of great respect in the international community, for the model that it has proven to be in the field of development and the sound management of the environment and its natural resources and for its responsible attitude towards resolution of the most delicate of issues confronting the international community. Needless to say, Malaysia has proven that its own innovative approach, which sometimes conflicted with suggestions from prominent international organizations (such as the IMF and the World Bank), in the end proved the latter to be fruitless, while its approach was the only right approach to take. Maybe the G8 and all the other international clubs that strive to shape our future world might take a hint that Malaysia indeed does know what is best, not only for this promising nation of 25 million industrious and hospitable people, but for the world at large as well.

As a final impression, it is to the credit of the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Mohammed that Malaysia has achieved all these great strides, and his fingerprints are seen in almost every location we encountered, even the fabulous island resort of Langkawi. This is the right way for rulers to enter history books!

YT Business



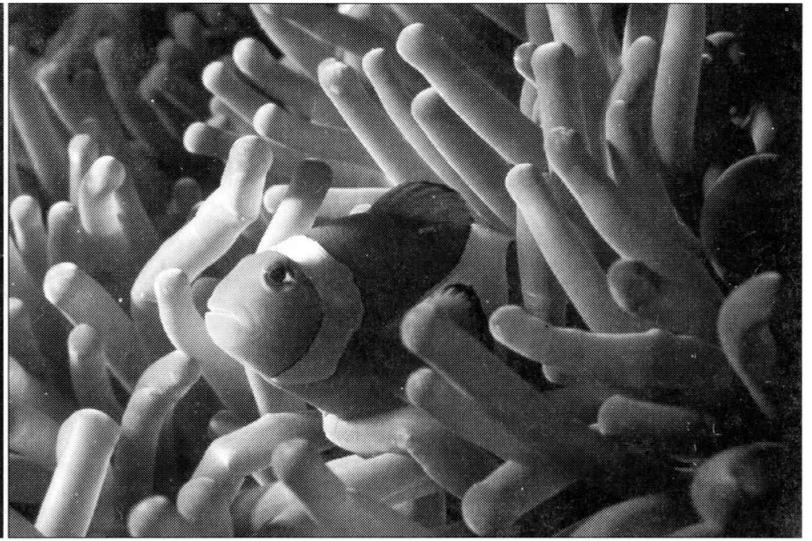
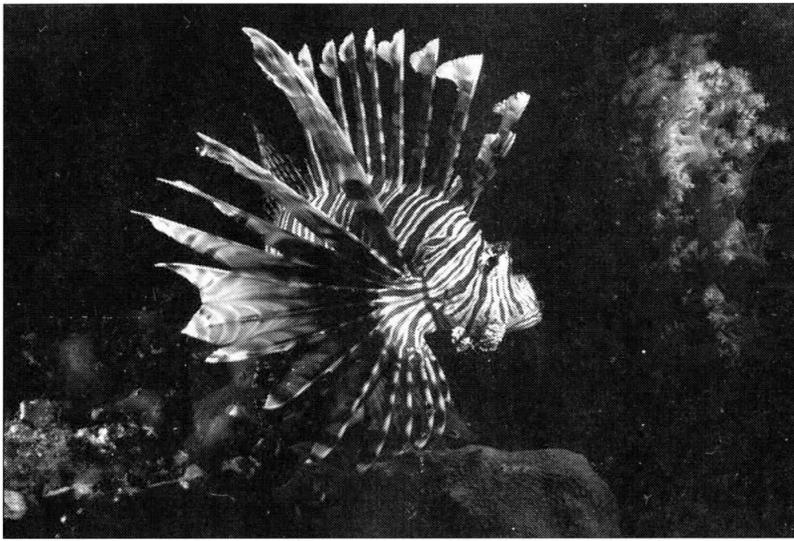
Marine life: Essential for a flourishing economy

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen possesses a huge marine life including opportunities and components in the field of increasing fish and marine life production as well as tourism, sports, services and other of sea products.

The huge reserve of marine life in Yemen needs investors and efforts to overcome hindrances in addition to working for developing the infrastructures and required services to increase production and attract capitals.

Studies mention that association between investment in the marine life and expanding job opportunities and increasing production would also need a greater encouragement for investors in order to use their finances in utilizing this environment and the richness it treasures. Dealing with the sea has made the Yemeni coastal population acquire long experiences in the area of exploiting marine resources. So instead of aggravation of unemployment problems in the Yemeni society there are many opportunities in



Different species of marine life in Yemen

the area of fishing and catching marine life as well as establishment of big investment projects providing for the poor and the needy many job opportunities.

Taking care of sea environment means alleviation of the existing crisis in the agricultural sector. Hence

emerges the importance of heading towards exploitation of the marine life as the sea forms a good factor to help the poor and the whole question requires offering necessary support for fish cooperatives and provides them with boats to help people get jobs. The unemployed would find it

easier when fish cooperatives direct their attention to the sea for work and ensuring a level of income meeting the wants of the poor families. The concerned parties also have to build fish establishments and other services such as refrigerators and freezers for keeping fish catch

and machines and spare parts in addition to offering loans to encourage workers to join those cooperative societies and increase production.

It is therefore the cooperatives play a vital and important role for developing skills of workers and

develop fish agriculture as well as opening an extensive space for investment in marine life. Finally there must be a stress on the necessity of paying attention to marine environment and life because they are of great economic yield and provide sources of income for the poor.

Determining required replies for, Negotiations with WTO delegation

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government has approved measures including a group of orientations and proposed projects on the road of joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) especially after discussion of many answers worked out by a committee of general policies for negotiating with the Organization in response to questions Yemen has received from members of the WTO.

It is expected that Yemen would present those answers to the first meeting to be held by a specialized working team regarding Yemen's accession to the WTO in a coming period of this year.

The committee of general policies for negotiating with the international

organization has approved, in a meeting held under chairmanship of Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal, a summary of the diagnostic study on incorporating trade in the strategy for alleviation of poverty and development plans that included a collection of trends and proposed projects in this respect.

Among the trends Yemen endeavors is benefiting from facilities of the second inlet in the program of integrated framework of the technical assistance pertaining to trade. The second window would facilitate for Yemen directing the technical assistance towards three urgent projects connected to trade sector and efforts for joining the WTO, a matter that is object of criticism by Yemeni businessmen and also by the opposition. Critics of the government steady endeavor to joining the international organization say it must be preceded

by proper preparation including provision of protection for national products in addition to banks and insurance sectors carrying out development of their performance in order to get qualified for accession to the organization's membership to get convenient gains from its financial services.

On the other hand the government asserts that the course of its financial and administrative reforms aims at enhancing banks capabilities of competition and opening development of their services in a transparent way. The various opposition parties are unanimous that the national products would be harmed in case Yemen obtained membership of the WTO and urges the necessity of providing enough protection and qualification for local industry to face damage of foreign goods dumping of local markets.

202 companies participate in International Trade Fair in Sana'a

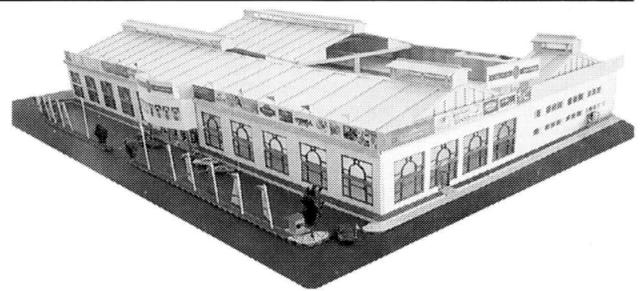
BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Owners of Yemeni companies have managed to promote their products at the 6th International Trade Fair concluded in Sana'a recently. The Fair is considered successful in that of enhancing trade exchange between Yemen and the Arab countries that took part in it through products exhibited at specialized pavilions at Shumaila International market.

Yemeni businessmen said despite of some difficulties facing national products many of the private sector companies have taken part in the fair and conducted dialogue with Arab and foreign businessmen focused on ways of consolidating trade exchange between Yemen and their respective countries.

Among the fair's pavilions the Emirates' was rather distinguished in its exhibits and intensive presence. The United Arab Emirates Pavilion at the International Fair contained 35 factories mainly in fields of aluminum, the technology of aluminum industrialization, plastics, supplies of petroleum stations, light poles, water desalination technology and food products.

Director of the UAE pavilion Hussein



Sha'ban said participation in the fair for the third year stemmed from the keenness on strengthening relations with the Yemeni market. He added that the Emirates participation in the 6th fair was distinguished by the eye-catching presence of the Emirates Airways, the official sponsor of the Emirates pavilion and the major participants in it, in addition to the Ajman Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The pavilion included light industries such as regulators, paper industries and some construction materials.

Yemeni businessmen talked about horizons of trade cooperation with the Emirates part, confirming that the exhibits of those participating in the Emirates pavilion would double the increase of bonds of cooperation

between the two sides and coordination in various areas. They also said they had informed the Emirates businessmen on Yemeni products for the purpose of building bridges of trade integration between the two sides, in addition to the agreement on making the Yemeni public aware of the Emirates products.

202 industrial companies had taken part in the 6th International Trade Fair in Sana'a representing 16 Arab and foreign countries, in addition to the participation of a number of Yemeni companies. Yemeni businessmen had paid special interest to participants in the Palestinian pavilion and that was for encouraging and supporting the Palestinian economy and providing elements of support via enhancement of trading relations with the Palestinian side.

Spacetel: always on the move

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Last month it was announced that Spacetel Yemen made another move by installing new technology. With Actix GSM wireless performance engineering solutions, Spacetel saw a major increase in the efficiency of its network optimization.

But according to Walid Akkaoui, Marketing Manager at Spacetel based in Yemen, the company trying to improve on its service and performance for its customers is nothing new.

"We have studied the market, and we found that people want quality coverage at affordable prices," said Akkaoui. "This is how we have built

up our strategy."

Running neck-and-neck with Sabafon to lead the Yemeni market in mobile phone services, Spacetel has focused on being a pioneer in offering new products in Yemen's virgin market.

"Our strategy has been to always focus on the best coverage and value added services," said Akkaoui.

When Spacetel entered the market in February 2001, it came out with a variety of services, including Short Message Service (SMS), voice mail, conference calls and call forwarding.

"These services were new at that time, and we wanted to get a wide variety of services to the customers the minute we entered the market," said Akkaoui.

Last year the GSM operator came out with UniMail. The three-in-one

service, which is one of a kind in the market, allows customers to handle e-mail, faxes and voice messages in one mailbox. They can have access to the services by phone or the Internet.

Also out front is Spacetel making it easier for customers to pay their monthly bills. Customers with permanent lines can use Scratch Card Payment by buying a card in many different locations instead of traveling to a Spacetel branch. And Spacetel's Super Clip will ensure that customers do not miss calls. When a customer is out of coverage or the phone is off, SMS will alert the customer of any calls that were not received.

Earlier this year Spacetel was again a pioneer by letting its customers interact with channels on satellite TV. And Spacetel and Sabafon recently

launched services that allow their customers to track their packages using the leading courier services.

Another part of Spacetel's strategy has been to expand on its coverage aggressively. This year it plans to penetrate further into the rural areas, which take up the majority of the country's population.

"We have a big plan to expand on our coverage," said Akkaoui. "Up to now we have covered up to 80% of the population. The plan for expansion is promising because over 75% of the population lives in rural areas. We have always tried to cover more areas because more coverage gains more customers."

Spacetel's strategy has shown strong results since it started three years ago. Since the end of 2001, its customer base has increased from

68,000 to around 400,000 today.

But Spacetel still faces challenges. According to Akkaoui, the two GSM operators, Spacetel and Sabafon, still take up around the same share of the market. And even more challenging down the road is that the two companies having exclusivity to the market will end next month. It is believed that one or two new GSM operators will enter the market.

Spacetel, however, is not expecting to get overrun by more competition, but is planning to take it head on.

"We did not count on exclusivity. We were aggressive on coverage and value added services way before the end of exclusivity," said Akkaoui. "In the end the customers will choose the best, and we will capitalize on our experience and what we have provided for our customers."

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

Accessing Yemen's Historical Importance and Possible Future Role – past traits predestine future's potentialities:

Yemen's great past and future

BY PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD SHAMSADDIN MEGALOMMATIS

It is certainly an auspicious event to see Yemen's intellectuals joining forces to face the various challenges of the future, and to express their ideas about the possible ways the country will catch up with the developed countries within our global world. The weight they may exercise within the future politics of the country will certainly determine the speed of the development, and the extent of the good news anybody truly wishes to hear from the Great Old Land of the Hadrami Frankincense and the Sabaean Wisdom. On this way towards fast recovery, there is a need for criticism, when one needs an analysis of what went wrong, but there is also a necessity for an overall synthesis and better perception of the great historical past.

Geographical and Historical Determinism

Throughout world history, few factors have been so determining as the geography of a land, and the basic traits of civilization that a people developed at a certain historical moments. Egypt and Meroe in today's Sudan have been the Nile valley countries, flat and delineated by the propinquity of the desert. Babylonia was the flat land between two rivers (Mesopotamia, Beyn un Nahreyn); Assyria was the land of Transjordan, combining the vast Mesopotamian plains and the surrounding mountains. Persia was the land of the plateau at the east of Zagros series of mountains, and the Hittites felt at home at the Anatolian plateau of Cappadocia that is demarcated by the Taurus and the Pontus series of mountains. Greece is the land of small plains among isolated mounds, and of little islands. In Lebanon the phenomenon is very striking; at the coast, the Phoenicians of Tyros, Sidon, Arad, Byblos, and other cities – states were turned to long navigations and open seafaring, whereas 50 km inland Aramaeans at the Bekaa valley, as well as further on in Damascus, Haleb, Homs, were excelling in cattle-keeping, agriculture and land route trades (as far as China!), being totally disinterested in the sea!

A unique turning point called Yemen

Where does Yemen stand in the 'global' world of the ancient Middle East?

Land of the mountains and the small valleys among them, area of an unprecedented Wadi-phenomenon at

Hadramawt, focal point of land routes and desert routes of trade, territory encompassing long and rich coastal strips, turned to various seas, to the Red Sea and to the Indian Ocean as we call these seas now, Yemen has long been the most African part of ... Asia, or ... the Asiatic part of Africa!

Undoubtedly, Yemen linked India with Egypt, East Africa with Assyria, Persia with Sudan, Rome with China, all ways – land, desert and sea – involved. But whenever a certain expansion of the many, various and diversified Yemenite peoples, tribes and states took place in the past, it was manifested in Africa. This is probably due to physical delimitations, the Oman coastal strip being too limited a place for expansion, the Hedjaz coastal strip being an uninviting place, the greatest part of the peninsula being desert (Rub' al Khali), and other lands being simply ... too far! What is closest to Yemen is either the high seas or Africa...

Notwithstanding the great achievements of the Sabaean kingdom dating back to the beginning of the first pre-Christian millennium, which can be admired by modern visitors in several places of the Yemenite North, and were hinted at within the Biblical texts (Books of Kings) by ancient narrators, the first historical mention of the kingdom of Sabaa goes back to the middle of the 8th century BCE. It is a reference to tribute and gifts presented to the Assyrian emperor Tiglat-Pileser (Tukulti – apil – Esharra) III (745 – 727) by Sabaa, as well as by Arabs of the Hedjaz, and other countries. Despite the Assyrian and the Babylonian expansion in the East and the North of the peninsula (Yathribu was the summer residence of the Babylonian Nabonid Kings in the 6th century BCE), Sabaa was too far for the Sargonid Assyrian empire and the Nabonid Babylonian royal pretensions.

Assurbanipal (669 – 625) ruled from Central Iran to Upper Egypt, and from the eastern coast of the Persian Gulf to the western coast of Turkey, but Yemen escaped his dominion by simply paying tribute. Cambyses, the Achaemenid Shah of Iran, in the second half of the 6th century, was ruling from Napata of Kush (today's Karima in Sudan) to Central Asia, but again Yemen was spared! Alexander the Great, at the end of the 4th century, invaded all the lands between Macedonia and India, but Pentapotamia (Pundjab), not Yemen, seemed closer to either Pella (his first capital) or Babylon (his ultimately chosen capital)!

During all these long centuries, the peoples and the tribes of ancient Yemen could not be kept united under



General View of Zabid showing old castle. (Hodeidah Gov)

the scepter of a descendant of the famous Queen Balqis. Yet, writing was introduced as early as the 6th century BCE, or to put it better, it was invented! It would be essential at this point to stress the originality of the event! At a moment the Assyrian – Babylonian cuneiform ('al kitabeh al mesmariyeh' in Arabic), syllabogrammatic Writing (the term means that the cuneiform characters were of syllabic phonetic value) was diffused in Iran (introduction of the old Persian Achaemenid cuneiform writing system that was in use for about 300 to 400 years), and the Phoenician and the Aramaic alphabetic writings were diffused throughout the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (more precisely among Greeks, Israelites, Romans, and Persians), the different peoples of Ancient Yemen, instead of adopting a foreign writing system, developed their own syllabogrammatic writing, no less than 1200 years before the arrival of Islam!

Through a historical overview of almost 1400 years of Yemenite pre-Islamic history (based on Assyrian – Babylonian, Yemenite, Persian, Ancient Greek, Latin and Aramaic sources), we can get a clear diagram of several basic cultural characteristics. The geographical divisions of the land of Yemen, many mountains and plains, various coastal strips, all oriented differently to the outer world, were probably the reason of the political disunion that mostly characterized Yemen. Of course, this was repeated throughout Islamic times, but it would be wrong for us to

perceive disunion in terms of enmity, fratricide or civil wars. We should rather see the various ancient Yemenite states in terms of specific task assignments. The war of Sabaa and Himyar against Qataban (around 115 BCE) is rather due to Sabaean and Himyarite reactions to the Qatabanic performance in respect of preserving the Yemenite thalassocracy and the complete navigation control throughout the Red Sea at a moment of rise of Ptolemaic Egyptian seafaring and sea trade in which Aramaeans seem definitely involved. The different Yemenite states, Sabaa, Awsan, Hadramawt, Main, Timna, Qataban, Raydhan and Himyar, were often in agreement with regard to the role each one had to play in its own domain with regard to a generally conceived Yemenite interest. However, reunification considerations we attest only as late as the end of the 2nd century CE, and it is the Himyarites, who seem to be more conscious in this regard.

Yemenite expansion in Africa, in terms of population, language and scripture.

Despite the lack of unity, or perhaps due to this phenomenon, many waves of Yemenites have reportedly crossed the Bab el Mandeb straits, and settled either in the African Red Sea shore opposite the Yemenite coast, or further in the African inland.

What the famous Abyssinian legend and the great epic text Kebra Negast (the Glory of the Kings) narrate is rather an extension to the

Biblical and the Quranic texts' references to the legendary Queen of Sheba – Balqis – Makeda, and to her contacts with Solomon, the King of Israel. But it reflects perfectly well the reality of the millennium-long, repeated Yemenite waves of Asiatic immigrants to the Horn of Africa area. Menelik, as son to Solomon and Balqis – Makeda, is an abstraction made for poetic reasons within the text, and it concerns all the numerous Yemenites, who repeatedly and in successive waves expressed their predilection for Africa.

It is not only literary sources and archaeological evidence that testify to this event; full epigraphic and linguistic support is offered for this assertion, since the ancient Abyssinian language and scripture (dating back to the early Christian era) have derived from the earlier attested ancient Yemenite semitic dialect and syllabogrammatic writing. Gueze, as is called the ancient Abyssinian language, is very important to Christianity, as one of the languages and the scriptures of the Evangelists and the New Testament – along with Aramaic – Syriac, Greek,

Coptic, Latin, Armenian and Georgian. Gueze is the ancestral linguistic form of modern Abyssinian languages like Tigrinia, Tigre and Amharic (Amarinia) that are widely spoken in Eritrea and Abyssinia.

The name itself of Abyssinia ('-bsh-t, Abashat) is mentioned in Ancient Yemenite texts and epigraphic documentation as the name of a ... Yemenite tribe! This tribe, or at least a sizeable part of it, migrated to Africa and transferred there its name that lasts until now, as ultimate proof of the Yemenite origin of a large part of the populations of Abyssinia and Eritrea.

'Returning' the compliment, Gueze – that was never lost, since it still is the religious language and scripture of the Christians of Ethiopia and Eritrea – helped a lot in the deciphering of the ancient Yemenite epigraphic monuments. It was as useful as Coptic to Champollion deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics. Without Coptic, Champollion would have failed; without Gueze the likes of Conti Rossini and Rhodokanakes would have failed too.

Part 2 next issue



Shibam's skyscrapers, in Hadramout Gov.

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 paravetes' 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_ve@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>

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES)**

[COUNTRY] Government of the Republic Of Yemen
[NAME OF PROJECT] Higher Education Development Project
CONSULTING SERVICES: Review the current financial practices & Development of Financial formula for support & promotion of delegation of financial planning & expenditure Authority of Sana'a & Aden Universities including training and higher education institutions.

Credit No: 3674-YEM./ .

Project ID No.

Expressions of interest

The Republic Of Yemen has received/ a credit for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the [Higher Education Development Project], and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services. The services include Review the current financial practices & Development of Financial formula for support & promotion of delegation of financial planning & expenditure Authority of Sana'a & Aden Universities including training

The [Higher Education Development Project] now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition). January 1997 and revised in September 1997, and January 1999, and May 2002 and May 2004

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [:0800 to 1500 hours].

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by July 14,2004

[Higher Education Development Project]
Attn: [Dr. Mohamed Al-Mekhlafy Project Technical Coordinator
[St. No. 6 off Algazaer st. Building No 42. Sana`a Republic of Yemen ,
Higher Education Development Project,
P.O.Box ; (15643) Tel : 00967-1-409844 Fax :00967-1-209843
E-Mail : hep @ yemen.net.ye

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES)**

[COUNTRY] Government of the Republic Of Yemen
[NAME OF PROJECT] Higher Education Development Project
CONSULTING SERVICES : Technical Support to provide Professional Development Programs in New Developments in Higher Education,

Credit No: 3674-YEM./ .

Project ID No.

Expressions of interest

The Republic Of Yemen has received/ a credit for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the [Higher Education Development Project], and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services. The services include Provide in campus as well as abroad training programs for MHESR leadership and both Sana'a and Aden university rectors, vice rectors, deans and department chairs and by a reputable university or universities to enrich leaders experience with the latest innovative ideas in university management and governance.

The [Higher Education Development Project] now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

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P.O.Box ; (15643) Tel : 00967-1-409844 Fax :00967-1-209843
E-Mail : hep @ yemen.net.ye

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES)**

[COUNTRY] Government of the Republic Of Yemen
[NAME OF PROJECT] Higher Education Development Project
CONSULTING SERVICES : Developing and Accreditation System.

Credit No: 3674-YEM./ .

Project ID No.

Expressions of interest

The Republic Of Yemen has received/ a credit for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the [Higher Education Development Project], and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services. The services include

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P.O.Box ; (15643) Tel : 00967-1-409844 Fax :00967-1-209843
E-Mail : hep @ yemen.net.ye

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES)**

[COUNTRY] Government of the Republic of Yemen
[NAME OF PROJECT] Higher Education Development Project
CONSULTING SERVICES: Technical support through University Twining

Credit No: 3674-YEM./ .

Project ID No.

Expressions of interest

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the [Higher Education Development Project], and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services. The services include Review and analyze of curriculum and programs including training.

The [Higher Education Development Project] now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

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Victims of silence in Sudan

By JANE NOVAK*

In this age of the opinionated populace, where's the nattering, the pontification, and the outbursts demanding international protections for Sudanese civilians? Where are the righteous protest marchers, the invective, and the sermons when real people urgently need real help? The intellectual/academic contingent has little bluster and fewer solutions regarding the world's worst humanitarian disaster. The media that broadcasts Abu Ghraib photos with such gusto seems to have little interest in actual atrocities without good footage. A half a million Sudanese civilians may die within short months and there is a notable lack of urgency among regional alliances. The world that averted its eyes from the machetes in Rwanda turns its back again as thousands of families are slaughtered in the Sudan. Is self-interest this shallow in the 21st century?

In the last year, the Sudanese government has systematically targeted its black population in Darfur, an Iraq sized area of six million. Ariel bombings, crop destruction, well poisoning and mass executions are thoroughly documented, as is rape, torture, and starvation. The Janjaweed, a government backed militia, roam the Darfur region on horseback pillaging like Genghis Khan. They massacre men, rape women, and torch villages and mosques with complicit governmental support. They call themselves mujahideen.

Over a million Darfurians have fled from their own government to the edge of the Sahara and into neighboring Chad. They need "acute assistance" according to the UN. The Sudanese government has used its administrative powers to block international monitors, aid, medical sup-

plies, and the media. Kidnapped youngsters have become chattel in the thriving slave trade. Six hundred children were recently rescued by UNICEF. An estimated 40,000 children remain enslaved in government held territories.

Five percent of "displaced" children under five have died in the last three months. Most deaths are from treatable maladies like starvation, malaria and diarrhea, and 21% of these children are already suffering from acute malnutrition. Aid delivery, already a political challenge, will become a physical challenge with the onset of the monsoon in early June. Unsheltered and starving in the rain, hundreds of thousands will die, mostly women and children, the UN predicts.

As a reward for its assistance in antiterrorism efforts, the Sudan has recently been removed from the State Department's list of those states 'not fully cooperating' with the War on Terror. The heavy hand of US soft power has had a positive impact in the south of Sudan. The fragile peace agreement between the Arab government in the north and southern Christian and animist rebels occurred after strong US involvement in ending the twenty-one year civil war. Credit is due. In the western Darfur region, the Islamic government has been targeting primarily black Muslims. The new promise of peace does not reach into Darfur.

Bureaucratic inertia reigns on all fronts as states and inter-national organizations have little motivation to defend this population. With a candidacy sponsored by the African regional group, the Sudan became a member of the United Nations Human Rights Commission last month. Kofi Annan "is following the situation in Darfur closely, and with great concern,"

his spokeswoman reports. With substantial pressure from the US, the Security Council recently passed a resolution strongly condemning "indiscriminate attacks on (Sudanese) civilians, sexual violence, forced displacement and acts of violence." The Arab League is concerned with the actions of its member state, the Sudan. The EU has lost its taste for multilateral responsibility as time has nearly run out in this race against the rains. Unlike during the Bosnian slaughter, France is not urging NATO to breach state sovereignty to rescue these civilians.

Considering today's Victims of a Lethal Regime are Starving, Black, African, Muslim, Women, and Children, in theory they should have widespread popular support. Yet the liberals are not championing these victims and the necons have no army of liberation to spare. The feminists do not cry for these children. "Never Again" does not apply to these families. Community leaders do not express outrage for these Muslims. Perhaps humans have not yet established a collective identity as earthlings, as civilians, and as allies.

September 11th produced the first spontaneous global statement of morality: billions objected. The connectivity of that moment has been strengthened by the media and the internet. The power of public opinion impacts foreign policy internationally as never before. Constituents thus empowered are more complicit by silence and face a choice. The new global power struggle is between the civilians and the terrorists, the civilians and the lethal regimes. As Sudanese children die, our children become more vulnerable.

* Jane Novak is a free lance writer and regular contributor to Yemen Times.

SKETCHED
FOR
OPINION



By Samer A.



By Yahya Al-Olfi
alolfi@hotmail.com

Reflections

Yemeni africans, the untold story

Before, I begin the subject I would like to clarify that I am not speaking here about Yemeni African half-castes or current Yemeni immigrants in Africa but about something else, so let us begin with some bits and pieces of this land's olden days:

The Kingdom of Sheba in Yemen spread its influence all over the Arabian peninsula and parts of the Horn of Africa, namely today's Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Eritrea and did have commercial links with most of Eastern Africa where Yemenis used to purchase local goods and African Slaves.

The main Yemeni African Salves seaport is still named until this day Zinjibar on the Arabian Sea (i.e. land of the Negroes). Yemeni settlers settled in Ethiopia and Eritrea and are represented nowadays in tribes such as the Amara, Tigray and Affairs etc at the later stages of the Himyarite Kingdom the central government in Yemen weakened and hence the Yemeni African offshoot founded a state named AXUM. The Axumites who as I said are descendants of the Yemeni settlers tried many times to invade Yemen the land of their ancestors but were always rebuffed and the last Yemeni Himyarite King to vanquish them was none other than the famous "SHAMARR YAHARAASH".

Yemeni Himyarites and Yemenis in Africa embraced Christianity as their official religion but it happened that one day the ruler of Yemen who was only 20 years old received Jewish rabbis who were kicked out from Palestine by the then Byzantine Christians.

These Rabbis convinced the Yemeni adolescent king that Judaism was the perfect religion and that it behooved him to convert into Judaism along with his people so as to avoid the wrath of almighty god. The king unwittingly believed them and issued a decree ordering that all Yemenis must discard Christianity and embrace Judaism. So most of the Yemeni Industrialists (Goldsmiths, Silversmiths, Textile producers) merchants and the elite obeyed the order and converted to Judaism while Yemeni farmers, Shepherds and fishermen refused and remained Christian. So the king ordered ditches to be dug and to throw into them those disobedient causing them to burn until death. So Christian Yemenis sent a messenger to the Byzantines for help.

The Byzantines knowing how difficult it is to cross the desert into Yemen decided that the right thing was to ask the Axumites to rush help for their Christian brethren. So Yemeni Christians welcomed the Ethiopian assistance while Yemeni Jews kept fighting until they were defeated and the Yemeni king committed HARI-KARI by throwing himself into the waves of the red sea so as to avoid disgrace.

The Axumites assisted by Christian Yemenis ruled Yemen for fifty continuous years and exiled obnoxious Jewish Yemenis into the jungles of Ethiopia where they mixed with locals and formed today's Falashas (Ethiopian Jews). Yemeni Jews kept waging guerrilla attacks until the Persian Chosroe king

agreed to send with the Yemeni Himyarite Jewish Noble SAIF BEN DHI YAZIN an army composed mostly of Persian prisoners. So the Persian Prisoner army arrived at Zanzibar on the Arabian Sea and defeated the Ethiopians. Defeated Ethiopians mostly returned to Africa or were killed and those remaining were enslaved, hence comes the word "Akhdam" which means servants.

The Persians then inducted SAIF as a king for three years after which they killed him and accused the Ethiopians for his assassination. From then on, started the Persian occupation of Yemen. Later the Yemeni Persians embraced Islam and were sanctioned by the prophet as official rulers of Yemen. Yemenis seeing that their Persian rulers are following an Arab prophet decided to convert into Islam and then left Yemen to invade and Arabize today's Arab World including Persia where many Yemeni families have become Persian Arabs and some would like to declare a state named ARABISTAN.

Whilst the Persian rulers, Ethiopians and non-efficient Arabs remained behind. Persian rulers continued during the Omayyad and Abbaside period until the time when the Barmakides tried to seize power in Baghdad. So Harun Alrashid got rid of the Persians in Baghdad and sent a Yemenite ruler for Yemen. This ruler is named Maan Bin Zayidah (he hated Persians). Being the right hand of the caliph he noticed how the Persians in Yemen were racist and haughty so he arrested their leaders and usurped all their belongings and chucked them in the streets.

The remaining Persians had to change their lineage into Hashemites fearing the same destiny of their leaders and since then luckily believe themselves as prophetic Hashemite descendants (of course better for us but not free of charge) whilst their poor leaders' descendants are today's Butcher and Vegetable Growers class who luckily are today having the upper hand and are becoming chieftains.

Today's rulers must exercise real equality so as to make such differences between the different segments of the population fade for ever and to judge people on their own merits not their color or lineage. The burning of a slum outside Sana'a housing Yemeni Africans and is believed to be induced so as to usurp the land on which the slum was built, brought me back memories about when I first noticed social discriminations in Yemen. At the age of six years I used to go down from my village to our region's small capital town there I saw the different fabric of my local community.

I belonged to a normal Farming Yemeni Family just as are most Yemenis. I remember women frightening their children in that they shall be kidnapped by a Khadim (i.e. Yemeni African) or a Jew, although most Yemeni Jews are now in occupied Palestine. This of course created fear and hatred against both denominations. On the other hand there were two other segments of the people that looked fairer than mostly brown Yemenis.

One of the two are referred to as the Sayyids (i.e. Masters) whilst the others are termed as Mazaineh (i.e. people working as singers, butchers, vegetable growers and carpenters). When I asked some people who are these people and why they are wearing like this I was told that they were of Persian descent. Going to school at an early age I read about an Ethiopian invasion of Yemen and a Persian counter invasion. So, when I came to Sana'a from my village for the very first time in 1977 I was struck by this slum housing Akhdams at the entrance of Sana'a when coming from Taiz Highway.

I told my late brother back then, that those were verily remnants of the Ethiopian invasion and that the others who consider themselves at the top are the Persians. This I said it back in 1977 when I was only 9 years old. My late brother smiled and jokingly said here we have an anthropologist! But please keep silent about this.

So I kept silent and ignored all this until sometime in 1988 when I was accompanying a group of German Tourists in the Tribal area of Hashid. In a place near Dhi Bin the German tourists were startled to see seven guys wearing traditional attires different from the others and shooting at signs bearing names in Arabic. The Arabic names read Omar, Abu Bakr, Osman and Maayeh Bin Abi Sufian. At the time there was no restaurant in Dhi Bin so we stopped by a house of a farmer whom we asked for food.

The man offered us some bread and tea and refused adamantly to take money at all. So we asked him who were those people? The farmer said those people were for i.e. Persians or Sayyids, I asked him what did he mean by that? And he replied this is what I have heard from my grandfather.

The tourists after hearing this were able to answer the questions of how and why some Yemenis are blond haired. We bid the magnanimous Hashid farmer farewell and continued our voyage down SINWAN VALLEY only to be stopped after two kilometers by a police checkpoint. Poor German tourists were astounded to notice that all the military at the checkpoint were black so they asked me in German if we have crossed into Africa or else what is this? The Yemeni jet black policeman searched our jeep and then made us continue our trip while continuing our trip we noticed a big farm and the looks of a military camp so I told them that these are remnants of the Ethiopians and most probably were ordered to do the shift together out of a racist attitude.

I have only spoken a bit about an aspect of the Yemeni society, which is still considered a taboo. The problem of the Akhdam segment of this society was solely dealt with by the late Southern Yemeni President Salimain who because his father was a Sultan and his mother belonged to this segment exerted efforts to merge them into the Yemeni society and was pretty successful. The government should try its best to solve this age-old problem albeit most of the population are complaining from the current status quo in all its aspects.

The smell of the Sharon & Bush kitchen

The most recent visit to Washington by Ariel Sharon, the "man of peace" was quite possibly his most successful yet. Exercising for the umpteenth time his soulful relationship with the "man of vision" in White House, Sharon informed his kismet brother that he had a new plan vis-a-vis the Palestinians, and that the "road map" that was constructed by the "quartet" was now worthless. Bush duly submitted. He knew that Sharon was the man to run the show, not the rest of the world. He knew this because Sharon told him so.

The U.N., the EU, and Russia were again informed that they were irrelevant and that their efforts to bring a just peace through common sense would be consigned to the trash heap of history. The events that followed Sharon's bold and noble decision to single-handedly deliver freedom and self-determination to the pressed natives groaning under his barbarous rule, both in Palestine and America, paint an eerie picture as to the possible details of this little summit. The "man of peace" submitted his "plan" for Gaza withdrawal to his cabinet for review. The Likudniks - allergic to peace - dismissed it with contempt, as it would put an end to time-honored traditions of theft and murder. And even though their decision was non-binding, the redoubtable "bulldozer" as he's affectionately known in Israeli parlance, pathetically hung his head in defeat and scuffled off to try to draw up a plan more acceptable to his underlings. While he began to redraft more servile proposals, his military - defending freedom - was ordered to redouble its rage toward Palestinian existence and pour dozens of the best American made missiles from the best American made helicopter gunships down onto taxi cabs and apartment buildings.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, the President started to play his part. He began by going on television and informing the world that his once worldwide heralded proclamation in support of the establishment of a "viable Palestinian state" by 2005 was now "unrealistic." This came as quite a shock to people who were foolish and naive enough to believe the cynical ploy in the first place, but it at least accomplished the goal of reminding the world that the Palestinians were again deemed unworthy of statehood and self-determination, thus re-consigning them to their rightful place — the crosshairs of the ubiquitous hovering machines of death, built, bought, paid for, and graciously gifted by the American taxpayers. A couple of weeks later on the other side of town, the Israeli lobby threw a party. The guest list was a veritable who's who of Congress' most esteemed Evangelical

Christians who were falling all over themselves, showering Israel with unconditional praise and sympathy, bringing it into their warm embrace much in same way that a loving mother does with a cherished child. One of the most popular speakers at the event was super Evangelical Tom Dealy. Tom Dealy is an interesting man. As House Majority Leader, he is the second most powerful man in the House of Representatives. He's a big fish. He's also known in some Congressional circles as the "meanest man in Congress."

He's also a rabid anti-Arab Zionist who has advocated - publicly - the idea of settling the Israeli-Palestinian "conflict" by physically driving the 3 million "Canaanites" into the fringes of southern Lebanon, western Jordan, and northern Egypt, joining them with their "fellow Arabs" and then militarily sealing off historic Palestine. This is how the second most powerful man in one of the two houses of American government thinks. Interesting as all this is though, what I find most fascinating about Congressman Dealy is the job that he held before he ran for Congress in the mid 1980's. Tom Dealy used to drive a van around Sugarland, Texas and kill bugs. He was a bug exterminator. He was obviously quite talented in getting rid of pesky little roaches and other spurious insects, and knowing this, perhaps a clearer picture of how he arrived at his "Palestinian solution" can be better discerned. Anyway, AIPAC just loves him; they absolutely adore him. This was reflected most pointedly when, after a lengthy lecture on the evil of Palestinian terror and wholesale support for the poor, defenseless Israeli victims, he declared that fellow Texan and Evangelical, George W. Bush, was "the greatest friend that Israel has ever had." A thunderous standing ovation ensued. He was telling the truth, no doubt about it.

We know this because the next day (the event lasted for 2 days) the key speaker was President George W. Bush, and he spoke to the crowd much in the same way that a doting father would speak to his favorite son. He assured them that Israel's victory in their "war on terror" is essential to the security of America, and that America's victory in its "war on terror" - now centered in Arab Iraq - was essential to Israel's existence. So the message was clear. America is fighting a "war on terror" against Arab Muslims, Israel is fighting a "war on terror" against Arab Muslims, ergo America and Israel are one, with one common cause against one common enemy who is simply evil, bent on destroying western civilization. Within this calculated rubric, the remnants of Saddam's Ba'ath party are the foreign mujahideen, who are al-Qa'eda, who are

Hamas, who are Hizzbullah, who are the 9/11 hijackers, who are the executioners of Nicholas Berg, who are terrorists, who are Muslims, who are Arabs. Everything is wrapped up in a neat little package, easily identifiable in bold black and white. The President loves to look at things in black and white.

So it seems appropriate to employ the cliché, "all's well that ends well" in any analysis of this fearsome twosome. The pesky "road map" was "rightly" scrapped, Sharon got to feign a humanely "democratic" exercise in pursuit of an evil cause, Israeli gunship pilots got to break in a new batch of air born death machines in Gaza City, more than a few Palestinian children got to be murdered by Israeli gunship pilots in Gaza City, Bush reaffirmed Palestinian "worthlessness" and promised them a future of hellish occupation, and the Israeli lobby was reassured in no uncertain terms from the highest levels of the fiercely Christian American government that it can do whatever it wants with the full blessing of the only political entity in the world that matters.

But then there is Syria, let's not forget about them, Bush didn't. He slapped them with sanctions for their "failure" to adequately comply with the "Syrian Accountability Act" passed by Congress that demands that Syria be held accountable for being Syrians and, unforgivably, enemies of Israel and American imperialism. And then finally we have America. America, the shining beacon of democracy and light, the manifestation of all that is right. America, who in the defense of "freedom" and needing to know how to put the screws to their "terrorist" Arab enemies, went to their best friend to learn the finer points of how to deal with "those people." Being only all too eager to please their deep-pocketed patron in gratitude for all of the weapons, money, and really, really big strong shiny bulldozers that they get as part of their annual allowance, the faithful client gladly taught America how to break a human being. It taught America how to surgically remove dignity and honor, how to degrade and despoil a soul, and how to mock and make most heavy the yoke of a cruelly imposed fate upon the head of a bewildered life. America took the information and ran, ran all the way to a desolate place called Ghraib, checked its soul at the door, and both wittingly and unwittingly, painted for the world a riveting self portrait. Yet another cliché may be in order as an admonition to the great nation.

Just as you can tell a lot about a man by knowing the company that he keeps, so too it seems can you tell a lot about a government by the company it keeps.

Jason Vaught
jvn19@yahoo.com

Greece stun hosts Portugal with 2-1 win

PORTO (Reuters) - Greece have got the European Championship off to a stunning start after they recorded the greatest win in their history by upsetting host nation Portugal 2-1 in the tournament's opening game.

Portugal had not lost any of their previous nine European Championship group games and were hot favourites to claim another win but they could have no complaints about the defeat as they rarely troubled a well-drilled and committed Greek team.

The Group A outsiders, looking composed on the ball and determined in attack on Saturday, led through Giorgos Karagounis's seventh-minute shot and doubled the advantage with an Angelos Basinas penalty six minutes into the second half.

They then held out until injury time when Cristiano Ronaldo got a consolation for Portugal to make it 2 to 1.



Greece's Angelos Basinas (bottom R) celebrates with teammates Costas Katsouranis (L), Takis Fyssas (2nd R), and Stelios Giannakopoulos (R) after scoring their second goal of their Group A Euro 2004 opening soccer match against Portugal in Porto, June 12. Reuters

Continued from Front Page:

Yemen's Media: Now the donors' target

Distinguished mission

A Danish delegation is currently in Yemen for a preparation and consultation mission to explore the different aspects in helping the media be more effective in supporting democracy.

The delegation is headed by Mr. Jorgen Ringgaard of the Danish School for Journalism, and includes training specialist Mr. Jan Keulen, the representative of the International Federation of Journalists, Ms. Stefania Delfino Bork, and Report Editor at the International Media Support Group, Ms. Pernille Gylling Jorgensen.

In order to make the most of their mission in Yemen, the Danish experts agreed on the need to bring together stakeholders from various sectors related to the media. This basically includes the Ministry of Information, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, national TV and radio, the different local newspapers, international corre-

spondents, departments of journalism in main universities, and organizations (governmental, and non-governmental) closely related to the media.

Agenda

The mission has already held an introductory session at the Yemen Times building on Saturday to introduce their mission objective and agenda. On Sunday, they held a session on the first element of their current program, which is access to information. The mission will be tackling professional and independent media on Monday at the Yemen Times headquarters in Sana'a in a morning session, and will discuss access to information on Tuesday at the same place and time. The mission will then meet on Wednesday morning at the Taj Sheba Hotel with Yemeni stakeholders for a broad discussion and evaluation session of the priorities for the project.

This will be followed by another meeting with the donor community in Yemen to start drawing broad lines of support for the main ideas that would evolve out of the project.

Media's collaboration needed

The mission revealed to Yemen Times that they expect the Yemeni media to seize this valuable opportunity to benefit from this important project, which has only been established for the eagerness expressed by media representatives to have development projects for their institutions. "This is a major opportunity, which I hope Yemeni media institutions and journalists will value and take advantage of. We expect continuous interaction and interest in discussing future activities and projects together." Mr. Jorgen Ringgaard, the head of the delegation, told Yemen Times.

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Cultural events for students - 2004

As the consummation of its annual cultural events, the Department of English, Faculty of Languages, Sana'a University, Sana'a organized the final round of co-curricular activities – debate, elocution, group-discussion, extempore speech, essay writing, creative writing and quiz on 19 May 2004 (Wednesday). Students belonging to different levels of the Department participated in various events with enthusiasm and made the occasion a great success. At the outset Dr AK Sharma, Prof. and Head of the department of English, while welcoming the guests, officials of the faculty, students and members of the staff, highlighted the importance of such activities in students' future career and learning. He also appreciated the assistance and co-

operation extended by the Dean, the Vice-Dean and others in organizing such events in the department.

The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Tariq Al-Janabi, in his speech, lauded the organization of such activities by the Department of English and appreciated students' talent and worth. He assured all support of the Faculty for such activities in future and expressed his good wishes for the success of the events.

Prof. D Thakur, Head of the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University, Sana'a

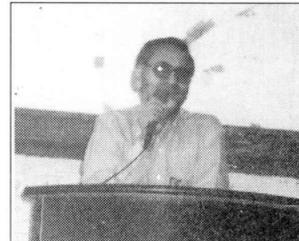
graced the occasion and appreciated the efforts of the students and applauded their excellent performance in various events. He wished Yemeni students to excel in the art of oratory at international forums to earn a good name for their country.



Address by Dr. Janabi, Dean, as Dr. Saleh looks on

At the end of the event, Dr M A Shamsheer, the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Languages, presented a vote of thanks. He thanked the guests, the members of the faculty and others who attended the function and made it a great success with their assistance. He congratulated the winners and expressed all his good wishes for those who participated in various activities and made the function a festive occasion.

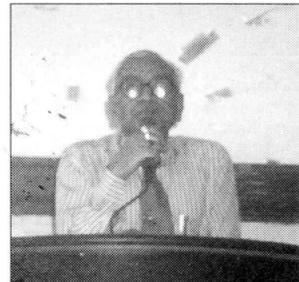
Dr Shamsheer and Dr Sharma gave away the prizes and certificates to the winners and participants.



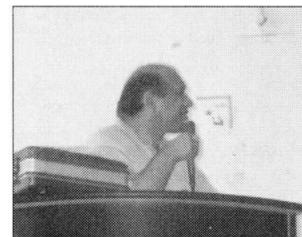
Prof. A. K. Sharma, Head, delivering his welcome address



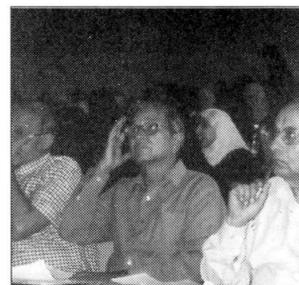
Award of merit certificates and prizes to the participants by Dr. Shamsheer, Vice Dean; Prof. A. K. Sharma, Head. Dr. U. Mishra looks on



Prof. D. Thakur, Chief Guest on the occasion



Dr. Judy speaking on the occasion



The panel of judges



The packed audience

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I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (68)
Friendship Day (1)

A true and sincere friend is an invaluable asset. Aristotle says: "What is a friend? A single sole dwelling in two bodies." A faithful friend is, indeed, the medicine of life. There can be little doubt that friendship is the gift of the gods, and the most precious boon to man. A true friend is one who multiplies joy, divides grief and whose honesty is inviolable; one who stands by you when the whole world turns its back on you. William Reeves says, a friend is "one who unbosoms freely, advises justly, assists readily, takes all patiently, defends courageously and continues a friend unchangeably".

The following expressions capture the essence of this spirit of friendship

- It feels great to have you as a friend, for friendship is a vital part of life.
- Our companionship, dear friend, gives me the comfort of knowing that I can always rely upon you. And it's because of your support, and you by my side, that my life is a whole lot brighter and happier too. It gives me a feeling that someone is there for me, for ever.
- True friends know your inner self. They're intimately close. And it feels great when you pick out a good one!
- A true friend is one who knows all about you and loves you just as you are. And that, my friend, is you!
- Of all the friends I've ever met, you're the one I won't forget. And if I die before you do, I'll go to Heaven and wait for you.
- True friends like us, don't always need a lot of words to stay close. There's a silent communication always taking place within our minds and hearts. My friend, no matter how far apart we are, we can stay close with few words, as long as there's love in our hearts for each other.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. The government won, but it had less votes than last time.
2. Our fuel stocks have been run down and we have in reserve fewer of either coal or wood than is necessary.
3. The failure of the maize crop was a disaster, for it kept the poor people alive.
4. When we elected the club secretary, the bulk of the votes went to Amjad.
5. The bulk of the students in the modern age are learning a foreign language.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. We have **hardly** enough petrol to get us home.
2. The aid of a dictionary, a grammar book and his parents is needed when Abdullah does his homework.
3. The reason I cycle to work is to save money. Or, I cycle to work to save money.
4. We discovered that the cause of the breakdown was a bare wire in the circuit. Or, We discovered that the breakdown was due to a bare wire in the circuit.
5. The customers claimed that the reason they had been overcharged was that the new assistant did not know the proper prices. Or, The customers claimed that they had been overcharged because the new assistant did not know the proper prices.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. Cause to act.
2. Sharpness in mind or power to understand clearly.
3. Old and wise saying or a common proverb.
4. Something omitted that is to be added.
5. Break off proceedings of a meeting for a time.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. The theory that actions are right because they are

2. useful: **utilitarianism** (n)
2. Attractive and desirable but impracticable: **utopian** (adj)
3. Looking back on past events: **retrospection** (n)
4. An appointed place of meeting, specially of troops: **rendezvous** (n)
5. Fear of being enclosed in a small closed space: **claustrophobia** (n)

(B) Foreign words and phrases

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following:

1. neologism
2. nom de plume
3. nouvelle vague
4. novel
5. ode

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **mnemonics** (Gk. 'mneme', 'memory'): Art of or, system for, improving the memory.
2. **motto** (Lat 'muttum', 'murmur'): A short sentence or phrase used as a guide or rule of behavior.
3. **myth** (Gk 'muthos', 'any thing uttered by word of mouth'): It is a story which is not true. Myth is always concerned with creation. It embodies feeling and concept.
4. **mythopoeia** (Gk 'myth-making'): The conscious creation of a myth. In literature, the appropriation and reworking of mythical material, or the creation of a kind of 'private' mythology.
5. **nemesis** (Gk 'retribution'): In Greek thought a personification of the gods' resentment and anger at man's insolence, hubris, towards themselves.

(C) Words commonly confused

Distinguish between the following pairs of words

1. diverse, perverse
2. orifice, edifice
3. divest, invest
4. collusion, collision

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **elusive** (adj) (tending to elude or escape): For the past couple of days, I have been grappling with an elusive problem.
2. **illusive** (adj) (deceptive; unreal; based on illusion): Wealth and power are illusive.
3. **insidious** (adj) (doing harm secretly): Diabetes is an insidious enemy, a slow killer.
4. **invidious** (adj) (likely to cause ill feeling): comparisons are always invidious.
5. **monetary** (adj) (of money or coins): The poor man asked for some monetary help.
6. **monitory** (adj) (relating to the exercise of authority by a school): He loves to show off his monitory power.
7. **ordinance** (n) (order given by authority) (The government passed a new ordinance in Parliament against child labor.
8. **ordnance** (n) (artillery): The ordnance factory is responsible for military supplies to the army.
9. **averse** (adj) (opposed, disinclined): You shouldn't be averse to hard work.
10. **adverse** (adj) (unfavorable): Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea in view of the adverse sea conditions.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Bring out the meanings of the following in illustrative sentences

1. a last-ditch effort
2. at death's door
3. have one's pound of flesh
4. fight tooth and nail
5. at sixes and sevens.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **to have the gift of the gab** (to have the ability to speak fluently and articulately): He really has the gift of the gab.
2. **not to sleep a wink** (to be unable to sleep): I could not sleep a wink last night worrying about the exam.
3. **a landslide victory** (an election victory won by a very large number of votes): In the recently concluded elections, the ruling party had a landslide victory.
4. **come a cropper** (to suffer misfortune): My friend came a cropper after he suffered a colossal loss in his investment.

5. **go to any length** (to do something, no matter what is involved): I shall go to any length to bail my friend out of the problem.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Look at the following sentences

1. Scotland Yard requires its male employees to be at least 1.73 m tall.
2. We're recruiting more and more graduates.
3. Who's she talking to?
4. I'm meeting the production manager this afternoon.
5. The train leaves at 6.00 tomorrow evening.
6. James is working at home until the new office is ready.
7. I get up at 7 most mornings.

Which sentences refers to:

- a) a temporary situation
- b) an action that is happening now
- c) a permanent state or situation
- d) a future arrangement
- e) a regular or habitual action
- f) a changing and developing situation
- g) a future event based on a time table.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. trade: to do business, to buy and sell.
2. innovate: to make changes and introduce new ideas.
3. concern: a company or business.
4. patent: a legal document which gives a person or company the exclusive right to make or sell an invention.
5. research: work done in order to make new discoveries.
6. increase: to go up; to rise
7. performance: results obtained over a period of time.
8. budget: amount of money used for a specific purpose.

(B) Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

71: HE MAKES NO FRIEND WHO NEVER MADE A FOE

Last week's topic

70: HE PRAYETH BEST WHO LOVETH BEST

S. T. Coleridge, the Romantic poet says: He prayeth well who loveth well Both man and bird and beast He prayeth best who loveth best, All things both great and small; For the dear God who loveth us, He made and loveth all. Love is an image of God. The noblest form of worship of God is to love His creation. Moreover, God loves those who love their fellow men. The noted American essayist Emerson observes in this context: "Love, which is the essence of God, is not for loving but for the total worth of man." Thus love elevates the spirit of man to celestial heights and makes it closer to God. Moreover, love is an ennobling emotion that makes life sublime. So Benjamin Disraeli remarks: "We are all born for love; it is the principle of existence and its only end." The best form of prayer is cultivation of love. It is an alchemy that creates and sustains a divine order and harmony and mirrors the glory of paradise on earth.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

O, you who believe! Have Taqwa of Allah and [always], speak the truth. He will make your deeds good and forgive your sins. And whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, he has achieved the magnificent victory. S33:A70-71

VI. Words of Wisdom

"Love rules his kingdom without a sword"

—George Herbert

Event-wise list of winners and the number of participants is as follows :

Essay Writing

First: Mujeeb Ali M Qassim(Level 4)
Second: Abdulwadood Ahmed Annuzaili (Level 4)
Third: Moh'd Moh'd Abdullah Al Jabri(Level 4)
No. of Participants: 15

Creative Writing

First: Moh'd Moh'd Abdullah Al-Jabri(L 4)
Second: Zakia Muqbil Saeed (L 4)
Third: Waseem Abdullah Jahaf (L4)
No. of Participants: 21

Elocution

First: Horiya Ahmed Al-Hamzi (L 4)
Second: Mujeeb Ali M. Qassim (L4)
Third: Ebtihaj Ahmed Al-Akwa'a(L 2)
No of participants: 9

Extempore Speech

First: Hannan Khourouf (L4)
Second: Reem Saleh Ali Jubran Al Ansi (L4)
Third: Jawaharah Ali Al-Barq (L4)
No of Participants: 12

Debate

First: Reem saleh Ali Jubran Al Ansi(L4)
Second: Hanan Yahya Al-Sadadi(L3)
Third: Arwa Mosleh Al ansi(L4)
No. of Participants: 18

Group Discussion

First: Eman Abdul Hameid Al Toqi(L4)
Second: Jawahrah Ali Hassan al Barq(L4)
Third: Amal Abdu saeed al Ariqi (L4)
No. of Participants: 13

Quiz

Four teams each comprising four students participated in the event. Team C –Very Good , Team A – Good ,Team-D and Team B – Satisfactory

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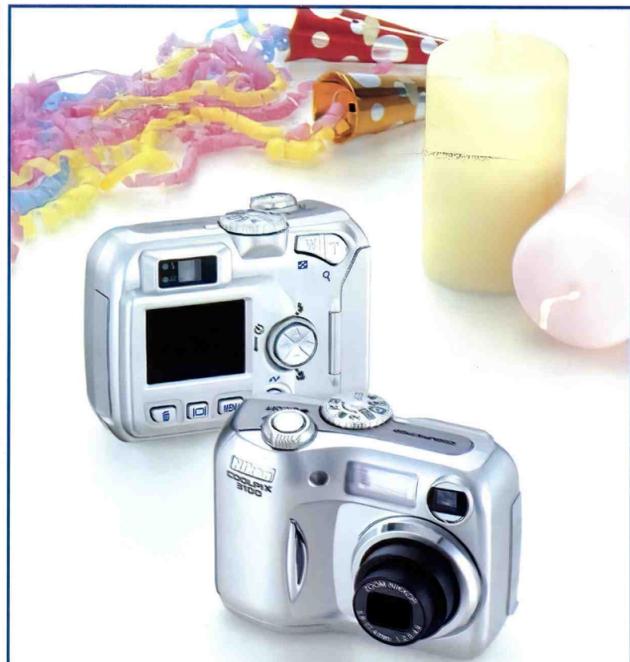
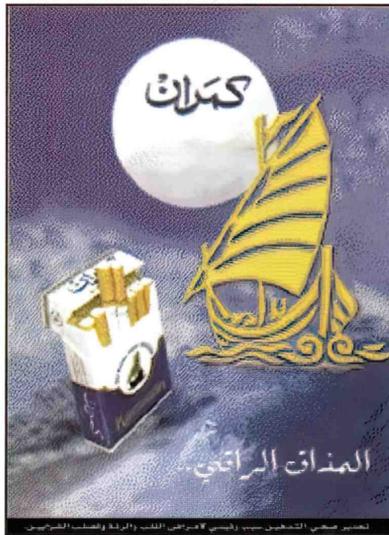
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Leaders in informal mood: Saleh carries tradition overseas

The "Great Eight" summit that wrapped up on Thursday in Sea Island off the coast of Georgia, USA included many fascinating and entertaining moments. Among those interesting moments was when President Saleh arrived wearing the traditional costume with the "Janbia".

According to US official sources, the Secret Service decided not to relieve him of it on his way in to US President George W. Bush. President Saleh introduced himself; but the US President made it clear he already knew who he was. They chatted for a moment, then George W. Bush (see photo) pointed to the dagger, sheathed in green, and made a few joking stabbing motions. President Saleh took that with the same spirit of humor.



U.S. President George W. Bush (R) points to the ceremonial 'Janbia' worn by Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh, before gathering with other Middle East leaders at the G8 Summit in Sea Island, Georgia, June 9. REUTERS

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