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Court heedless to suspect's transport permit

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES

The Yemeni Prosecution in the tribunal of the USS Cole bombing suspects' refuted the document presented by the defense lawyer which allegedly facilitated the task of the prime suspect. Chief prosecutor, Saeed al-Akil, who has been acting like a dictator in the courtroom, said in the ninth hearing last Wednesday, that the document presented by advocate Abdulaziz al-Samawi is false, demanding the original copy of the license.

Al-Samawi read in the last hearing an official letter issued and signed by former interior minister Hussain Arab, which instructed the security authorities at all checkpoints to give "safe passage to Sheikh Mohammed Omar Al-Harazi (one of the aliases of the prime suspect Abdulrahman al-Nashari) with three bodyguards without being searched or intercepted. All security forces are instructed to cooperate with him and facilitate his missions." The order was valid from April 2000 until the end of the year in which the USS Cole was



Tribunal trying USS Cole defendants

attacked, in the port of Aden.

Al-Samawi said that the original copy of the transport permit is with al-Nashari who he said, had the evidence but is in US custody. The Specialized Penal Court and the prosecution said earlier that they

have no official information that he is in the US, and therefore he is being tried in absentia. However, al-Samawi asked the court for the testimony of the representative of the US Department of Justice, who was attending the tribunal on this issue. He also demanded that Hussein Arab should be summoned before the court to give his testimony on the license issued for al-Nashari, but the court was heedless to his requests.

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Yemen's Ambassador to Lebanon: "Resolution on Lebanon shows Arab weakness"

BY WALID AL-SAQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Beirut - Sep 2nd - Yemen's ambassador to Lebanon, Dr. Mohamed Abdulmajeed Qubaty stated that Arab lobbying and efforts in the United Nations were greatly overwhelmed by that of the USA and its allies, who have succeeded in passing the security resolution denouncing Syrian involvement in Lebanese politics. He expressed Yemen's stance in opposing the resolution, but he also stressed the fact that the incoherence, disunity, and weakness of Arab countries has contributed to this result.

He also emphasized Yemen's clear position in rejecting the resolution and opposing foreign interference in another country's internal affairs. "Yemen's position from the very start was that this issue is purely domestic and neither the USA nor any other country should interfere in relations between two sovereign countries.



Dr. Mohamed Abdulmajeed Qubaty

This stance comes in harmony with the Lebanese official stance", Dr. Qubaty added.

Lebanon itself also rejected the resolution as its parliament had, in the recent referendum, approved extending the term of current Lebanese President Emil Lahud for three more years by a majority vote.

The ambassador added that there is now greater concern that more similar resolutions could be passed in the near future if no action is taken. "When we see that this resolution on Lebanon was preceded by the resolution on Darfur, Sudan, and the resolution on Iraq, we begin to become concerned that Arab influence is diminishing in the international arena in this so-called new world order."

Complete interview inside.

Fighting against al-Houthi insurgency More dead and wounded

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Fatal clashes have been taking place between military forces and sheikh

Hussein Al-Houthi's followers for eighty days in areas in Sa'ada province, 250 kilometers north of Sana'a.

There are no figures of the rising death toll among either fighters or civilians. Yet, rough estimates indicate that they reach thousands, let alone losses of property, which are difficult to assess especially amidst a media mystification.

Continued on page 13

US lifts ban on arms sales

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United States announced last week that the Bush administration has lifted a 14-year ban on selling arms to Yemen.

The announcement came from Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, Lincoln Bloomfield, when he met President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sana'a last Wednesday.

Continued on page 13

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WB will not stop support, says Deputy Prime Minister

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, has put an end to the media rumors, that the World Bank (WB) has stopped funding Yemen due to a failure to implement economic reforms.

He stressed that ties connecting Yemen with international organizations depend on mutual understanding of economic and social reality and the requirements of the development process.

"The international organizations cooperate with Yemen, offering funds for development projects in all fields. Negotiations with the World Bank in the recent months have discussed the economic and administrative reform program and the readiness of international organizations to fund the third five-year plan," said the minister.

The next five-year plan is being pre-

pared by the ministry in cooperation with international organizations as well as the Millennium Project of the UNDP which has accommodated Yemen because of its commitments towards policies that foster development and overcome economic obstacles.

On the other hand, Ali Abu Hatem, chargé d'affaires of the WB in Yemen, said he had no knowledge of the rumors that WB is threatening the Yemeni government that it may block support. He stated that the WB has proposed three possible paths of action to Yemen: either to offer the same aid level if the performance in reforms remains as it is, to lower volume of aid of the performance goes down, or raise size of aid if performance rises.

He added: "The WB supports Yemen currently with \$600 million, while it is expected that only \$300 million is to be spent annually."

He pointed out that the Yemeni government has made strides forward in financial and economic reform, and is working hard in terms of administrative reform, for which a long time is needed.

Italy trains Yemeni doctors

The Government of Italy has granted five scholarships for Yemeni doctors to pursue postgraduate studies in Italian universities in different specializations: cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, cardiology, gynecology and obstetrics.

His Excellency the Italian ambassador, held a meeting with the doctors on Wednesday September 1st, to bid them farewell at his residence. He wished

them success in their studies.

The group was chosen on competitive basis and includes doctors from Sana'a and Taiz, namely Zaid Shaiban, Isam Al-Karowda'a, Mohammed Al-Janadi, Ibrahim Al-Medhwah, and Jamilah Al-Surmi.

They will study for five years, one of which will be to learn the Italian language in the city of Brescia.



Yemeni doctors with Italian ambassador and his family

YFMF organizes fifth course

The Yemen Female Media Forum is organizing the fifth training course from Sept 5th-9th to empower 25 press-woman on legal affairs. The participants will come from different provinces including Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout, Hodeidah, and Abyan.

The participants will be trained by legal experts- Mohammed Allaw, head of the Allaw Legal Foundation, Nabilah Al-Mufti, member of Lawyer Syndicate's board, Khaled Al-Anisi, Deputy head of the Allaw Legal Foundation, and Fathiah Abdul-Wasi, General Manager of Legal Affairs in the Ministry of Information.

The trainees will receive lectures on

the advantages and disadvantages of the Yemeni publication law, concerning publication crimes, and the benefits of international conventions ratified by Yemen to guarantee better legal and human rights for media people and enabling them to get out of legal predicaments.

Models from well-developed press laws will be shown, as well as examples of the so-called publication and opinion offences, that some of the press have been charged with, and ways of overcoming them.

The training sessions and the closing ceremony will be held at Al-Karawan Wings, opposite Hadda post office.

Taiz hosts fishery union meeting

The founding meeting of the Cooperative Fishery Union was held on August 29th, at the bureau of Taiz Governorate. The meeting aimed to establish a board of fishermen's representatives from coastal areas in Taiz such as Makha, Thubab and Bab Al-Mandab.

The conference was headed by Mohammed Al-Haj, Deputy Governor of Taiz, and Secretary General of the Local Council.

Deliberations took place among officials who indicated the importance of

holding the founding meeting, and the service it will provide for many fishermen in fishery societies in the coastal districts of Taiz.

Taiz is a governorate with the largest number of societies and unions.

The meeting was attended by Mohammed Abdul-Salam Al-Dahbali, the director of the Fishery Wealth Office in Taiz, Abdul-Nasser Al-Akmali, the manager of the governor's office, and Ammar Al-Mu'alim, the manager of public relations and information at the government bureau.

Al-Houthi's will: behead me when I die

The 26th September, the organ of the armed forces, said in its latest issue that the authorities arrested one of al-Houthi's followers and found in his possession al-Houthi's will which states:

"After thanking God, I recommend you to cut off my head as soon as I die, so that my identity wouldn't be revealed. I swear by God, who sent Mohammad the prophet with the truth, I've seen in dream that the prophet, Ali Bin Abi Talib, Alhasan, and Alhusein, with Zaid Ali Musleh, Abdusalam

Abdullah and Ali Musleh (considered of al-Houthi's fellow leaders) each one of whom was leading a nation with white flags with the following written on them: 'Congratulations, second Hussein. We were missing you and looking forward to your arrival. You are a martyr and your head will be cut off and put in this box set with gold, emeralds, and a group of angles around it. You are the owner of the two flags.'

The letter was concluded by his will to his followers encouraging them to defy and to dismiss doubts of the

truth."

"The forces still besiege al-Houthi in Jabal Sulaiman where they expect to find al-Houthi," the sources mentioned.

"the authorities are looking for al-Houthi's corpse among 40 burnt and rotten ones found in the embattled areas where al-Houthi followers were entrenched last week. The corpses were transferred to the Al-Salam Hospital in Sada'a after finding al-Houthi's will. The corpses had been buried in valleys or left for dogs," the sources told YT.

US Delegation visits Yemen

A high-level delegation from the US ministry of defense visits Yemen this week to hold discussions concerning the US and Yemeni defense ministries. The discussions will focus on the bilateral cooperation based on defense and security aspects, as well as improving them, exchanging experiences and combating terrorism.

This visit comes at a time during which Yemeni-American relations are experiencing progress, particularly in supporting and training special forces commanded by Colonel Ahmad Ali Saleh, supporting and improving the Military Institute for Languages (MIL), and the deployment of Yemeni coast guards.

The American Deputy Secretary of

State for Political and Military Affairs visited Yemen last Wednesday. He met president Saleh and a number of officials and stated that U.S.A. will cancel the embargo of selling arms and military equipment to Yemen imposed during 1994 war in Yemen.

A source in Yemeni ministry of foreign affairs denied that the meeting with US officials will take into consideration handing over the first suspect involved in bombing the USS Cole in Aden and who is currently detained in U.S. The court will adjourn the case file for next Wednesday.

The U.S. will continue to support Yemen especially in areas of military and security aspects and combating terrorism.

On the other hand, the Chinese Foreign Minister will arrive in Yemen next Wednesday and meet with a number of Yemeni officials to hold discussions on issues concerning the two countries.

"The discussions will concentrate on meetings and protocols signed by the two countries in different areas," said the same source adding that the discussions will cover a number of subjects regarding regional and international issues and reciprocating views about them like the Palestinian issue, the situation in Iraq and security in the region.

It seems that Yemen is establishing relations with super-powerful countries such as Russia, China and other western countries visited by President Saleh like the USA and UK.

Taiz protests murder

BY AHMED AL-BUKHARI
TAIZ BUREAU

A large crowd marched through the streets of Taiz City in protest against the murder of a civilian by a soldier.

The demonstrators carried banners that condemned the atrocious crime, requesting the president and the Minister of Interior immediately stop the irresponsible activities of the municipality office in Taiz, which sells payment orders to soldiers and bullies, to extort money from citizens. The demonstration which reached the governorate bureau and the security department, also asked for a just punishment for the perpetrator.

The murder took place in Al-Shanini Market, Taiz on Wednesday September 1st when when Munir Al-Burihi, recruiter in the Central Security, opened fire with a pistol at 23-year-old Mazen Othman, a shopkeeper in Al-Shanini market.

The victim was quickly transferred to the hospital but died on the way.

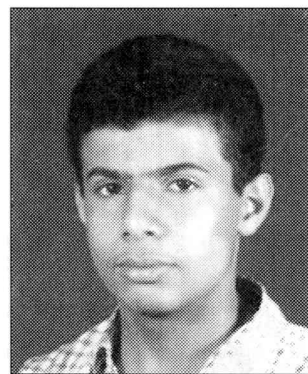
People said the soldier was assigned to do a task somewhere else, but arrived at the market and provoked a quarrel with the man, whom he killed immediately. In his attempt to escape, he wounded another man with a knife, but Taiz security has captured him and now he is awaiting trial.

Shopkeepers in Al-Shanini market

Gunfight in Haddah leaves bystander dead

A potato merchant was killed last Tuesday, and another man injured, when both were struck by stray bullets during a gunfight near the qat market in Haddah. Sources say that the fight was caused by a dispute between a factory owner from Arhab and an armed contingent, over a piece of land near the market.

The police have begun investigations, but the incident, which is just one of several similar cases to have occurred, has caused much unrest amongst locals, who have expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of control exercised by the state on gun crime.



Mazen Othman

had earlier closed their shops to show solidarity with their murdered colleague and in protest at the horrible crime.

Yemen seeks to change reduction level of ozone-depleting substances

Yemen has proposed a request to the program concerned with conformity to the Montreal Protocol (which regulates emissions of ozone-depleting substances), to help convince the protocol executive committee to bring down Yemen's reduction level which is currently 300 tons.

Eng. Faisal Nasser, manager of the Ozone Unit at the Environmental Protection Authority said that the conformance program is going to hold a small meeting in Bahrain next month to discuss Yemen's request in detail before proposing it to the Meeting of

the Parties in Brag in November 2004. He pointed out that Yemen's request involves a change of the permissible consumption of ozone-depleting substances from an average of 300 to 1700 tons.

He said the level Yemen is seeking to modify has been based on inaccurate information about the quantity of ozone-depleting substances in Yemen.

"This would create many problems, such as classifying Yemen as one of the countries non-conforming to Montreal Protocol which it ratified in 1996," added he.

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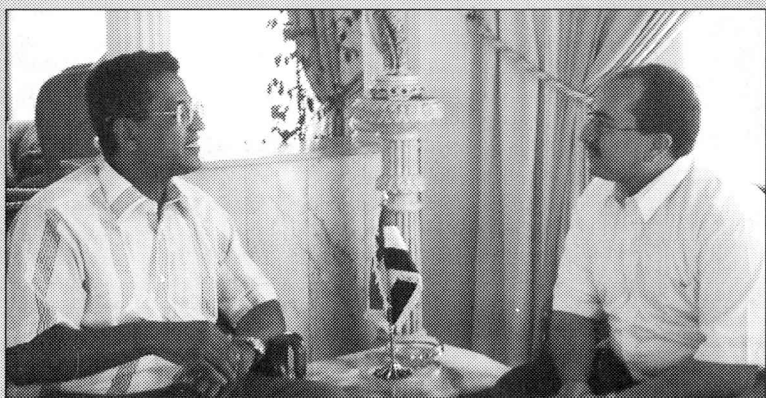
Yemen's ambassador Dr. Al-Qubaty to Lebanon speaks to the Yemen Times:

“Yemen had stood by Lebanon in its critical times, and rejects interference in its local affairs.”

BY WALID AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

He took office early this year as the Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to Lebanon. He had shown political ingenuity during different stages of his career, and has been well-respected by all sides of the political equation in Yemen including government, opposition, and independent thinkers.

Dr. Mohamed Qubaty Ph.D, FRCS had started emerging as a highly respected intellect and politician during his career in the 1990s, as a prominent official in General People's Congress (GPC), the ruling party of the time. Before he started



Mr. Qubaty (l) interviewed by Saqqaf (r)

his work as ambassador in Beirut, Dr. Qubaty served as the head of the political department of the GPC and was outspoken for his moderate views and rational opinions on vari-

ous local and international issues. He was kind enough to receive Walid Al-Saqqaf, Editor of Yemen Times at his residence in Beirut and gave the following interview.

Q: Firstly, we would like to congratulate you on your new post as ambassador to Lebanon in such a sensitive time. Among the recent developments here is the security resolution on Lebanon. Could we get your perspective and opinion on it, especially concerning Yemen's stance?

A: Having come recently from Yemen after the successful visit of a Lebanese Prime Minister to Yemen, I want to affirm that Yemen stands by Lebanon in these times and supports its full sovereignty, that can not be undermined by the recent Security Council resolution.

Unfortunately the recent developments you referred to are quite worrying. I particularly would like to say that the Security Council resolution on Lebanon and Syria was taken so hastily and shows that there is a lot of work to be done by Arab countries in unifying their stances, and protecting their rights at the United Nations, and on all levels. Having said so, the resolution also shows the new reality and new world order we are now facing in which the American power and influence is enormous. The USA's ability to pass so easily such a resolution at the UN's Security Council and in such a short period of time is truly a source of concern, especially taking into consideration the earlier resolutions passed with US pressure such as the two on Iraq, and Darfur in Sudan.

As an Arab and a diplomat, what worries me most is the level of weakness and ineffectiveness we have reached as Arab nations. We even

failed to prove our cases which we see rightly and undeniably just, and couldn't get our message through. As you see, the resolution has passed while we were merely spectators at the Security Council and failed to convince any of the members to vote against it. Even China, which we had hoped would veto the resolution, simply abstained, signaling the danger that is now evident in our position as Arab countries.

As for Yemen, it has stood by Lebanon in its critical times, and rejected interference in its local affairs.

Q: As mentioned, Arab diplomacy failed to prevent the security resolution, but Yemen had an initiative in unifying Arab countries' stances, but how do you view our influence as a country to change this status of total weakness and vulnerability?

A: Yemen had, in the past, presented initiatives to integrate efforts and unify stances in pan-Arab and even regional levels. We have seen what happened in Iraq and its implications on the whole region. We have come to notice how quickly resolutions can be passed and how it is important to take new steps that would give Arabs a stronger position in making their word heard. Yemen had tried to present an idea that would have made Arab countries reach an accord through which they could not only cooperate but also coordinate their way of approach in locally, regionally and internationally significant issues. It is a pity that our proposals were not seriously taken into consideration in recent summits. It was also sad to see the Tunis Summit resulting in such a huge disappointing failure, even

though common stances and positions, were shared.

Arab nations, need now to think of ways to coordinate their steps and relations based on their interests and future perspectives.

If our relations were built on interest, this last Security Council resolution would have not easily passed because Lebanon, Syria and other Arab countries would have shared very strong interest-related relations.

Q: So, what is the urgent step that Yemen and other countries need to take now to avoid further potential damage through another possible revolution to be passed in the near future?

A: After we saw what had happened in Iraq, and thinking of what could happen in the future, we end up with a strong conclusion that there is a lot at stake and time is running out. What we need to do right away is begin integrating ourselves in the current era. We are left behind and are crawling behind other nations in terms of coping with the demands of the new world order. For example, we could have benefited greatly if we had voluntarily suggested sending Arab police forces to Iraq. We would have helped to tackle the security problem in Iraq. Instead of running away from our responsibilities, we must confront and face them because things will eventually come to our doorstep if we ignore them over and over again. We must take initiatives seriously and effectively to avoid serious repercussions in the future.

Q: Coming to bilateral relations between Lebanon and Yemen, could you brief us about your agenda and work in promoting those relations?

A: When I first started my post in Beirut, I was quite amazed to see that Yemen had never had a delegation in the rank of prime minister visiting our country before. So I planned and facilitated the first visit of a Lebanese Prime Minister to Yemen. This was a proper step that was in the right direction.

Unfortunately however, we are now predicting a change in the government, forcing us to wait for some time for the bilateral relations promotion plans to

start. Nevertheless, the visit of Mr. Rafeeq Al-Hariri to Yemen has shown the great potential and possibilities to cooperate and work together in. There were several meetings of Lebanese and Yemeni businessmen and it was concluded that Yemen was a virgin country that can offered great investment potential to Lebanese businessmen. Such meetings were important to identify the barriers and problems facing the improvement of relations between the two countries. There was a plan to have a Yemeni goods exhibition in Lebanon and another fair in Sanaa for Lebanese exhibitions, but it is still on paper. The trade between the two countries is still too small and we need to enhance it. We must develop effective ways to increase trade and bring mutual benefit for both peoples. This is common between most Arab countries as trade relations between Arab countries is quite low compared to similar cases throughout the world.

Q: The number of Lebanese experts in Yemen is on the rise. However, Yemen is in need of a lot of human resources. Can there be a specific program for human resource development in Yemen with Lebanese help?

A: There is a visit planned, of the Minister of Education of Lebanon to Yemen, as the Lebanese government had offered to assist Yemen develop its educational and vocational training standards. There will be at least 30 scholarships on offer to Yemenis to come and study in Lebanon. We will work together in identifying the most important specialties deeply needed in Yemen. As you have mentioned, Lebanese in general are skilful people and their country has one of the highest educational standards in the Arab world. They have exported skills and training to various Arab countries. I also believe we can learn from them in tourism also.

I am glad to inform you that we have now witnessed the birth of the Lebanese Yemen Fraternity Association headed by Lebanese Minister of Tourism, and that will help Yemen build our country's skills in this industry.

Q: The Yemeni-Lebanese Fraternity Association headed by Mr. Yahya Mohamed Abdullah Saleh has been an active body promoting relations between the two countries, especially in tourism. How do you evaluate the importance of cooperation in this sector?

A: Indeed, the tourism sector in Yemen is in need for greater assistance as it was affected by the Abyan event of 1998. We have, however, encouraged Lebanese companies to invest in the tourism sector in Yemen especially as it is considered unexploited. However, we also understand that stability and security are essential before any investments. But Lebanese companies are aware of the potential of Yemen, and we may soon hear good news of some Lebanese investments.

Q: Our final question is personal.

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How had Dr. Qubaty changed after he moved from the post of a political in Yemen to an ambassador abroad?

A: I am still the same man when it comes to family. But I am now away from the headaches of political maneuvers and tactics. But again, I have been posted in a country which doesn't lack political activity. On the contrary, Lebanon is a country where three continents are meeting and so do religions and political affiliations, etc. But as a family man, I still am the same. I have my family with me here. We are satisfied with the quality of education for my kids. But I am still connected to Yemen. It may be true that I am more settled here as I was in the front line with the ruling party when I was in Yemen, but again Lebanon is a country of continuing political action. The amount of time I follow political clashes and activities is much greater when we take the regional and international dimensions into perspective. Lebanon is, as you know, a cultural and intellectual hub where free media is widely

active. I am lucky to be working in Beirut, as I knew the country since I was a student in the early seventies, but things were quite different then. There is a lot to learn from Lebanon. Despite the troubles they have had, Lebanese are ingenious in facing problems with inspiring and new ideas. They have adopted multi-religious, multi-cultural diversity and were able to use this in their example by promoting tolerance and free media.

As Yemenis, we need to learn a lot indeed from Lebanon, especially as regards religious tolerance and maintaining peace.

Q: Any final words you may have?

A: I just would like to express my gratitude to Yemen Times for this interview. I respect the paper greatly and of course I admire its founder, Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who was also a personal friend of mine and an opinion leader whom we miss greatly in these times. I send my best of regards to your readers.

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A few expectations of US elections

By PETER WILLEMS
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Thousands of Americans took to the streets in New York last week protesting against US President George Bush. The day before the Republican National Convention began at New York's Madison Square Garden, between 250,000 and 400,000 people demonstrated carrying signs and chanting "No More Bush."

As Leslie Cagan, National Coordinator of United for Peace and Justice, which sponsored the demonstration, put it, "We are saying 'no' to the Bush agenda, 'no' to the war in Iraq, 'no' to the regime change by our government, 'no' to pre-emptive war, 'no' to the economic policies."

There is little doubt that many Yemenis would have liked to have joined the demonstration. Since the Bush

administration carried out the invasion in Iraq in March 2003, US-led occupation has continued and ongoing violence has left the war-torn country in shambles, and anti-American sentiment has risen.

Most of the Yemenis that spoke to Yemen Times said that they want Bush to be defeated in the upcoming elections next November. "All I hope for is that Bush loses in the elections," said a Yemeni businessman. "That's all I want."

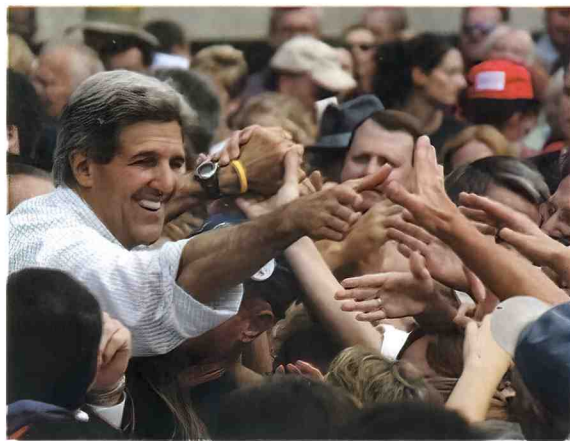
Recent polls in the United States show that Bush, who was officially nominated at the convention as the Republican presidential candidate, is running neck-and-neck with the Democratic candidate John Kerry. A survey carried out by CNN/USA Today/Gallup two weeks ago came out with Kerry ahead of Bush 48% to 47%, with a 3.5% margin of error.

But while many Yemenis are hoping for Kerry to win, some have said that it is not clear if he will be able to make a big difference.

The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has left over 2,700 Palestinians and 950 Israelis dead since 2000, is an issue that Yemenis would like solved. The Bush administration has been seen as offering little, if any, assistance to bring peace to both sides and help create a Palestinian state. Some analysts believe that US foreign policy in the Middle East, especially its position with regards to Israel, will not change whether Kerry takes office or Bush remains as president.

"There is a pervasive view throughout the Middle East that for the Arabs and the Muslims it does not matter who wins or loses," said Abdullah Al-Faqih, Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University. "Whoever gets to the White House is going to be pro-Israeli, anti-Arab and anti-Muslim. This is the way things have been for a long time."

There is hope that if Kerry wins, he will be able to step forward and get a peace plan



U.S. Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry greets the crowd at a campaign rally in Akron, Ohio September 4, 2004. Kerry on Saturday rebuked President George W. Bush for trying to "bamboozle" U.S. voters and hiding behind the news of Hurricane Frances in Florida and a bloody school siege in Russia. Kerry questioned the timing of the Bush administration's announcement that older Americans will have to pay about 17 percent more next year, the largest increase in Medicare's history, for their government-run health insurance. REUTERS

moving. The last Democratic president, Bill Clinton, made an effort and came close to getting both sides to sign an agreement that would have established a Palestinian state.

"History shows that the Democratic party has tried harder than the Republicans to solve the Israeli-Palestinian problem, including Bill Clinton who almost succeeded," said Gazem Alaghbari, Head of the Europe Department at Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "So there might be a better chance with Kerry instead of Bush."

Some think that Kerry may see benefits of pushing for peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The United States has been fighting terrorism since the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., on September 11th 2001. Some analysts believe that if a peace initiative succeeds, it may help the United States fight against terrorism.

"If the United States insured peace and the establishment of a Palestinian state, terrorist groups would lose over 60% of their ability to recruit new members because the Palestinian issue has been a key issue for many years," said

Al-Faqih. "A new president could see that."

While fighting goes on and security continues to deteriorate, most analysts hold that if Kerry wins he will not be able to pull US-led troops out of Iraq soon.

"Kerry will not make a big difference in Iraq," said Alaghbari. "The situation is too difficult for US troops to withdraw, so there might not be much of a difference between Kerry and Bush."

Bush has focused a lot of his presidential campaign on US national security. He argues that he was responsible for the establishment of the country's Homeland

Security Department and the Patriot Act to help build America's defense against potential terrorist attacks.

Bush has also linked the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to his success in fighting the war on terror.

"A free and peaceful Iraq and a free and peaceful Afghanistan will be powerful examples in a neighborhood that is desperate for liberty," said Bush recently while speaking in New Mexico. "Free countries do not export terror."

In the CNN/USA Today/Gallup survey, US voters preferred Bush over Kerry 54% to 37% on fighting terrorism and 49% to 43% for guiding Iraq into the future.

Most Yemeni analysts see that the Bush administration not only mishandled dealing with Iraq but also distanced the United States from numerous allies around the world.

"For the last four years, I've been disappointed in US policies," said Ahmed Al-Kibsi, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science at Sana'a University. "US allies became enemies. Allies became suspects. It is difficult to understand how you can work against your own inter-

ests."

When it comes to national security, Kerry's position is not far from his opponent's. He has promised US citizens to strengthen the US military and intelligence operations. He also said that it is too early to pull troops out of Iraq.

Analysts believe that one of Kerry's campaign promises related to the United States handling Middle East affairs is positive. To continue the war on terror and rebuild and bring peace to Iraq, he has emphasized that strengthening alliances is important. On the campaign trail, Kerry has criticized the Bush

administration for taking on terror and handling the war in Iraq by "going it alone."

"While acknowledging that Kerry might not be the best candidate, many still see him as the best of the two alternatives," said Al-Faqih. "He has the potential of bridging the gap between the United States and its European and other allies, which has widened during the last four years, and consequently could provide the impetus for stabilizing Iraq and preventing further deterioration in the world's most unstable area, the Middle East."

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Suicide car bomb kills 17 in northern Iraq

KIRKUK, Iraq, Sept 4 (Reuters) - A suicide bomber detonated his vehicle near a police academy in the city of Kirkuk on Saturday, killing at least 17 people and wounding 20, police said, in the latest attack on Iraqi security forces.

Police said the head of the bomber, with a long beard, was found among the debris scattered by the blast around 150 metres (yards) from the police building. Four civilian vehicles and one police car were destroyed.

Kirkuk police chief Turhan Mustafa said the blast killed at least 14 policemen and three civilians.

Guerrillas opposed to Iraq's U.S.-backed government and the presence of foreign troops have repeatedly attacked Iraqi police stations with suicide bombs, killing hundreds.

Elsewhere in northern Iraq, U.S.-led forces backed by warplanes battled insurgents west of the city of Mosul. At least 13 people were killed and 52 wounded in the clashes in the town of Tallafar, doctors and the U.S. military said.

A U.S. helicopter made a forced landing during the fighting, wounding two crew members, the military said.

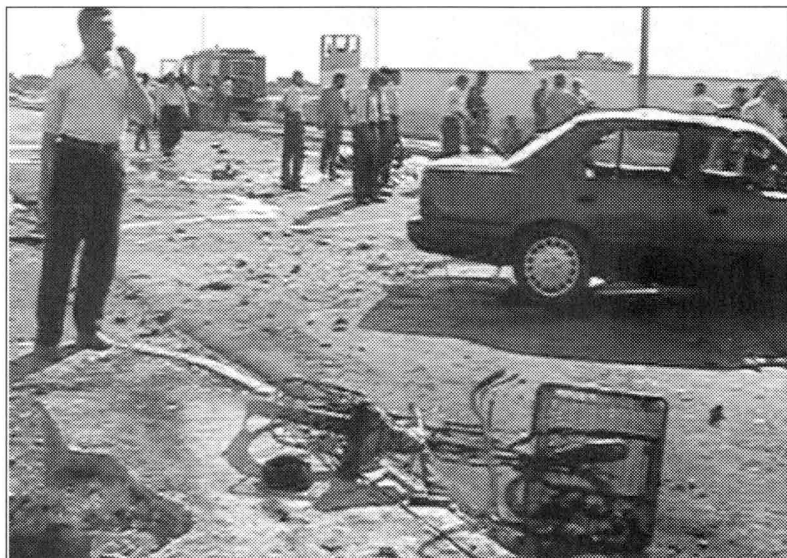
Fighting erupted in the town after U.S. forces moved in to "capture or kill members of a known terrorist cell", a military statement said. It said two guerrillas were killed and one captured during the initial clashes.

A U.S. Stryker vehicle securing the site of the downed helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, disabling the vehicle, the military said. It said soldiers returned fire, killing two more guerrillas.

Doctors said nine civilians were killed, and many of the wounded were women and children.

"Civilians are being brought in into the hospital. We expect the number of casualties to increase," one doctor said.

U.S. helicopters flew overhead and columns of smoke rose skyward. Machinegun fire crackled in the streets.



A television grab shows the scene of where a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle near a police academy in the city of Kirkuk, some 250km north of Baghdad, September 4. The latest attack on Iraqi security forces came on Saturday as hundreds of police were leaving the building and the street was crowded, killing at least 17 people and wounding 36, police said. REUTERS

Responding to heavy fire, U.S. troops called in air support, dropping a bomb in an area near Tallafar. No casualties were reported from the bombing, the U.S. military said.

The U.S. military says Tallafar is a haven for suspected guerrillas crossing into Iraq from Syria.

Hostage crisis

Iraq's government, working with U.S.-led forces, is trying to stamp out an insurgency ahead of elections in January, and is also grappling with a hostage crisis, with insurgents increasingly kidnapping foreigners.

There was no new word on the fate of French journalists Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot, seized on Aug. 20 by militants from the Islamic Army in Iraq.

French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin expressed "prudence but confidence" about securing their release.

A law banning Muslim headscarves in state schools, which the kidnappers

wanted Paris to rescind, went into force on Thursday.

The seizure of the Frenchmen stunned France, which opposed the U.S.-led Iraq war and has no troops there.

Le Parisien quoted a source in Baghdad who is close to negotiations on the hostages' release as saying: "We are at a dangerous time where one grain of sand could upset the scenario of their release."

Headlines such as "Hostages: The endless wait" in the daily Le Figaro and "Hostages: Back to waiting" in Liberation contrasted with much more optimistic headlines in French newspapers a day earlier.

The change of tone followed calls for caution on Friday by Raffarin and Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, anxious not to allow anything to upset moves to secure the reporters' release.

"We have positive information but there are hurdles to overcome," Raffarin said.

Syria to deepen ties with Lebanon despite UN vote

DAMASCUS, Sept 4 (Reuters) - Syria said on Saturday it would deepen ties with neighbouring Lebanon, despite a U.N. Security Council resolution warning against outside interference there.

The resolution aimed — in vain — to head off a vote in Lebanon's parliament to extend the term of the Syrian-backed president, Emile Lahoud, for three years after his current six-year term expires.

Many Council members regarded the extension as imposed by Syria, which dominates Lebanon politically and has 17,000 troops there.

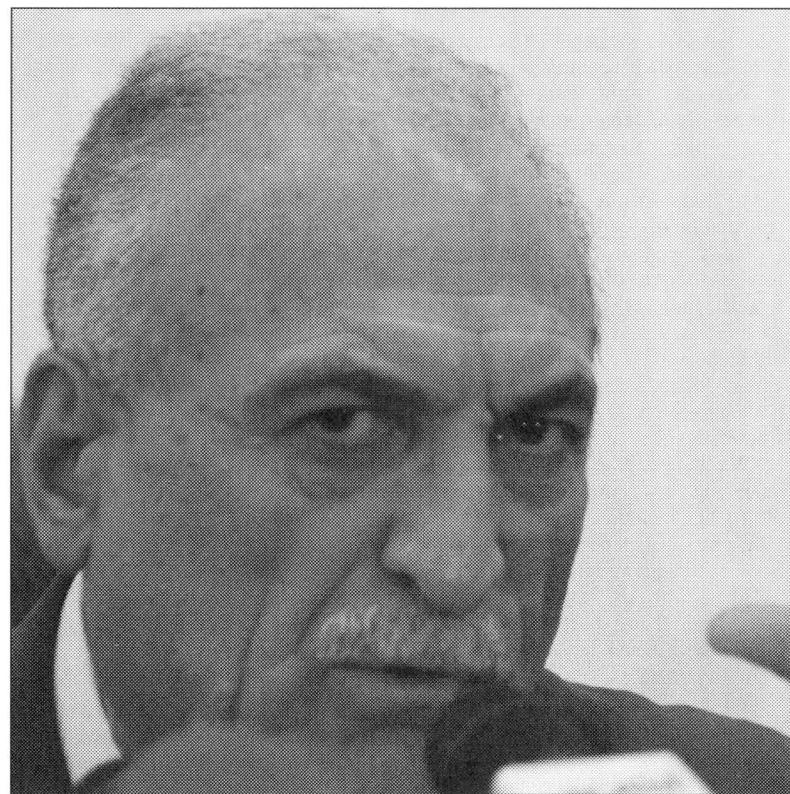
"The most important thing of all is that brotherly Syrian-Lebanese relations take the path of more cooperation, coordination and congruity," Syrian Information Minister Ahmad al-Hassan told a press conference.

He said Syria was sorry the Council had "given in to U.S. pressure" to intervene in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. Syria branded the resolution a failure because it squeaked through with the minimum number of votes.

The White House said Damascus had pressured, threatened and intimidated Lebanese officials to get the constitution changed, accusations Hassan denied.

He in turn accused the United States of using the Security Council to punish Syria for its opposition to the war on Iraq.

"It is trying to exploit the Security Council as a cover to continue what it failed to achieve in its world war — not on terror, as the neo-conservatives in the



Syrian Information Minister Ahmad al-Hassan addresses a press conference in Damascus September 4. Hassan said Syria would deepen ties with Lebanon despite a U.N. resolution demanding it quit meddling in its smaller neighbours affairs. REUTERS

American administration claim, but to spread American imperialism," he said.

"The reasons for the latest Security Council resolution come under the headline of settling scores with Syria

and Lebanon over their opposition to this war."

Washington has accused Syria of failing to stop foreign fighters crossing into Iraq to attack U.S. troops there.

Sudan says internal politics drives US over Darfur

KHARTOUM, Sept 4 (Reuters) - Sudan said on Saturday the United States was wrong to try to label the conflict in Darfur as genocide and said recent hardline U.S. statements on Sudan were aimed at domestic constituencies and the U.S. elections.

"As long as elections are going on, and as long as both parties are competing for the votes of the African-Americans you should not expect a neutral or fair position to the situation in Darfur," Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told reporters.

The United States said on Friday it was preparing a new U.N. resolution on Darfur and that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell might address next week whether the violence in western Sudan constituted genocide.

The U.S. Congress has already labelled the conflict in Darfur genocide but the administration of President George W. Bush has not yet taken that step.

Ismail said he planned to speak to Powell later on Saturday to explain the current situation in Darfur.

"Its (U.S.) decisions are influenced by internal factors whether they be pressure groups or the pending elec-

tions. (U.S.) Congress' stance on genocide is and remains a solitary one ... because it (genocide) is simply not happening," he said.

"We are open, we are ready for cooperation. You (America) should give us a chance. You shouldn't push for confrontation," he said, adding that sanctions would not help.

Fighting erupted in Darfur in February 2003 when rebels took up arms against Khartoum after years of low-level clashes between African farmers and Arab nomads over scarce resources.

Rebels and others accuse the government of arming the Arab Janjaweed militia to loot and burn African villages. The United Nations says fighting has created the world's worst humanitarian disaster and up to 50,000 people have been killed.

Khartoum denies backing the Janjaweed, calling the militias outlaws.

US says UN not doing enough

The U.N. Security Council threatened on July 30 to consider imposing unspecified sanctions on Sudan if it failed within 30 days to disarm and

prosecute the Janjaweed militias accused of much of the violence.

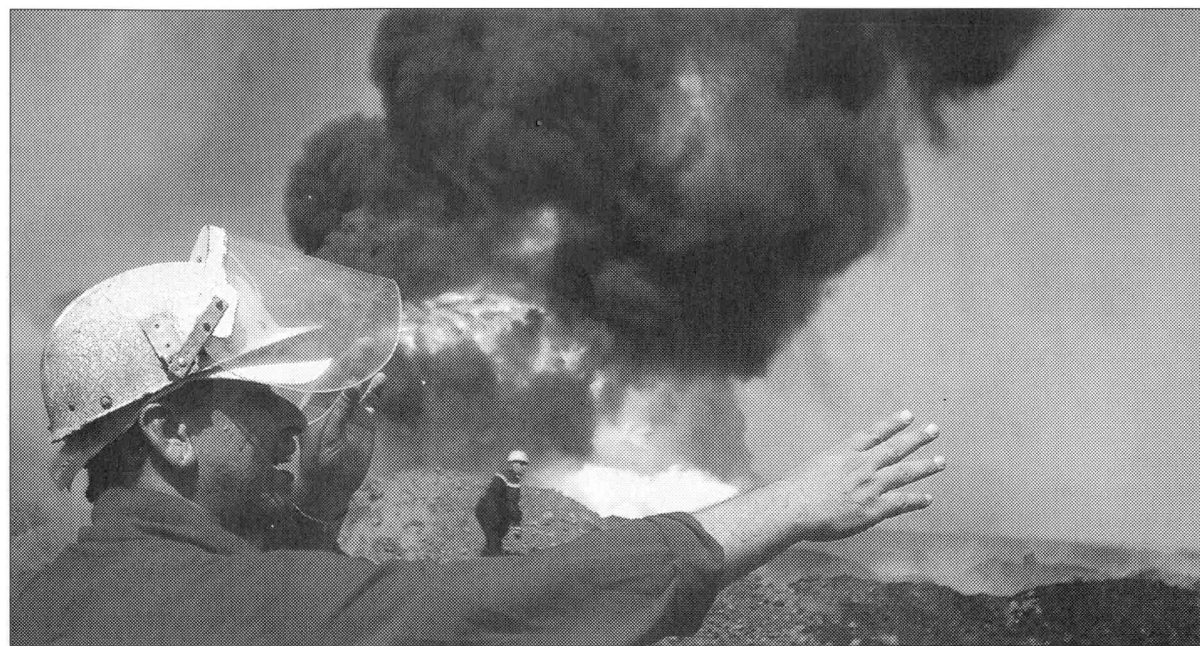
After getting a report on Khartoum's response to the U.N. deadline, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday some progress had been made in curbing the militia but the "vast majority of armed militias has not been disbanded".

No sanctions were called for however. Instead U.N. envoy for Sudan Jan Pronk proposed a wider mandate for African Union monitors to help stop abuses in Darfur.

Washington reacted quickly saying the United Nations was not being tough enough with Khartoum.

Ismail said Sudan was not against increasing the number of African monitors in Sudan, but said Sudanese forces should remain responsible for security in the region so that the monitors did not become caught up in the conflict.

"We should not give the impression that we are against the presence of the Africans. What we are saying is that Darfur is full of weapons ... So keeping of security, direct security, should be the responsibility of the Sudanese forces," he said.



An Iraqi fireman battles a burning pipeline after a bomb exploded underneath the products pipeline, which runs from the oil centre of Kirkuk to Iraq's biggest oil refinery at Baiji, some 30 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, September 4. Saboteurs kept up relentless attacks on Iraq's oil production system on Saturday, hitting pipelines in the north and south that disrupted internal supply, oil officials said. REUTERS

Yawar says hopes Iraq, Kuwait bury hatchet for good

KUWAIT, Sept 4 (Reuters) - Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar said on Saturday he hoped Kuwait and Iraq would put behind them forever any lingering acrimony over the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and move toward a "balanced" relationship.

"We want Iraq to be a support for Kuwait and Kuwait a support for Iraq," Yawar told Kuwaiti news agency KUNA in an interview in Baghdad.

"Kuwait embraces many of our sons and we hope that relations between us go back to the way they were in the distant past," added Yawar, referring to Iraqis living in Kuwait.

Yawar's remarks were the latest expression of goodwill towards Kuwait from a top Iraqi official. In

July, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari reiterated that his government would provide any security guarantees demanded by Kuwait in an effort to overcome the troubled past between the two neighbours.

Kuwait in June restored diplomatic ties with Baghdad and official ties have improved between the former foes since the toppling of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein last year.

However, many ordinary Kuwaitis remain suspicious a future Iraqi government may harbour territorial designs on their tiny country.

"Kuwait is a brotherly, Arab Muslim state, and a neighbour; our relations with Kuwait should be balanced to a large extent," Yawar told KUNA.

Kuwait was the launch pad for last

year's U.S.-led war in Iraq which removed Saddam, whose forces were evicted from the Gulf Arab state in 1991 by a U.S.-led multinational coalition after a seven-month occupation.

MOST FILES WOUND UP

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Energy Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah said in remarks published on Saturday there was no need for further talks between Iraq and Kuwait on most issues such as borders and Gulf War reparations sought from Baghdad as these have been wound up.

"These files we consider to be almost concluded, when we talk about the issue of the borders which was settled by the United Nations and when we talk about the compensations,

that's a matter that has been resolved by the United Nations," he said.

"And when we talk about debts, Iraq did not depart from international consensus and will accept any measure over the debts just like other countries to which Iraq owes debts have accepted," he told Al Arabiya television late on Friday.

The minister did not elaborate. His remarks were published by Kuwaiti newspapers on Saturday.

Kuwait agreed to a substantial reduction to a debt of about \$16 billion that Iraq owes it and wants to negotiate the extent of the cut with a permanent Baghdad government. But Kuwait has also said it cannot forgo the billions of dollars of war damages sought from Baghdad, an issue it calls a red-line.

Kuwait releases four on bail pending trial

KUWAIT, Sept 4 (Reuters) - A judge on Saturday released four Kuwaitis, including three youths, on a 300 dinar (\$1,020) bail each pending trial for allegedly planning to fight U.S.-led troops in Kuwait and neighbouring Iraq, judicial sources said.

They said the judge ordered the release from a juvenile detention centre of Mohammad Lafi, Fahed al-Mutairi and Dhari al-Zahameel — all handed over by Syria in July for attempting to illegally enter Iraq and launch attacks against foreign forces.

A Kuwaiti man, Zayed al-Enizi, was also released on Monday, the sources added.

The public prosecution has been interrogating the three youths for leads

to other Kuwaiti suspected al Qaeda supporters, such as Enizi, accused of running a local network of juveniles indoctrinated in radical religious thought with the intent of fighting U.S. forces in Iraq and Kuwait.

Kuwait has tightened security after a surge in violence in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. It has also cracked down on Islamists opposed to the presence of foreign troops, and has launched a state-wide awareness program to combat religious extremism.

Kuwait was used as the springboard for the 2003 U.S.-led invasion which toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whose forces invaded the American-allied Gulf Arab state in 1990.

Southeast Asia, China, Japan work to boost trade

JAKARTA, Sept 4 (Reuters) - Southeast Asian economic ministers met on Saturday with counterparts from powerhouses Japan and China, and made progress toward liberalising trade and boosting business, officials said.

Ministers from the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) were also set to talk over the weekend with officials from South Korea, India, the European Union, Australia and New Zealand.

Japan and the ASEAN ministers agreed to open negotiations on a free trade agreement in April 2005, officials from both sides said.

"We'll start these talks in April next year and have committed to make efforts to conclude an agreement within two years," Japanese Trade Minister Shoichi Nakagawa told reporters.

He said the ASEAN side was "more enthusiastic than expected" about a partnership with Japan, he said.

A Japan-ASEAN free trade zone would combine the world's second-biggest economy with countries that together boast an annual trade volume of well over \$700 billion, roughly equal to Japan's, and a population more than four times as large.

ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong confirmed agreement on an April start date to Reuters, but gave no other details.

The ministers met separately with Chinese officials.

ASEAN and China have already been working on a deal that could result in the world's biggest free trade zone of nearly two billion people with a combined gross domestic product of \$2 trillion by 2010. That is the target date for agreement with ASEAN's six more developed countries — Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and



Japanese Trade and Industry Minister Shoichi Nakagawa (2nd-L), accompanied by South Korean Trade Minister Kim Hyung Chong (L) and China's Commerce Minister Bo Xilai (2nd-R) and Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang (R), speaks in a joint news conference after their meeting in Jakarta on September 4.

REUTERS

Brunei.

The target for China and the four other ASEAN members (Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos) is 2015.

Snags and missed deadlines have been reported in some of the past negotiations, however.

Asked whether some ASEAN countries were worried about being able to compete with China, Li Haisheng, an economic and commercial official from the Chinese embassy in Jakarta, said:

"Yes, some of them, but now after discussions ... they have gradually realised that to form a free trade zone is useful and beneficial for every country."

Li told Reuters that ASEAN had

recognised China as a market economy. The view that it is a non-market economy sometimes causes problems for China in trade deals.

On Friday, the ASEAN ministers had agreed on steps to further liberalise trade and commerce among themselves, but many also think it is essential for their 500-million-strong region to break down economic barriers with other areas.

"ASEAN must remain open to the global economy. ASEAN must continue to improve its trade and economic ties with its main partners," Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri said in a speech at the opening ceremony.

Endorsing free trade agreements with important world economies, she said the main objective is to widen ASEAN's market and gain access to cheaper sources of capital goods and products.

ASEAN leaders agreed last year to transform the region into a giant EU-style free trade zone by 2020.

Towards that goal, the ministers agreed on Friday that tariff and non-tariff barriers in 11 sectors should be removed by 2007 by ASEAN's six more developed members and 2012 by the rest.

Those proposals would be presented to ASEAN leaders for approval at a meeting in Laos in November.

More West Africa locust swarms coming soon: reports

NOUAKCHOTT, Sept 4 (Reuters) - Locusts in West Africa are devouring crops and breeding at such a rate they are expected to create a substantial number of new swarms across the region September, two reports said. Mauritania's locust-fighting body (CLAA) said in its latest bulletin that groups of newly hatched, wingless juveniles known as "hopper bands" were munching up to 40 percent of crops and pastures in affected zones while mature swarms of the airborne pests were busily mating and laying eggs.

"The situation is getting worse day by day due to new hatchings, the growth of hopper bands and the formation of massive new swarms ... in the east and southeast of the country," the CLAA said in the report, seen on Friday.

West Africa's worst locust infestation in 15 years, spreading from the Atlantic coast to eastern Chad, threatens to trigger famine in a region where many people are subsistence farmers and governments lack the means to fight the pests.

Some diplomats fear it may already be too late to stop the pests and say donors might have to provide food aid when shortages hit the already impoverished region.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation painted a similarly grim picture for West

Africa in a report released on Friday, saying new swarms were expected to form in Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger during September.

It said "substantial" swarms were expected to appear in the south of Mauritania and a vast area stretching across Mali. It said there was a "high risk" of new swarms forming in the north of Senegal and moving south in October.

Last month, 101,247 hectares in five West African countries were treated with pesticides, but experts who met in Senegal's capital Dakar to form a battle plan last week said 2.3 million hectares were at risk from the marauding pests.

Agriculture ministers meeting in Dakar pledged to wage a military style war on the airborne pests from bases in nine countries and called on donors to equip them with pesticide and planes as quickly as possible.

"Significant crop damage has occurred in several countries. Control operations are underway in all countries but are hampered by insufficient resources," the FAO said.

In Mali, the president and other government members have renounced a month's wages to fund the fight against locusts. The former French colony estimates it needs 8.6 billion CFA francs (\$15,800,000) to treat 650,000 hectares.

Afghan rights group suspects commander of beheadings

KABUL, Sept 4 (Reuters) - A leading human rights group in Afghanistan said on Saturday it suspected a renegade commander was behind the beheading and skinning of fighters loyal to Ismail Khan, governor of the western province of Herat.

The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) also said that it had found that forces loyal to commander Amanullah Khan had intimidated some women and committed robbery during an attack on the governor's forces in August.

Amanullah's forces submitted to a U.S.-brokered ceasefire after sweeping into several governmental areas including the Shindand airbase south of Herat city.

"More than four people, supporters of Ismail Khan, were beheaded and one person was skinned," Aman Nader Nadery, an AIHRC spokesman, told Reuters.

"Among them was the garrison commander of Shindand. There is a strong possibility that Amanullah Khan was behind this," he said, adding that some bodies had been dumped into a well.

Amanullah, who has agreed to obey a summons to Kabul by President Hamid Karzai, was not immediately available for comment.

The fighting in Herat came amid rising violence by the ousted Taliban and their Islamic allies ahead of landmark presidential elections on October 9.

Herat accounts for around 8 percent of the 10 million Afghans registered to vote in the country's first effort in democracy.

Nadery said his group had visited

the areas of the fighting after hearing of the abuses from locals and eye-witnesses.

He said a thorough investigation was under way.

Herat's governor has called on Karzai to put Amanullah on trial for starting the fighting and killing dozens of his troops.

Ismail Khan is a legendary commander from the time of Afghanistan's war of liberation against the Soviet Union and a one-time prisoner of the ousted Taliban.

His ethnic Tajik forces have been involved in several clashes since Karzai's U.S.-backed government was installed to power after the Taliban's overthrow in late 2001.

Amanullah like Karzai and many of the Taliban are Pashtuns, the traditional rulers of Afghanistan. He accuses Ismail Khan of failing to accommodate him in the local administration.

Ismail Khan suspects that Taliban remnants supported Amanullah and that members of Karzai's cabinet encouraged his offensive.

Some 18,000 U.S.-led troops and Kabul's newly trained Afghan National Army are hunting remnants of the Taliban and other militants in the Pashtun-dominated south and east.

Further escalation of the fighting in Herat might damage Karzai's standing with non-Pashtuns in an election set to be dominated by security and ethnic issues.

The U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, brokered a truce on August 17, stepping in at Karzai's behest to help stop the conflict from further stirring ethnic tensions.

Japan princess breaks seclusion, visits emperor

TOKYO, Sept 4 (Reuters) - Japan's Crown Princess Masako emerged briefly on Saturday from months of seclusion to visit the emperor, but officials said it might be difficult for her to resume her official duties this year.

Masako, who the palace said in July was suffering from stress-related depression caused by having to adjust to royal life, was accompanied by Crown Prince Naruhito for the short trip, her first venture outside palace grounds for around four months.

Television footage showed the 40-year-old princess smiling and bowing from behind the car window as she and Naruhito were driven from the palace where they live to the nearby residence of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

"I believe she went to thank the emperor and empress for their good wishes and hopes for her recovery during her illness," said a spokesman at the Imperial Household Agency, which handles the royal family's affairs.

"The emperor has also had some health problems recently, and I think she went to express her sympathy in turn."

Akihito, who had surgery for prostate cancer last year, began hormone treatment in July after tests



Japan's Crown Princess Masako, accompanied by Crown Prince Naruhito, smiles upon arrival at Imperial Palace compound in Tokyo Japan's Crown Princess Masako (R), accompanied by Crown Prince Naruhito, smiles upon arrival at the Imperial Palace compound in Tokyo Sept 4.

REUTERS

showed rising levels of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in his blood, raising concerns that the cancer had recurred or had not been entirely removed.

Asked if the visit meant Masako's condition had improved and that she might soon be able to resume her official duties, the official said this was not necessarily the case.

"A member of the crown prince's household told reporters yesterday that

caused by stress. She has not taken part in any official duties since December.

Her husband set off a furore last spring when he said that Masako, once a cheerful and outgoing career diplomat, had become totally exhausted by 10 years of efforts to adapt to palace life.

There were hints in July that her health might be improving when palace officials reported that she had begun playing tennis with the crown prince, but they warned even then that it was too early to say she was truly recovering.

At the end of July, though, officials announced that she was experiencing anxiety and depressive moods, and that her doctors felt it would be difficult for her to carry out official duties.

Royal watchers say much of the stress comes from pressure on her to produce a male heir and from moves to prevent her from acting as a sort of "royal envoy" overseas.

The couple's only child, born after eight years of marriage, is a girl, Aiko, and laws prohibit female succession.

No boys have been born into the imperial family since Akishino, Naruhito's younger brother, in 1965. Both of Akishino's children are girls.

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرسلها مع باقات من الورود والياسمين والفل والرياحين الى البنت العزيزة

وزيرة حميد الشفق

بمناسبة تخرجها من الثانوية وحصولها على نتيجة مشرفة بنسبة ٨٨ % علمي

والى البنت العزيزة

رويدا حميد الشفق

بمناسبة نجاحها من الصف الأول ثانوي الى الصف الثاني ثانوي وترتيب الأولى على الترتيب بدورية الشهدا ارجع ليرة

فالف المبروك مع تمنياتنا لها بمواصلة التقدم والازدهار في حياتها العلمية والعملية

المعشرون:

الخال: عصام عبد الجليل الخولاني وجميع الأهل والأحبة

عيد ميلاد سعيد

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نهيها لطفل الحبيب

محمد رمزي الزيري

بمناسبة إطفائه الشمعة الثانية

عيد ميلاد سعيد... وعمر مديد... بصحة وسعادة

المهنون: وضاح عبد الغني، بابا، ماما،

موظفي شركة التجارة العربية وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

France hopes Iraq hostages will be freed soon

PARIS, Sept 4 (Reuters) - France said on Saturday it hoped Islamic militants were about to free two French hostages, but urged caution as fresh violence erupted in Iraq.

"All the indications we have strengthen hope for their imminent release," Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin said, welcoming home a Muslim delegation that flew to Iraq to try to help free journalists Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot.

"You know the prevailing situation in Iraq and, of course, in this context there is a need for great caution," he said.

There was no fresh word from the Islamic Army in Iraq, which seized the two reporters on Aug. 20, stunning France which opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq and has no troops there.

French officials had hoped the men would be freed on Friday after what

many interpreted as positive signs, including appeals for their release from Arab and Muslim leaders.

But the government, which rejected the kidnappers' demands to revoke a law banning Muslim headscarves in state schools, has injected a note of caution into its statements.

French officials are wary of any media headlines that might upset the kidnappers or other radical militants who might put pressure on the hostage-takers.

"We were assured they are in good health and being treated well ... We are confident," said Abdallah Zekri, who was part of the French Muslim delegation which visited Baghdad.

"It is a question of security," he said, echoing other members of the delegation who said the instability and risk of violence in Iraq complicated efforts to arrange a safe han-



French Muslim leaders arrive for talks in Baghdad on release of hostages Delegate of the Federation of the Paris Mosque Abdallah Zekri, President of the French Muslim Federation Mohamed Bechari, and Vice-President of the French Muslim Council Fouad Allaoui (L-R) walk from the French embassy in Baghdad to attend meetings with Iraqi Muslim clerics September 2.

dover of the journalists.

Fighting erupted between U.S.-led forces and insurgents on Saturday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, and explosions and machinegun fire were heard in Tallafar, west of Mosul.

Police said a suicide car bomber killed at least 17 people near a police academy in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk.

Le Parisien newspaper quoted Sylvie Chérin, Malbrunot's partner, as saying the journalists' release seemed to be a question of days rather than hours.

"We have positive information but there are hurdles to overcome," Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said on Friday.

Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, in Amman after a Middle East mission to try to help the reporters, said the hostages were being treated well but also called for caution.

Bill Clinton to have heart surgery next week

NEW YORK, Sept 3 (Reuters) - Former President Bill Clinton will have heart bypass surgery early next week after being rushed to a top New York hospital on Friday complaining of chest pains and shortness of breath.

In a phone call from his hospital to CNN, Clinton, 58, said he felt "great" but an angiogram had found a "significant" blockage in a blood vessel.

"My blockage is so substantial, I think if I don't do this (surgery) I think there's virtually a 100 percent chance that I'll have a heart attack," Clinton told "Larry King Live".

"Some of this is genetic and I may have done some damage in those years when I was too careless about what I ate ... I've got a problem and I've got a chance to deal with it," Clinton said.

"Let me just say this, the Republicans are not the only people who want four more years here," he said, referring to the bid by his successor, President George W. Bush, to win re-election in November.

Clinton said he had gone for the angiogram — a blood vessel X-ray —

after feeling tightness in his chest.

"I think it (the angiogram) probably saved my life ... I guess I'm a little scared, but not much," he said.

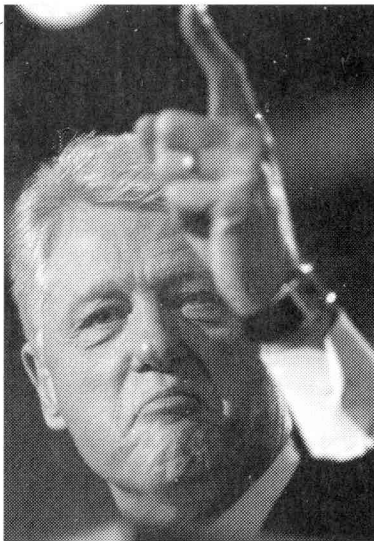
His wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, told reporters earlier after visiting him at the New York Presbyterian Hospital that he would have surgery early next week.

"My husband is doing very well, he's in great humor," she said. "He's beating all of us at cards and the rest of the games we're playing."

The former president went to his local hospital on Thursday and had more tests on Friday.

"I'm just going to have to be really careful, I've put about 10 pounds of that weight I lost, back on during my book tour," Clinton told CNN. "I've got to take it off and just do everything I can to keep my cholesterol down, keep my blood pressure down."

Still popular despite the sex scandals that dogged his presidency, Clinton, a former governor of Arkansas, has been active giving speeches and writing and promoting his best-selling memoir



File photo of former U.S. President Clinton at Democratic Convention in Boston. File photo showing former U.S. President Bill Clinton delivers the keynote speech at the opening session of the Democratic National Convention in Boston, on July 26. REUTERS

— "My Life" — since leaving office in 2001.

During his White House years, Clinton was often overweight despite his regular jogging. But he showed no signs of heart problems in the rigorous health examinations made public during his two presidential terms between 1993 and 2001.

More recently he has looked trim, something he has attributed to the South Beach diet, which excludes processed foods and favors lean meat. "Odds are he'll be able to have a normal life when he's done," said Dr. Irving Kron, chairman of surgery at the University of Virginia.

Coronary bypass surgery redirects blood in the heart by grafting sections of the patient's own vessels and has become a common and highly successful procedure in recent years.

"Most people have an excellent long-term prognosis afterward," said Dr. Christopher Cannon, of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

After his operation, Clinton may need to take a daily handful of pills and curb his fast-food habit to keep his arteries from re-clogging, cardiologists said.

Bypass surgery generally entails little risk for someone of Clinton's relatively young age. Patients are usually hospitalized for four to six days after the procedure and should rest for a month before resuming a full work schedule.

Clinton presided over the nation's longest economic boom but had many policy setbacks, most notably on his plans for health care, and was dogged by personal scandal.

His presidency was indelibly marked by a sex-and-perjury scandal involving his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky, which led to his impeachment.

Bush's Democratic rival, Sen. John Kerry, sent Clinton "our best wishes, our prayers, our thoughts." In Wisconsin, Bush said, "We send him our best wishes for a swift and speedy recovery."

In her remarks outside the hospital, Mrs Clinton said she was grateful she and her husband had good health insurance. "I hope someday everybody will be able to say the same thing."



Members of the press gather in front of the Milstein Hospital Building at New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York, September 3, 2004. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was admitted to a New York hospital on Friday for heart bypass surgery, a statement from his office said. The 58-year-old former president, a Democrat who served two terms from 1993 to 2001, had gone to Northern Westchester Hospital on Thursday afternoon after experiencing mild chest pain and shortness of breath, his office said. REUTERS

Germany faces fresh divisions 14 years after unity

BERLIN, Sept 4 (Reuters) - A growing rift between east and west Germany, fuelled by government spending cuts, is poisoning the nation's atmosphere 14 years after German reunification, two top diplomats said on Saturday.

Former West German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Markus Meckel, Genscher's East German counterpart in the 1990 reunification talks, said in a joint newspaper interview they were alarmed at the growing east-west polarisation.

"I wouldn't call it a division, but there is a clear danger of a new west-east conflict," Genscher told the Koelnische Rundschau. "There are some who are whipping that up by saying things like 'the west has paid too high a price'."

Merkel said the best and the brightest were being forced to leave the formerly communist east and move to the west because of the perennial high unemployment and poverty in the east.

"Those staying behind have a sense there is no future," Meckel said. "They feel like a subclass, as if they're not recognised as equal citizens. In the west, I sense there is growing anger that so much money has gone into the east."

Westerners are sometimes disparaged in the east as arrogant know-it-all "Wessies" while easterners are at times referred to as "Jammer Ossies" (whinging easterners) in the west.

Political leaders have warned recently of growing animosity between the east and more prosperous west in the face of government welfare cuts that have sparked protests nationwide.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has said he was worried about the palpable resentment between the once-divided sides.

A survey in Die Welt newspaper on Friday found that one-third of westerners believe easterners are "ungrateful" for the financial support the region received since 1990, and 35 percent blame easterners for not doing more to help themselves.

Also, 52 percent said the 80 billion euros that the government pumps into the east each year was too much.

Some western leaders, such as North Rhine-Westphalia state premier Peer Steinbrueck, have said some western towns are envious of generous support eastern towns are getting. He said poor western regions should not be disadvantaged to the east.

"The prejudices get nourishment ... with terms such as 'burden of unification'," Genscher said. "What's really meant is the burdens from 40 years of misguided Socialist rule. Unification didn't cause any problems. It created possibilities."

When asked how long it would take for the east and west to overcome their mutual animosity, Meckel said: "It's going to take at least another generation."

EU insists Serbia, Montenegro must work together

VALKENBURG, Netherlands, Sept 4 (Reuters) - European Union foreign ministers said on Saturday that Serbia and Montenegro must make their stalled state union work if they wanted closer ties and eventual membership of the 25-nation bloc.

Ministers also sought to deflect pressure from Kosovo Albanians for an early move towards independence from Serbia, insisting the province must uphold standards of minority rights, refugee return and religious protection before its future status can be discussed, possibly from mid-2005.

They appealed to Kosovo's minority Serbs to take part in elections next month, dangling the prospect of decentralisation to give Serbs more local control of their municipalities.

The EU is trying to counter separatists in both Montenegro and Kosovo who want to break up the fragile state structure erected with the mediation of EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana on the ruins of former Yugoslavia.

Kosovo has been a U.N. protectorate since NATO waged an air war in 1999 to force Yugoslav troops out of the predominantly ethnic Albanian

province. "We endorse very strongly the existence of the state union (of Serbia and Montenegro)," Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot told a news conference after the two-day EU meeting.

However, he said the EU would be realistic and flexible in adapting its planned association agreement with Belgrade to take account of economic and trade differences between the two components of Serbia and Montenegro.

The EU is trying to promote greater regional cooperation, political and economic reform to prepare the entire Western Balkans region for eventual membership of the bloc.

But ethnic tensions, corruption, failure to cooperate with the U.N. war crimes tribunal and economic rigidities remain stubborn obstacles to progress.

On Kosovo, the EU ministers resisted pressure to start discussing the province's final status before it meets core minority rights standards.

"It's not the time now to talk about status," Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner said.

Two bailed over seaside double murder

LONDON, Sept 4 (Reuters) - Two men arrested over the possible revenge killing of a couple shot dead in their seaside retreat were released on bail on Saturday.

John Stirland, 55, and his 53-year-old wife Joan were found dead at their Lincolnshire bungalow last month, not long after reporting a prowler to local police.

Police said revenge was a possi-

ble motive in the double killing because Joan's son murdered a man last year.

The Stirlands moved to Trusthorpe in Lincolnshire from their Nottingham home to start a new life after their son Michael O'Brien was arrested for murder and they received death threats.

An 18-year-old and a 20-year-old were arrested in Nottingham on

Thursday and questioned by police over the murders.

"The two men have now been released on police bail to return to Lincolnshire Police when further enquiries have been concluded," a Lincolnshire police spokesman said.

Neighbours reported seeing two men wearing blue boilersuits near the Stirlands' house and police later found a burnt-out Volkswagen car

two miles away.

Two other men who were arrested last week have also been released on police bail.

O'Brien was jailed for life in July for murdering Marvyn Bradshaw outside a Nottingham pub in a case of mistaken identity.

O'Brien showed no remorse in court and threw water and shouted abuse at his victim's family.

Words of Wisdom



One of the major problems of Yemen is that there is no way of identifying the true worth of an individual in terms of knowledge and know-how. All levels of examinations in schools have lost their meaning, and they have become hollow procedures. Cheating is rampant, evaluation is less than objective and thorough, and grades are "adjusted and readjusted" long after the results are announced.

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

OUR
OPINIONAnti-Corruption
efforts impossible
without political will

Last week, I was privileged to meet a German delegation representing the GTZ to help Yemen fight corruption. The idea of asking friendly donor countries to help us fight this incredible growing cancer is truly appreciated, yet does not by itself prove political will. I was quite clear in telling my guests that unless there is true political will to uproot corruption, any efforts made by the delegation will go in vain.

In the long discussion we had, I stated that corruption has become a norm of life throughout the country from the lowest-ranking employees up to top officials, and combating it requires strong political will.

In many analogous cases in the past, political will was assumed to be evident, not only in fighting corruption, but also in promoting democracy, and in supporting human rights, etc. But in many such cases where the government invited delegations and missions to help in such issues, the end was a disappointment, because of official hesitation and numerous obstacles in their way of missions.

For any mission to be successful, it must be exposed to maximum transparency, openness, and most importantly, given full cooperation.

I said I would be cautiously optimistic about the initiative, but I also stressed that the President of the Republic must show that the fight against corruption will now be materialized by prosecuting long-time, well-known, public fund embezzlers, who are infamous for becoming very wealthy in short periods of time.

The President must oblige the growing demands of the public to bring to justice, those responsible for illegally pocketing millions of Yemeni Rials.

I was glad to meet the mission, because I wanted to give them a view that is closer to the public opinion and further away from the official view. I thought it was important to give them a clear picture of the public's impression about their mission, and similar missions of the past. The public mostly think that such missions are merely a way of glorifying the image of Yemen as a country that serious in its attempt to fight corruption, or combat other negative phenomena. But when it comes to reality on the ground, years after the missions started their work, they see little difference.

People want steps that would result in tangible positive change to their lives. The government and foreign missions explain that change cannot come overnight, but the public usually asks for change to come and come quickly. And this is a challenge for this specific mission.

To achieve change, the government must take the recommendations and comments presented by the mission into consideration, and should act upon them to initiate much needed reform.

If the President is truly serious in tackling the problem of corruption, he should start with people at the top. Just like the stairs cannot be cleaned except from top to bottom, so is the case with corruption. We all know that Saleh is the only person who can make this possible. One case of filing a lawsuit and trying a big crook from the current or previous government would be a clear example that President Saleh means business and not merely words. Apart from that, the leadership should approve of giving Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) more independence to enable it to interact with the public directly and establish a hotline that connects it to the people and civil society. It should be given greater powers to obtain information and files that may otherwise be inaccessible. It should be accountable, transparent, and should communicate with the press in conveying information about corruption cases and potential prosecutions of officials etc.

After our meeting, I hoped that my strong words did not demotivate the mission, but I am glad that I conveyed an opinion that they may never get from the government. I disagree with those who think that there is political will to fight corruption.

Political will cannot be proven by receiving missions or delegations in governmental offices or in receptions, etc.

Political will only becomes a reality when we see crooks behind bars, and public funds returned.

We all hope and pray that our country's regime has indeed developed true political will, but until that is proven, we will keep our fingers crossed!

The Editor

The model experiment... thinking about reforms
Yemen and change

By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb
For the Yemen Times

It seems that the deteriorating situation of the country and the near-collapsed condition of all aspects of life in Yemen, (as evidenced by the security incidents in Sadaah governorate and the constantly increasing prices of major commodities, consumer goods, products and services) have persuaded all to talk about the need for immediate change and reform.

But the lingering question remains, when will talks turn into deeds? The answer to this question is in the hands of the President of the country. He is solely capable of launching the move towards the required reform and change.

I imagine that the situation would not be able to tolerate much more aggravation. The transition from talking to taking on practical steps is wanted today, more than ever. Any further delay or hesitation, may inadvertently lead all of us to a disaster, the effects of which,

God only knows.

I recently returned from abroad after attending a conference that dealt with development issues, international relations, contemporary economic movement and the challenges of globalization. Many of the issues were discussed candidly and clearly according to scientific methodology. Among the issues discussed that were highly appreciated by the attending audience, were the outcomes of the Chinese and Indian experiments. Despite the different political tactics that were adopted by each of these two countries, the common element between the two experiments was the level of seriousness in terms of concerted plans and visions to guide the leaderships in both countries.

My personal assessment would be to closely examine and study both experiments. However, I will try to briefly highlight the Chinese experiment.

After the WWII, over half a century ago, China was one of the least developed and most backward countries. It was encountering problems that could be characterized as too difficult to

resolve.

Then the Chinese Communist Revolution took place. The political and economic systems began to develop rapidly. Old and historic political leadership was replaced with young leadership peacefully within the framework of a genuinely organized party.

The astonishing thing that I want to emphasize here is that China has been considered one of the most attractive countries in the world for foreign investment. According to official and unbiased reports, China had revenues of about 50 billion USD from just foreign investments in 2003. I wonder what the answer of the Yemeni government would be on the volume of the foreign investment in Yemen for the same year.

After the Second World War, more than fifty per cent of Chinese people were living under poverty. Today according to an international report, only 8% live under the poverty line. Those are serious people and that is the difference.



By Richard Nelson
www.cambridgeforecast.org
For the Yemen Times

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT
Some very simple things
about Sharon and the Likud
that no one grasps

Since Americans are "tone-deaf" to history—they not able to comprehend the quick a jazz musician once made, "you can't know where you're going till you know where you've been"—they are never able to get a real grip on Israel and the Likud and its neo-conservative operatives like Douglas Feith, Perle, Abrams, etc.

Here are some very simple points without which one "misidentifies" the Israel/Zionism/neo-con problem completely:

1. What is the "Isra-America" alliance game?

The "game" is to overturn the current "world system" and get America into bed with Israel "forever", in what I call "Isra-America." If the rest of the West becomes "Eur-Arabia," then this means the West itself is to be smashed into these two blocs.

This means the "upending" or shattering of the US/UN, US/EU, even US/UK, US/"Quarter", alliances.

The neo-conservatives are to "put this over" in Washington and wind

up in control of Washington, which will be controlled from Israel.

In other words, Israel colonizes Washington politically via the neo-conservatives.

2. What is the "demographic game"?

The demographic game is a double ethnic-cleansing:

• Palestinians out of Palestine. Gaza "bantustan" might be necessary as tactical waystation.

• Jews out of Diaspora into Israel: "the final solution to the Jewish problem". This is accelerated by promoting conflict and tension in places like France.

3. Ethnic game.

The Sharon/Likud idea is to "finish up with Jews" and create Hebrew warriors.

Conflict is desirable since it allows the leadership to "refashion"/"remelt" Jews into Hebrews. (Israelites).

4. Why the war in Iraq?

The war in Iraq does several basic things:

• Accelerates and helps bring about "Isra-America" as explained in Point 1 above.

• Might help make the Middle East into one gigantic Beirut during the Lebanon civil war, causing the disintegration of nation-states like Iraq from within along religious and ethnic and tribal "cracks." (this used to be called "Balkanization")

• Besides "Beirutization," described above, it helps bring about a "clash of civilizations" and thus global civil war, further cementing "Isra-America".

5. Nuclear game

Pakistan and Iran must be made to follow "Libyan example" and give up nukes forever. This gives Israel "nuclear hegemony" till the end of time.

The Israel/neo-conservative "program" as outlined in the five points above tells you that the world is facing a "right-radical" revolutionary movement of tremendous danger.

There is not a single analyst on American TV, on the radio, on a campus, writing for a magazine, paper or journal, who really "gets it" at all.

Letters to the Editor

Re: Zionism is
anti-Semitism

The article entitled "Zionism is anti-Semitism" is a very interesting article and well written. It explores issues that as a British Jew I have discussed with friends/family on many occasions, particularly the double edged sword of whether Israel is a defender of all Jews or just those that live in Israel. I suppose as with most things, it depends whether you agree with the policies of the government as to whether you believe they are defenders of all Jews or not, and in what situation a non Israeli Jew needs defending. One thing that is for sure is that for the general public, the argument is often too black and white, with all Jews/Israelis/Zionists unfortunately lumped together with Ariel Sharon.

I do think that Zionism, as the wish for the Jewish people to control their own destiny and nation, is as valid a political movement as any of the Arab nationalist movements (including the Palestinian!) the problem arises when religious groups hijack a political cause as religious fundamentalists of all creeds are rarely willing to compromise.

I am not a particularly reli-

gious but I was in synagogue last Saturday reading a modern English Torah translation and was interested to read that the holy land was promised to the descendants of Abraham. Over the next few verses all the descendents of Abraham are listed - and they include all the Semitic tribes. Thanks for an excellent article.

Ben Forman

Palestinian prisoners' conditions unjust

From the way Israel is addressing the prisoner's hunger strike, I would predict that this crisis will soon spill over into clashes with Israeli occupation forces in every Palestinian city. We must all get the word out to all those who can make a difference to demand that Israel takes this issue seriously, and avoids more deaths on both sides of their "Wall of shame". The treatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israel violates both international and Israeli laws, as well as breaching rules governing the administration of Israeli prisons. The prisoners are demanding basic human rights such as: the removal of glass partitions that separate them from visitors; an end to the confinement of children with adult prisoners, and polit-

Letters to the Editor

ical prisoners with criminals; an end to harsh traveling conditions and obstructions on visiting family members that prolong a 45-minute visit with a few hours of travel, into an ordeal of 16 or 17 hours; an end to humiliating strip searches on visiting family members, even though they are separated from prisoners by a full glass barrier and a wire mesh barrier, etc.

Mohamed Saeed
South Africa
uhud@lantic.net

About Spanish involvement in Eritrea

This is in response to the article titled "Benign Spanish involvement, Eritrean Servility and YSP's sympathy with "The Death Loving Youth" by Yahya Al-Olfi published in issue (764) of your opinions section.

After a long tirade against the government of Eritrea, Mr. Al-Olfi writes:

"Asmara could have attracted investors from regional and international countries if it was not for the foolish mentality that had led many to shy away from investing their money in a land where lunatic behavior is the norm."

It is not very dignified journalism to slander an entire

nation nor is it commendable that The Yemen Times chooses to endorse such disrespect.

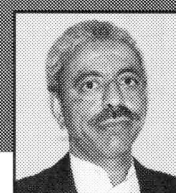
Later on Mr. Al-Olfi explains what exactly is his beef with the Eritrean government. Apparently he is enraged by some reports of certain rebel groups in Darfur being supported militarily by Eritrea. Unconfirmed allegations should not be commented as fact.

I find it ironic that Mr. Al-Olfi doesn't comment the ample reports about the genocide in Darfur allegedly being perpetrated by various militias supported by the Sudanese regime. Not convenient to be assumed as fact this time?

As an Eritrean, I do not give much regard to Mr. Al-Olfi's stance as an advocate of the poor Eritrean people. Indeed we face many problems, we have had several conflicts with our neighbors, not all of this can be blamed on the government. Incidentally the conflict with Yemen was the one, which was solved in the most civilized way.

Whatever issues Eritreans may have with our leaders, we are neither so lunatic nor so servile to require Mr Al-Olfi in anyway.

Zeru Isaac
zeragito@yahoo.co.uk

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Gaining or losing
from militancy

The mayhem in Middle School No. 1 in the town of Beslan in the North Ossetia region of Southern Russia clearly shows that the world at large needs to take a concrete look at the kind of menace that the world is facing. Oh,

sure it is terrorism, but that it should be tied to the legitimate cause of Chechen independence is a flagrant lie and misrepresentation of the facts. While the tragedy was being shown in television throughout the world, Al-Jazeera channel took some time out to get the word from the legitimate rebellion (successors of Dudayev). A spokesman for the Chechen rebels categorically denied any link to the last three terror attacks (The 2 airplanes, the metro station and the school) and in fact condemned all the attacks. Yet no one else even tried to reach officials of the enduring independence movement that is out to simply drive the Russians out. The spokesman may have a point in disclaiming any links with the barbaric displays. Yet, as is the case of the Moro Rebellion in the Philippines, which has been a rather civilized war of liberation, before dubious characters like Abu Sayyaf found their way into the Southern Philippines jungle and took the spotlight away from a legitimate fight for freedom. Instead the barbaric beheadings took the headlines and the poor Moros lost all the headway they were making in their struggle. The same is true in Kashmir. When the Kashmiris were really beginning to gain international attention as to the sad plight they were undergoing under Indian rule, which sought to make life as miserable as possible for the indigenous population, the militants stepped in with their gory bombings that took a lot of the lives of the people they were supposed to be liberating. Even, if we go back to the Chechen struggle somewhat, we will recall that the Chechens had indeed gained their independence after a hard gallant fight. Then the militants stepped in led by a non-Chechen at that and instigated trouble for the Russians in Angushia. Nobody in Angushia asked these foreign elements to come in and liberate them from Russian rule. The Russians decided that it is hard enough to have to swallow the Chechen independence, but another Moslem independent state was simply out of the question. Oh sure, Angushia may have been suffering under Russian rule, but for sure the Angushians should have been more capable of expressing their distaste for Russian domination, and over time they might have won. But these destructive fly by night militants have come in to actually damage the legitimate calls for rights and freedoms made by Moslems under foreign occupation. No one is really sure how these militants are organized and sent to disrupt the legitimate struggles of suffering Moslems under foreign domination (In the case of the Russian Federation, some claim that there is complicity with the Russian Government, who may have caught on to the successes of others in Iraq, Palestine and Kashmir at distorting legitimate struggles with barbaric terror). That is why it is imperative that Moslems awaken to the destructive force of these non-legitimate gangs that seem to have easy entry to most Moslem lands, thanks to the early groundwork laid out by Salafi recruitment schools, which were disguised as innocent Quranic schools. The Moslem World is clearly able to see that these schools have turned out a sizable cadre of scientifically reared converts to their sect, who are ready to obey any orders, by their mullahs, without regard to the consequences of the missions they are sent on. Thus, when the mullahs, seek to unleash their misguided renditions of Islam (some of which are the exact opposite of genuine Islamic principles, they take advantage of the international network of Salafi organized cells and easily find the logistics to move their paramilitary wings into action. On the other hand, these dubious organized cells are capable of obtaining the highest technical advances in the dissemination of their agenda of violence and of attracting considerable media coverage, that will often overshadow legitimate more down to earth struggles for liberty and freedom. With the passage of time, they tend to overtake the genuine struggle and become the "insurgents" or "Chechen rebels". In the case of the Chechen rebellion, the Russians are indeed hedging their bets on making these dubious gangs indeed look as if the Chechen rebellion is no more than crazy suicide bombers, who have no regard for the innocence of children. This way they are left alone to suppress any legitimate struggles, without anyone in the international community even bothering to check into the sufferings of the Chechens under Russian rule. While no one is saying that the Russian Government is indeed encouraging the killing of hundreds of their own children to make some propaganda gains. The fact that these almost mechanical militants have set the stage for such an opportunity may sometimes inspire the Russians to raise the animosity of the local population against the rebellion, as well as display the Russians as being firm on and unrelenting to terrorists. What better way to do this than to create the kind of limited ugly scene that will have such an effect. It seems however that the mayhem in Beslan has blown out of proportion and indicates that the Russian did not do their calculations well. This seems to show that the logic of ends justifying the means is not playing well, with a government that has sought to display itself as a responsible and conscientious regime that takes the safety and security of its people to heart.

YEMEN
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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:
Walid Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf

Head office:
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

Email: yementimes@yementimes.com
Website: http://www.yementimes.com

Branches:

Aden Bureau Chief:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347-056
Email: rytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau Chief:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156
Telefax: +967 (4) 217-157
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: ryttaiz@y.net.ye

Hodeidah Bureau Chief:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Telefax: +967 (3) 206-886

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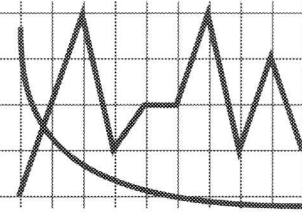
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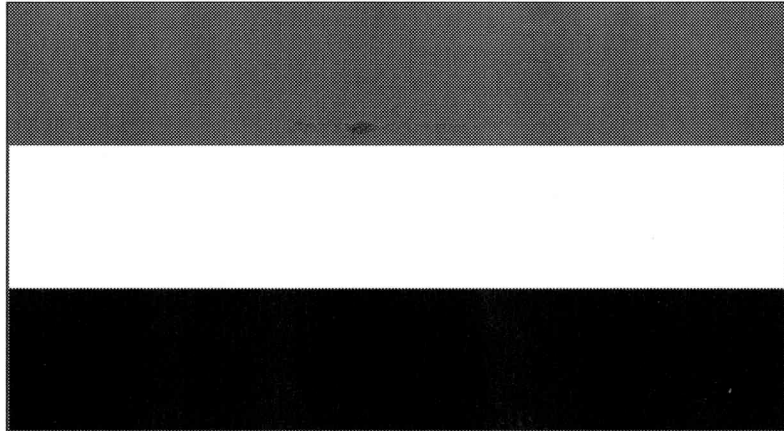
In the light of Chinese FM visit to Sana'a,

China an important partner of Yemen in trade area

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Chinese foreign minister's visit to Yemen this month receives great interest and attention from the Yemeni government because China is considered among the more important partners of Yemen in trade field, according to figures pertaining to the volume of the two countries' exchange of imports and exports.

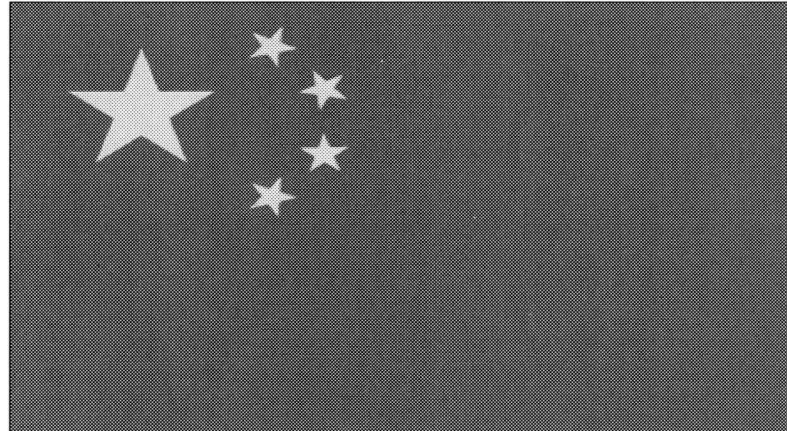
The visit aims at enhancement of bilateral relations and areas of cooperation and ways of invigorating agreements and protocols signed by the two countries in economic, trade and investment partnership. Yemen considers its relations with China as strategic one characterized by reciprocal respect. Chinese government offers its support to Sana'a in areas of infrastructure especially roads, hospitals, education and health missions. The Chinese official's visit



embodies partnership existing between the two countries as China tops the list trade partners of Yemen. Official figures mention that the volume of trade exchange has during the last year climbed to YR 249.7 billion, approximately \$ 1.3 billion at an increase amounting to 110% in comparison with that of 2002 when the volume of trade exchange reached at YR 118.4 billion.

The trade balance tilts in favour of

Yemeni exports to China as they increased to 13.3 billion riyals in 2003 registering an increase of 142% in 2002. In 2003, Yemen's imports from China raised by 20.1% registering an increase to YR 36.4 billion compared to 30.3 billions in the previous year. Those figures indicate that the trade balance has achieved a trade surplus in favour of Yemen amounting to YR 176.9 billion.



Official statistics published by the Central Apparatus for Statistics mention that Yemeni exports to China include crude oil the value of which amounted last year to YR 210.9 billion by a rate of 98.9% of the volume of Yemeni exports, and fish at a value of 858 million riyals, in addition to other kinds of goods amounting to 40 million riyals.

As for Yemeni imports from China they include clothes for YR 4.2 bil-

lion, industrial fibers for 2.5 billions, shoes for 1.8 billions, car tires for 1.5 billions, batteries for 1.1 billion, tomato paste for one billion, beans for 690 million riyals, wood for 681 millions and other commodities valued by 20.7 billion riyals.

Yemeni-Chinese relations date back to five decades during which they have seen remarkable growth in economic, political and trade areas. The volume of trade exchange

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.7500	184.8800
Sterling Pound	331.9100	332.1500
Euro	224.8600	225.0200
Saudi Rial	49.2600	49.3000
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.6700	627.1200
UAE Dirhem	50.3000	50.3300
Egyptian Pound	29.8000	29.8200
Bahraini Dinar	490.0500	490.3900
Qatari Rial	50.7500	50.7800
Jordanian Dinar	260.5800	260.7600
Omani Rial	479.9000	480.2400
Swiss Franc	146.0600	146.1600
Swedish Crown	24.6100	24.6300
Japanese Yen	1.6906	1.6918

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

between the two countries amounted in 1994 to YR 20.7 billion, and in 1995-1996 amounted to 58.5 billions. The volume of trade exchange between the two countries jumped to 117.1 riyals and 138.3 billions in 1999 and 2000 successively.

Yemen and china has last March signed six agreements for cooperation in economic, investment, scientific and energy areas, during the visit to Peking made by the Yemeni Prime Minister. Those agreements included granting a financial aid amounting to 30 million Yuan to be allocated to programs and projects of development and another grant of easy loan the Chinese government to be offered to Yemen totaling 200 million Yuan for financing development projects in addition to an agreement on cooperation in oil and minerals. This relationship would be consolidated during the visit to Yemen by the Chinese foreign minister and in a broader manner in the future.

Strategy for small enterprises development

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has drawn up a strategy for the development of small enterprises and smaller projects to be implemented in 2005-2009 at a total cost amounting \$ 137 million. The strategy aims at alleviation of poverty and creation of new job opportunities for the unemployed.

The Yemeni cabinet discussed in its regular meeting the goals aspired for from the strategy and approved returning it to the ministry for more study and involvement of concerned parties for preparing its final formula and to involve all governorates and representing it to the council of minister to take the convenient decision about it.

The strategy's aims focuses on offering financial and technical support for the growth of small enterprises and provision of information neces-

sary for advancement of existing installations and development of their performance. In addition, the strategy supports the new enterprises for generation of activity in the newly created sectors and promotion for diversity of installations and increase of production.

Fields of support

The strategy is based on foundations of offering financial and technical support for the small enterprises in areas of agricultural guidance and animal wealth, as well as development of small fish establishments, protection and improvement of methods between farmers and markets, preservation of water and soil, offering services of works to non-agricultural enterprises and activation of aspects of qualification and training, in addition to development of administrative and technical, and marketing and financial skills.

500 thousand job opportunity

Preparation of the strategy draft came at the backdrop of success of the Social Fund of Development, which managed to provide job opportunities for around 500 thousand persons in various governorates. The number of establishments supporting programs of smaller enterprises rose to 15 professional establishments in offering services to small enterprises whose number amounts to 1500 to which one billion and 200 million Yemeni riyals has been given. Field studies diagnose causes of production floundering of small installations as attributed to weakness of their infrastructure and services necessary for their evolution and upgrading their production.

The minister of Social Affairs and Labour Abdulkareem al-Arahabi emphasizes that the new strategy for small enterprises and the smaller would enable them to get financial and technical support required for their development. He says that would

contribute to remove hindrances and help those who possess the will and ambition to realize their goals. Those working in the sector of small enterprises say the supply of capitals for building smaller projects is the most important link in the chain of steps needed for the growth of income for those of special needs and poor families.

The government, during the strategy's period of 2005-2009, does, therefore, attaches hope to funding programs of the small and smaller enterprises for combating poverty and finding work opportunities. It is specially so after the experiment proved that this field achieves speedy results in that of employing the unemployed and granting them projects to run as well as development of their production. All this remains to be connected to the degree of seriousness of intentions in the execution of the strategy's objectives.

New procedures simplifying investors' dealings

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Reliable sources for investment said the Yemeni government was seeking for taking measures simplifying investment climate through leading a campaign of change. The decision came following a symposium held in Sana'a under initiative taken by the ministry of civil service and the Arab Organisation for Administrative Development.

The symposium adopted a recommendation for the significance of keeping in pace with technological developments, increase of transparency, informing investors on conditions of economy and also the work for ending administrative complexities that impede investment process. Participants in the symposium considered that the national economy lacking of the principle of transparency and slowness of the program of reform had caused investors backing off from using their money. However, taking new measures and procedures simplifying their dealings and to finish them quickly would encourage businesspersons to build investment projects especially at the free zone in Aden. The sources affirmed that fixing administrative failures and providing more information for investors would polarize and attract new money, particularly the expatriates' money that used to have some doubts on speed and simplicity of measures and provision of statements necessary for the establishment of projects in their country.

Yemeni expatriates possess between 30 to 40 billion dollars kept abroad. Would the new measures succeed in improving investment climate, they could attract a

big portion of expatriates' funds in Yemen. Those sources also view that sluggishness of investment operation in the recent years is attributed to weakness of investment climate despite the political stability in the country in general.

Economic analysts say the Yemeni economy has suffered from a state of stagnation prevalent in world markets although Yemen has many factors for attracting investors, such as political stability, availability of cheap labour and legislations offering enticing facilities to investors.

The analysts also stress that the progress of privatization process is slow and that impacted in negative results against investment process under the policy tug-of-war between the government and the opposition concerning implementation of the program. The analysts say the investment operation needs reformation of banking conditions, reconsideration of monetary policy and curbing inflation, in addition to building of stock exchange market and following a sound marketing policy. They also say that intermediaries of investment should be brushed away from businesspersons to realize facilitation of their task of building their projects without hindrances.

It is imperative to study feasibility of projects available for the investors so that their profits are clear and with safe growth in accomplishing their works. This would lead to an increase in creating job opportunities from the unemployed. Hence comes, the idea of the special importance of measures of financial and administrative reforms for achievement of progress in the process of investment in all productive sectors.

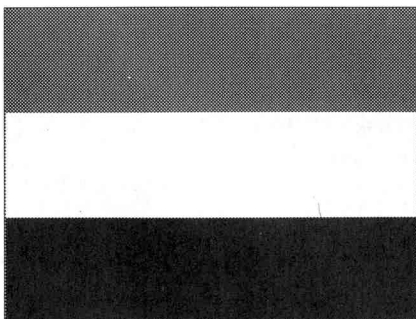
Partnership agreement between Yemen and Britain,

Blair government grants Yemen 55 Sterling Pounds to support development

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

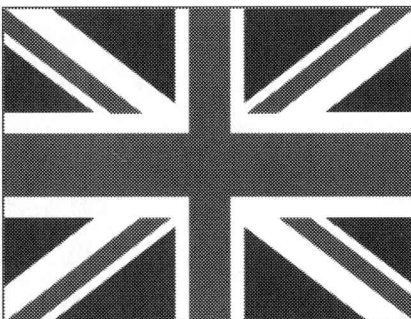
President Ali Abdullah Saleh's recent visit to Britain has produced the establishment of a Yemeni-British partnership aimed at expanding the two countries' cooperation in investment areas and trade exchange.

The visit has also resulted in signing in initials an agreement of partnership including offering to Yemen an aid amounting to 27 million and 300 thousand Sterling Pounds to contribute to the third phase of a program by the Social development Fund and the World Bank program in basic education and also offering another 12 million



and 300 thousand Sterling Pounds for the assistance in the poverty fighting program as well as another 15 Sterling Pounds for the development of education and administration at the ministry of education.

Those aids have represented a new phase of cooperation and relations



would, in coming years, witness good growth as Blair government has promised to increase its assistance to Yemen as rewards for its success in fighting terror and the process of democratic and economic reforms.

During his meetings with British businessmen, president Saleh has

welcomed their investments especially in the Free Zone in Aden and Yemeni ports and other available areas.

Mr Blair promised offering support to Yemen through the European Union and the eight industrialized countries, mentioning that the European Union and Britain view Yemen as a more important partner for implementation of economic and political reforms in the region. Therefore, the visit of president Saleh to London has given a push to economic, investment and trade relations between Yemen and Britain and that they would establish for an active partnership during the next years.

*Once Upon A Loss:***The Life And Times Of Imam Abdallah Haron (1924 – 1969)**

Irena Knehtl
iren_knehtl@yahoo.com
For the Yemen Times

The language of race and of racial classification in South Africa has been constructed in order to create difference, and in order to formally define that difference. It used to be a language which attempted to deliver a sense of precision and confidence, in order to create difference; to define who was who in the teeming world of the townships and the more comfortable white suburbs. It was a language that built value-laden notions of the inherent abilities and capacities of "groups" (rather than individuals or common-interest communities), into the ways in which South Africans thought about one another. In the "new South Africa" the promise is that these classifications will take on no more than a cultural meaning, and that discrimination on the basis of ethnic group and skin color will no longer be the foundation of government policy.

The process of transition from the "old" South Africa has seen many thousands of people, most of them black, die and thousands more injured. South Africa is made up of several societies co-existing in parallel. The fact that statutorily the majority of population has not had economic or political access to power is a matter of anguish for some, regret for rather more, but unconcern for most. For most black South Africans on the other hand, the problem had been simply trying to exist, to survive in a world that denied them equality of access to education, adequate housing, health care and employment. For some, the political process of achieving legal equality, has involved a life of constant struggle, risking imprisonment and, as we shall see, even worse. For South Africa the problems are especially great because it has a long history of oppressing its

majority population, no tradition of free and open debate, and many destructive myths to confront and overcome. Such forces – economic, cultural, social, and political forged and shaped the country on the southern-most tip of Africa. What does the future hold for South Africa? The answer lies in the past as much as in the present.

Many societies have witnessed individuals who emerged to take up the struggle against the injustices practiced by their respective governments. A number of them stood firm facing extreme circumstances with the hope that the social conditions would eventually improve, and that justice would ultimately prevail. Some during their life-time and others after their death, thus became the model for their own societies as well as for others. And all of them shared common charismatic qualities, qualities which reflected a deep sense of commitment to the sacred.

Muslim communities, the world over, have been lead by a number of individuals who have sacrificed their lives and have been remembered for their invaluable contribution. During the late 17th century, the name of Shaykh Yusuf al-Khalwati (d.1699) comes to mind. He valiantly fought the Dutch colonialists in the Melayu before being banished to the Cape of Good Hope. Even though Shaykh Yusuf was not an indigenous South African, the contemporary South African Muslims were able to identify with the sacrifices. During the later part of this century, the Muslims have been able to witness another person who has also become a mythical and historical figure, namely Imam Abdallah Haron. He was a third generation South African Muslim, who has been affectionately remembered by the large majority of South Africans because of his deep involvement with uplifting the oppressed in South Africa. In order to bring about an effective change in South Africa, he was involved with liberation movements and had to make many personal sacri-



Imam Abdallah Haron

fices.

Once upon a loss

They placed him in a prison cell. This man who had a dream. That every man should be father to his brother's son. And love should not be tempered by the color of their skin.

Was he patriot or terrorist?

His concern for children not his own. Made of him the keeper of his brother. And a widowed mother found in him courage. And a women wronged, compassion.

Was he patriot or terrorist?

In the prison cell they place him. His guilt his plea for justice.

That would not be tyranny for most. For his dream, he died.

What was he, patriot or terrorist?

Imam Abdalla Haron (1924-1969) was born in Newlands, in the southern suburbs of the greater Cape Town region, South Africa, as the youngest of five children to a Yemeni father and into a family of religious scholars. During his studies he stayed for two years in Mecca and was given thorough grounding in various aspects of the Islamic sciences by the famous Shaykh AbduRahman alAlawi alMaliki (1966). On another occasion he also met the Saudi King Faisal. He continued his studies under two well known Cape Town Shaykhs in South Africa. He was appointed the editor of the Muslim News (1960- until his death) in Cape Town and used every opportunity to make the paper as representative as possible, covering cultural, religious, and political issues. For example he

saw fasting as an important institution of self-spiritual uplift. He became a religious leader in 1955, of an initially small but growing Cape Town Muslim community, who formed an integral part of South Africa's oppressed society. He dedicated himself to the attainment of justice, freedom and unity, and to always speaking and practicing the truth.

South Africa was a racially segregated community, the Imam and his congregants, inspired by their religious beliefs, spend a great deal of their time helping down trodden and oppressed families. The Imam gave special attention to those families whose breadwinners were either forced to go into exile, or who had died in the course of their struggle against the apartheid regime. Fondly referred to as mfundisi in the African locations, and hadji in his religious community, he was also in close contact and cooperation with Pan African Congress members until he was detained by the apartheid security on Wednesday the 28th May 1969 - the same day the Muslims were about to celebrate the birth of Prophet Muhammed (PBUH). From that day, his family, friends, congregates and community never saw him again. The Imam was held incommunicado for four months. The detention of the Imam had an immediate effect upon his Muslim followers. It silenced them and also created a certain degree of fear. He died in detention on Saturday the 27th September 1969. The post-mortem revealed that the Imam's death was caused by the extreme torture he experienced whilst in detention.

rienced whilst in detention.

Imam Abdallah Haron indeed lived a full life, which serves as an important lesson to all communities in South Africa, to whom he left an unforgettable legacy. Among South Africa's Moslems, one name is revered as that of Nelson Mandela, in their fight for freedom, justice, dignity, tolerance, and racial reconciliation: Abdallah Haron.

South Africa: The Place in a Nutshell

South Africa is a large, scenically and humanly diverse country at the foot of the South African continent home to 4.5 million people. It extends from the Tropic of Capricorn to Cape Agulhas at 35 deg S and lies in the southern temperate zone, mostly on plateaus above 1,200m. The coastline covers 2,954 km between the Atlantic and Indian Ocean. The shore is lined by sandy beaches, is fringed by forests in the East, and a desert in the West. The sub-continent has a necklace of rocky islets which drop to the edges of the Antarctica. The nine-province nation has an area of 1,219,090 sq km, larger than Germany, France and Italy combined. South Africa may be divided broadly into two main regions, a huge inland plateau, fringed by a narrow coastal plain on three sides.

Sunshine and storm:

Though the land is rich in grassland, savanna and forest, the greater portion is dry, semi-desert. Average rainfall is 464 mm – little more than half the world's average. Most rivers are bone dry most of the time, for only 10% of rainfall reaches the rivers, much of it lost in evaporation.

Minerals:

South Africa is the world's biggest producer of gold, platinum, chromium, vanadium, manganese and alumino-silicates. It also produces nearly 40% of the world's chrome and vermiculite.

Wildlife:

South Africa is home to a rich variety of wildlife, and a rich heritage lies in its variety of life. It is home to mammals and wild game. Varieties range from lion and leopard to hyrax and pangolin. There are more than 100 varieties of snake and 5,000 species of spider. Its bird life is a growing attraction. Its flora is one of the richest on earth.

The people: A rainbow of races

The variety of races and cultures matches the richness of other forms of life in South Africa. There are 11 official languages.

South Africa has three capitals, Pretoria is the administrative, Cape Town the legislative, and Bloemfontein, the judicial. Parliament sits in Cape Town.

Nelson Mandela, the world's most famous political prisoner, was released after 27 years of prison to become South Africa's first democratically

elected president in 1994. He is universally revered and credited for his remarkable contribution to tolerance and racial reconciliation. He has since continued to promote the theme of the African Renaissance, and continued to emphasize that all race groups living in South African qualify as South Africans.

South Africa is the largest, most diverse and most sophisticated economy in Africa, with a GNP three times that of Nigeria or Egypt. Once heavily dependent on gold and the extractive industries, it is now much more broadly based, with manufacturing being the largest sector. South Africa exports to industrialized countries are still heavily reliant on primary and intermediate commodities, such as gold, precious metals, base metals and minerals, while the exports to the rest of Africa are predominantly in manufacturing goods (20% of its total exports). Leading imports are machinery, petroleum, chemicals, and transport equipment.

Yemen and South Africa

Yemen and South Africa meet at the Indian Ocean regional group for economic cooperation, of which both are founding members. South Africa is an important trading partner to Yemen and an important future investor in the fields such mineral exploration, transport and logistics. Yemenia, the national airline, flies twice weekly to Johannesburg.

Further reading:

Allie Aista, 1994, Remembrance of a Martyr, Imam Abdullah Haron, Cape Town, SA

Desai, Barney, and Cardiff Marney (1978-1991) The Killing of the Imam, London, UK

Haron Muhammed, 1986, Imam Abdullah Haron, Life, Ideas, and Impact, University of Cape Town, SA.

Joan Wardrop, The New South Africa, Indian Ocean Centre for Peace Studies, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Monograph no. 4, Australia

Nadine Gordimer, author of many novels, and short stories was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1971. Among her better known novels are A World of Strangers.

Alan Paton, a teacher and author of powerful and tragic novel Cry the Beloved Country drew the world attention to the clash of race and color in South Africa.

My profound gratitude to Professor Muhammed Haron from Department of Theology & Religious Studies at University of Botswana in Gaborone and Centre for Contemporary Islam, at University of Cape Town in South Africa for forwarding articles, writings, essays and photographs about the life and work of his father Imam Abdallah Haron.

Yemen Times extends warmest greetings to Yemeni community in Cape Town in South Africa.



Cape town with table mountain behind

Continued from Back Page

Sana'a hosts top Italian artists

I am happy to see that Italian and Yemeni painters are working enthusiastically together, and I am convinced that we should continue on this way, and keep having this kind of cooperation. The works themselves are very much a testimony of how positive and enriching the fact of working with artists from different country, culture, and experience can be."

Special program:

The Italian embassy, as part of the celebrations of the Arab Cultural Capital, organized a series of programs, in which featured this workshop.

At the beginning of this year, there was an exhibition on Islam in Sicily, which included concerts by an Italian band, and the presentation of a book of Arabic poetry composed during the 11-12th century occupation of Sicily by Arabs.

In the second half of September there will be concerts by an Italian band and in December the Week of Italian Film will take place, screening a spectrum of contemporary works of the Italian cinema.

Post-modernist blaze:

Alfredo Romano and Baldo Diodato are the two Italian guests. Romano is a celebrated artist who attended the Institute of Art of Siracusa before joining the Berara's Academy. He taught art as well, and is better known as a sculptor, and specialized in the association of various elements which push the artist and the public thoughts towards a continuous reference to history and reality.

"Women, and what they look like," he replied to a question about what attracted his attention in

Yemen, pointing to two tin bowls piled on each other with black cloths around their mouths. "This symbolizes them, doesn't it?"

Romano continued: "Yemen is an extraordinary country with a culture that is different from the Italian one, but that surely shares with some similarities, because the Ottoman Empire influenced Italy considerably in the past."

"Contemporary art here is a traditional kind of painting. Artists still use the old-fashioned painting language. They need to evolve, and this (workshop) is an opportunity, and more exchanges will expose them to other techniques, minds and ways of painting," he commented on the post-modernist trend in Yemen.

"Nevertheless, they are excellent and admirable people."

Around him, bowls littered the wall with mouths covered with pieces of black cloth, and backs facing viewers, and were arranged neatly in rows. Each appeared as a white circle with a black rim.

"It is like a deaf song," said Romano referring to his work. "The song is there but has no sound."

"I have stopped using color in my works and adopted a new and more communicable language. It looks like a mural. It does not seem that artists here have this kind of art, murals. This very work of mine can be described as an evolution of murals," he explained.

The window sills were painted in a way that "brings life to a window that was dead, and the work itself enlivens a dead room."

But, he does not claim the superiority of this kind of art. "It may not be better, but definitely it is different," Romano said.

Artist Baldo Diodato was born in Naples, and

attended the Albertine Academy. He lived in New York from 1966-1992, where he had been in contact with the post-modernism community, but he now lives and works in Rome, adopting an unusual kind of art. He would look at things around him, choose, and decide to arrange them in a particular way.

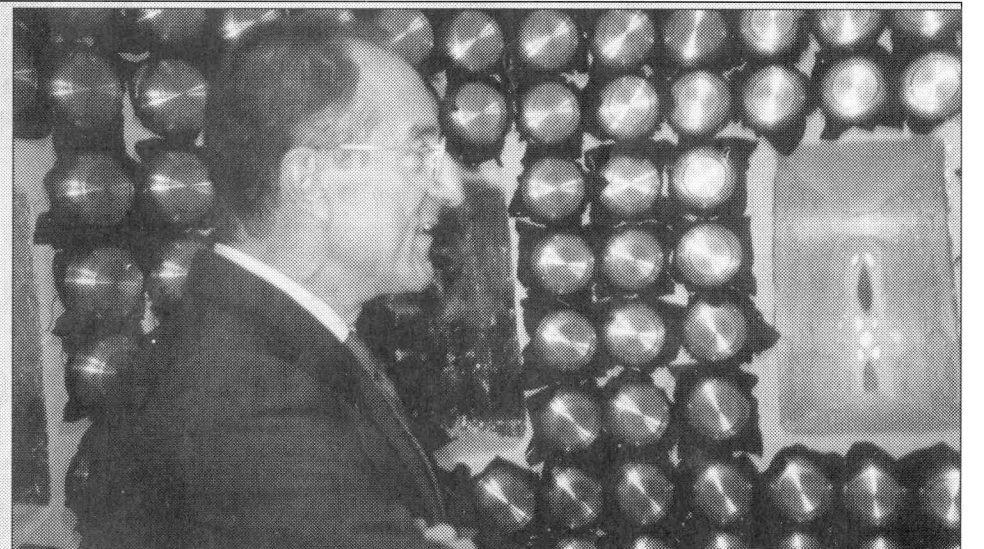
Before him were three rough square pieces, two blue and one yellow. Made of metal sheets, the 1x1 meter hollow pieces had tiny lamps mounted on tips of wires emanating from their surfaces. "The blue ones represent sea and sky, and the yellow one earth. They will be joined as one entity, making a spectacular scene especially at night," he described.

Diodato is so impressed by Yemen. "I love it. It is incredible. Light, houses, color. The color yellow is prevalent here in earth and on houses as well. It is the color of my city, Naples, and this is why Yemen is familiar to me and why I was inclined to participate in this workshop."

Sana'a Atelier:

It was established in 2000 by Yemeni artists Mazher Nizar, Talal Al-Naggar, Dr.Amna Al-Nassiri, and Reema Kassem, in the aim of creating a new movement and to develop the indigenous modern artstyle. A gallery was opened within the wall of the old city of Sana'a, at Bab Al-Yemen, for displaying and selling works of arts as well as promoting culture and tourism.

"This workshop is very beneficial. Among the Yemeni artists are the founders of the Atelier along with Hani Al-Aghbari and Jamal Al-Hada. The products of the Yemeni-Italian workshop will be shown in the exhibition room (Al-Bab Gallery) on



The Italian ambassador reviewing Romano's mural-like artistic work

Sept. 5," said Mazher Nizar.

He proceeded: "Actually the gallery was opened in 1998, but due to problems of tourism, it was closed down and activities ceased for a long time. Recently I have officially rented the gallery where many activities will be taking place, thanks to efforts of Dr. Abdullah Zaid Issa, president of the Historic Cities Conservation Authority.

"The two top Italian artists have got together with six Yemeni artists, and there are plans to organize workshops and exhibitions for local and foreign artists in the future."

The gallery will also provide tourist information such as maps and postcards along with an information center.

"The information center, coupled with Internet services, is expected to provide information on Yemen as a whole especially for tourists, but we

need someone to sponsor it. It would be extremely useful as it is situated at a strategic spot"

On the other hand, artist Talal Al-Naggar commented on the workshop saying: "It is the first of its kind to be held in Yemen. It is both important and interesting, since it features works of post-modernism. The public may be surprised or rather mystified by the works, but they are exquisite."

He added: "In the past, we used to host almost amateur artists. But this time I was amazed when I heard the names of the visitors. They are really great."

The workshop is expected to help develop the reality of art in Yemen, and enhance cultural ties between Yemen and Italy.

The artists participating in this workshop will attend another workshop to be organized in Italy in November 2004.

UNICEF and HIV/AIDS in Yemen



By Akram Ali Al-Hindi
For the Yemen Times

Background

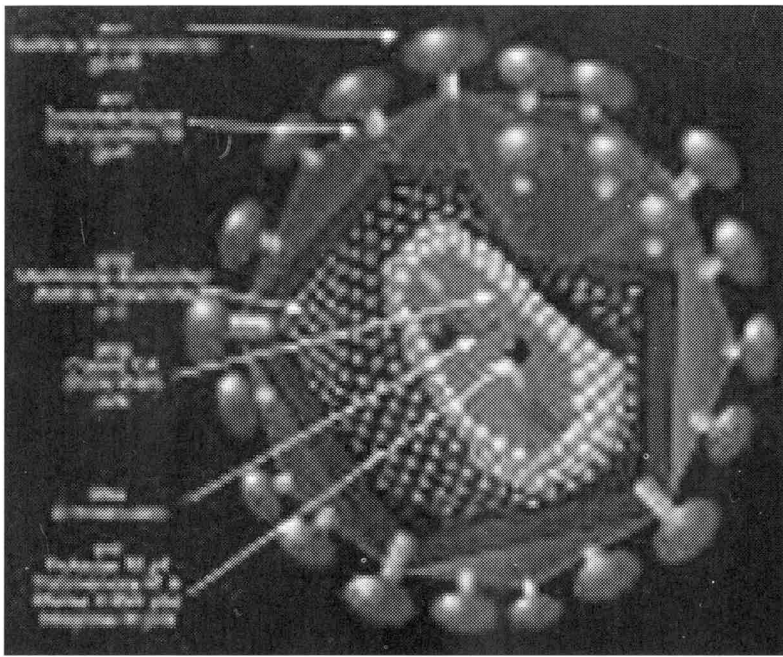
It is true that Yemen is a country in which the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is low, but it is also true that it is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to increasing numbers of HIV cases.

Yes, I am sure of that! One might ask how do you know? The answer is a very simple one; we have visitors from abroad, and we have refugees from the horn of Africa who are HIV positive and they spread the disease to other people through unsafe sex and bad behaviors that increases the danger of the spread of the disease in our country.

The minister of Public Health and Population announced in an interview with *Al Thawrah daily Newspaper* on June 29th 2004 that the official number of HIV/AIDS cases in Yemen was only 1,430 by the end of the year 2003.

But when asked about the way they discovered the cases he answered

"The cases were discovered in the central laboratory or at hospitals, because we do not have the right to stop people and ask them to undergo AIDS tests."



The number is really low, but you would agree with me that the number is not the right number (correct me if I am wrong)?

UNICEF and HIV/AIDS

To fight the disease and to try putting an end to the suffering, UNICEF and other donors are exerting great effort to

stop the spread of this disease in our country. I was invited to the last workshop organized by UNICEF for the training of trainers, during which two Lebanese experts came to Yemen to teach 35 Participants about the Youth Peer Education and Life-Skills Manual. The aim was an awareness campaign for youth care-takers, and

now UNICEF believes the time has come to deal directly with the youth.

The group of 35 training trainers who participated were 17 Females and 16 males. They were from five different governorates: Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadhramout and Hodeidah, and were selected from various governmental and non-governmental organizations and International Organizations working in Yemen.

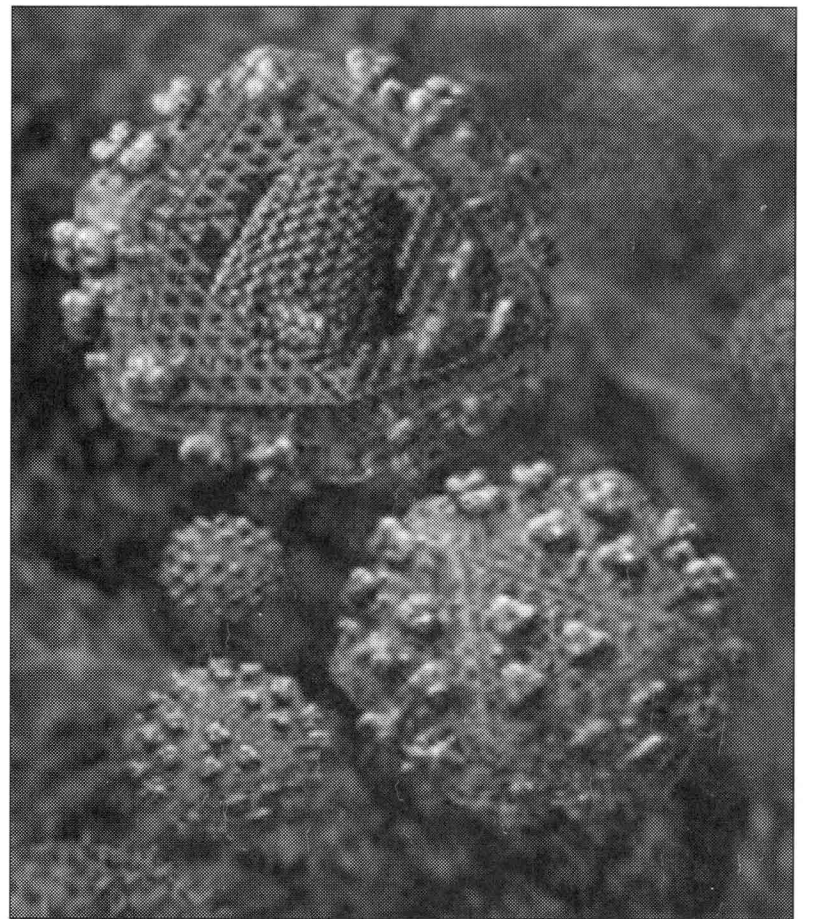
Dr. Solof Ramarson of UNICEF said "this workshop is another important contribution to the prevention of HIV infection among adolescents and young people, one of our strategic priorities, and in fact our main priority on HIV/AIDS in Yemen".

Conclusion

Increasing efforts should be exercised to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in Yemen, and I am sure with little comprehensive effort Yemen would be capable of ending this crisis or at least limiting the number of new infections.

Youth care-takers and mosque orators must educate people about the dangers of HIV/AIDS, and the main reasons leading to its infection.

I am sure true Moslems, and appropriate behavior, will keep us all save from HIV/AIDS.



Atkins diet weight loss doesn't last : study

LONDON, Sept 3 (Reuters) - More than 45 million copies of the books have been sold and everyone seems to be on it, but researchers said on Friday that Atkins and other low-carbohydrate diets do not help people stay slim.

Clinical trials of low-carbohydrate diets show a greater weight loss at six months than low-fat and reduced-calorie approaches in obese patients. But by 12 months there was no difference in the two groups.

"There is no clear evidence that Atkins-style diets are better than any others for helping people stay slim, despite the popularity and apparent success of the Atkins diet,"

said Professor Arne Astrup of RVA University in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Low-carb diets have been around since the 1860s according to Astrup and his colleagues but the Atkins approach, which includes a restricted intake of carbohydrates and high fat foods, has made it popular with millions of people trying to lose weight.

"In the short-term (6 months) there is good evidence that the Atkins diet is producing weight loss. It is not just fluid loss, it is actually loss of body fat," Astrup said in an interview.

"Along with the weight loss there are also beneficial changes in all the risk factors ... for cardiovascular dis-

ease and type 2 diabetes," he added.

But in a review in *The Lancet* medical journal, Astrup and his team who studied three trials that looked at the longer-term effects found that after six months, people started to regain weight.

Those on the Atkins diet for a year also started to complain of headaches, muscle weakness, cramps and diarrhoea, which Astrup said could be explained by the reduced levels of fruits, vegetables and whole-grain cereals and bread that are consumed.

"These symptoms are clearly consistent with a kind of carbohydrate deficiency," he said. "People simply do not

get the 150 grams of carbohydrates a day which is the minimal requirement for supplying your brain and muscles with the glucose from carbohydrates that are necessary for the organs' normal function."

He added that low-carb diets are good for short-term weight loss but after several months normal food recommendations, such as five or six portions of fruits and vegetables a day, low fat consumption and whole grain rice, bread and pasta products, should be followed and coupled with exercise.

"There are indications that if you change your lifestyle you can maintain the weight loss," he added.

Hair stem cells may offer baldness, burn treatments

WASHINGTON, Sept 2 (Reuters) - Master cells found deep inside hair follicles might offer a new way to treat baldness and burn victims, U.S. researchers reported on Thursday.

So far the cells have only been found in mice but there is no reason to believe they do not also exist in humans, the team at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and The Rockefeller University in New York said.

The cells, known as stem cells, replace not only hair but also stretches of skin and sebaceous glands, key to healthy skin and hair, the researchers report in this week's issue of the journal *Cell*.

In this case the stem cells the researchers found are adult stem cells — immature master cells that retain the ability to change their "type" to some degree.

They are different from stem cells taken from embryos, a more controversial source.

"We've identified cells within skin that bear all the characteristics of true stem cells — the ability for self-renewal and the multipotency required to differentiate into all lineages of epidermis and hair," said Elaine Fuchs, a cell biologist at Rockefeller who led the study.

"This is the first work that indicates a single skin stem cell can generate both epidermis and hair, even after propagation in the lab," she added.

Fuchs and colleagues now want to look for similar hair follicle stem cells in people.

"With debate about the cells' multipotency within skin tissue settled, we can now ask whether the stem cells can also make other cell types in addition to hair and skin," Rockefeller's William Lowry said in a statement.

"These results open the door to that possibility."

The stem cells multiplied well in laboratory dishes and when the researchers grafted the cells onto the backs of bald mice, they grew tufts of hair and skin.

Previous work had used genetic manipulation to find the stem cells in the mice but Fuchs and colleagues found a better way to identify the scarce stem cells.

"We found that the surface of the skin stem cells was different than the other cells of the skin, enabling us to use two different antibodies to sort them out from the other skin cells," said Lowry. "No one had been able to isolate stem cells from the hair follicle in this way before."

Injuries exact heavy toll on Americas - CDC report

ATLANTA, Sept 2 (Reuters) - More than 157,000 Americans were killed and about 1.6 million hospitalized as a result of car crashes, falls, violent acts and accidents in 2001, federal officials said on Thursday in a report that urged the nation to pay more attention to basic safety.

Researchers with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said their analysis of data from the 50 states and District of Columbia showed that unintentional injuries were a problem that cut across age, gender and race.

One in 10 U.S. residents, or about 29.7 million people, were treated for

non-fatal injuries in emergency rooms in 2001, according to the CDC report, the first to study the magnitude of both fatal and non-fatal injuries in the nation.

"This makes it very clear that everyone is impacted by injuries," said Lee Annett, a CDC statistician who worked on the report. "We have to understand that we all have a risk of injury, and there are things we can do to reduce the risk."

Unintentional injuries are the fifth leading cause of death in the nation after heart disease, cancer, stroke and lower respiratory diseases such as

emphysema, bronchitis and asthma.

The price tag due to injuries is costly, at an estimated \$117 billion in annual health care expenses. That does not include the untold billions in lost wages and productivity of workers who are injured or killed.

The Atlanta-based CDC said simple measures, such as wearing a seat belt, installing fire alarms and not drinking and driving, could help reduce the toll of injuries.

The CDC, the U.S. Surgeon General's Office and other agencies have been pushing for programs targeting groups at higher risk for

injuries such as teenagers and drunk drivers.

Teenagers and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 had the highest risk of dying in a motor vehicle accident in 2001. Car crashes accounted for almost 33,400 deaths in the overall population and 2.9 million non-fatal injuries.

Unintentional falls, a leading cause of injuries in the elderly, killed more than 15,000 people and sent another 7.8 million to hospital emergency rooms. There were an estimated 21,000 homicides and 31,000 suicides in 2001.

Trash riot highlights Italy's "eco-mafia" struggle

ROME, Sept 3 (Reuters) - The people who live in Italy's "triangle of death" have good reason to take to the streets. A new medical study says they are more susceptible to some cancers than the average Italian, possibly due to illegal waste dumps that pollute their water and soil. Now they are trying to stop an incinerator they say will pollute the air too.

A protest march of between 10,000 and 30,000 people last weekend to the site where the incinerator is to be built in the town of Acerra, just north of Naples, turned nasty.

Mayor Espedito Marletta was among those injured when police responded with batons and tear gas to volleys of sticks and stones from protestors.

The locals, from a town of some 46,000, now plan to march on the regional capital to tell the government they will not let it build the plant.

While the regional and national governments see the incinerator as a vital weapon in the battle against illegally

dumped refuse, the locals see it as just another source of pollution.

"We'll go to Naples tell those gentlemen Acerra will not give in," said campaigner Pietro De Laurentis.

In June, protestors blocked a mainline railway at Montecorvino-Rovella to the east of Naples for four days to protest at plans to reopen a waste dump while uncollected garbage piled up outside their houses.

The row is more than the usual "not in my back yard" reaction to new industrial plants planned near residential areas. It highlights Italy's huge problem with mafia-controlled businesses dumping waste illegally.

EPIC PROPORTIONS

A report in September's issue of the medical journal *The Lancet* said the lack of proper waste disposal sites in the area, and illegal dumping and burning done for cash by mafia-run firms, was taking a devastating toll on the area's economy and health.

"The environmental waste problem in southern Italy is now reaching epic proportions and the problem has been linked to increasing rates of cancer," said an article exploring links between cancer and refuse pollution.

"The region around Salerno and Naples produces more rubbish than the landfills and incinerators in the region can cope with and organised crime in Italy has been taking advantage and turning illegal waste dumping into a lucrative business for years."

The *Lancet* listed figures for the incidence of cancer in Italy as a whole compared with what it called is known as the "triangle of death", a highly polluted area between Acerra, Nola and Marigliana, northeast of Naples.

Men living there are more than twice as likely as the average Italian to get liver cancer and women more than three times, the report found.

Alfredo Mazza, the scientist at Italy's National Research Council who did the research, is convinced the increased

cancer risk is linked to exposure to toxins from waste.

"250,000 (people in this region) have been exposed to toxic pollutants for decades. Pollutants in the air, water and in produce from the area are well above regulation levels," he said.

Illegal waste dumping and burning have polluted the land so badly that the once productive agricultural area is now "practically unusable", he said.

Local farmers have been active in the protests against the incinerator, some dumping dead and dying sheep outside the building site.

"This is why we don't want the incinerator ... we don't want to die of dioxins," farmer Vincenzo Cannavacciuolo was quoted as saying in the Communist newspaper *Liberazione*, referring to the cancer-causing chemicals that combustion plants can emit.

THEY HAVE A WORD FOR IT

The influence of organised crime in waste disposal and other environmental-

ly damaging activities is so widespread that the Italians even have a word for it: "eco-mafia".

Italian police conduct as many investigations into the illegal trade in waste as they do into drugs running, according to the environmental campaign group Legambiente.

The group says refuse trafficking is one of the main eco-Mafia crimes which, along with illegal building and trade in endangered animals and archaeological artefacts, makes up a black market worth around 132 billion euros (\$159.4 billion).

Since refuse trafficking became a criminal offence in April 2001, Italy's police have arrested 130 people suspected of the crime, Legambiente said in its "Eco-mafia report 2004".

Ironically, Acerra's incinerator is designed to ease the problem by cutting down on waste being dumped into illegal sub-standard landfills, where pollution can seep into the ground, or burned in fields without any emissions controls.

The plant will not only run to strict emissions standards but will also generate electricity.

The northern city of Milan already has such an "energy recovery" incinerator and, with a planned new one, aims to dispose of 40 percent of its waste that way by the end of the decade.

The new incinerator will provide enough electricity for 250,000 people, Milan's Mayor Gabriele Albertini said in the *Repubblica* newspaper.

But Italy's main environmental groups say the government should not be imposing a large-scale incinerator on a local population. A better solution would be to reduce waste and send more to recycling and composting, they say. "Going straight for huge incinerators makes it impossible to get the best solution to the problem," said a group of mainstream green organisations, including Legambiente. "Polluting the environment and wasting energy and missing all the new job openings such a solution would create".

The Future of Somalia is in the Hands of Tribal MPs

By Farhan Ali Ahmed
farxaan26@yahoo.co.u

Democracy has had various meanings of interpretation, but according to philosophy Larry Hauser it is a form of government in which the people rule, either by directly voting on issues (direct democracy), or indirectly through electing representatives to decide issues (representative democracy). One of the important basics of democracy is mutual confidence among political players competing to construct a better future for their nation.

Thus, one model of representative democracy is the one that Somalis are trying to base on the expected all inclusive transitional federal government from Kenya, Mbagathi peace conference. It is unfortunately a tribal model where all clans elect individual MPs that represent tribal interests rather than a country's national interest. Then, tribal MPs elect the country's president and the president appoints his prime minister to form a government. This is a tribal democracy based on clan constituency rather than a regional, area or district where each person in a constituency votes for one person to become their MP and the candidate with the most votes becomes the MP. This would be just a trial model of forming a government, where many Somalis believe that the Somali tribal democracy is far from perfect or all-wise but it is, indeed, the worst model to form a government.

Strangely enough, it may not fulfill or meet the expectations of its people, because of its weak cabinet, poor MPs, incapability of making needed decisions and unresponsiveness to the high demands of its people. It is a unique political system the way in which our country's government will work. The cabinet's work will be ineffective as long as he holds the office for his clan and defends clan interest rather than national interest.

Representing a particular clan will be the first obstacle that the new transitional federal government will confront while dealing the sensitive issues (i.e. security or disarmament issue) in the country and our political system does not

make accountable for malfunctioning institutions, as long as its cabinet positions being based on 4.5 (i.e. 4.5 means four major tribes and alliance of minority clans are divided government positions and ministers and MPs and are accountable to their clan). For instance, Abdiqasim's government is a good example, where the TNG attempted to introduce security measures on the capital Mogadishu, one of the cabinet members could not support because his clan would feel unhappy.

It is also, the opposite of what our founding fathers had deeply valued and required – the individual and the power of his vote, rather than what is called tribal MP voters. (e.g. Adan Abdulle Osman's speech July 1962 "if we Africans are proud to take our place as a democratic people in the comity of nations, we must do more than pay lip service to the feelings of the ordinary man and woman in our society". etc) The founding fathers believed and valued the privilege of representative government where MPs are selected for their quality. They anticipated Somalis will flesh out the ideas and principles that they have in envisioned and this dream would shape the future government to our nation but their dream is yet to come real.

On the other hands, tribal MP selections are not based on a meritocracy process where the MP is selected for his ability, experience and knowledge in order to choose a good MP who has the necessary qualities to represent his country but rather he is an X clan; and without exceptions, for the mentally ill and criminals. Therefore, tribal MPs will be weak, and misunderstand their role of passing new laws, some may see as unfair and corrupt. For example, many tribal MP voters will be frightened or bribed into voting for a certain candidate or issue.

Moreover, no doubt that any new transitional federal government being formed by the elected president will have to maintain order in the country by establishing "Rule of Law" in order to preserve life and protect property. To maintain order the new government needs to possess unquestioned authority in order to grantee the safety of the weak, and to protect them from the

attacks of the strong. To pay these operational activities of bringing peace and security into Somalia, the new transitional federal government needs to collect a tax and get international assistance. Thus, I wonder how weak cabinet and poor MPs based on tribal system could collect revenue for the expenditure of their operational activities and quickly respond the needs of their nation and at the same time take appropriate action towards sensitive issues. While the only group from the international community who is offering assistance is the African Union who is pretending to send peace keepers into Somalia and their object is only another bidding for further funds for the African Union, so I remain deeply doubtful, of how the new government would achieve its goals!

However, there is proverb says "two birds in your hands are worth many in the bush" In August 2004, Somalis managed to elect new members of the Somali Transitional Federal Assembly and are ready to take over from their predecessors the burden of public service (i.e. Arta TNG). Thus, the new TFG MPs will receive a mandate of trust from the clan appointees and the whole of nation. This mandate is not only an obligation passed through to their tribes but also to the whole nation and it is vital to remind them that the future of Somalia is in the hands of the tribal MPs. Warlords will be given the opportunity to exercise their faithful citizenship as they enter the new Transitional Federal Assembly. They will be faced with a challenge of making choices that will improve the lives of many million Somalis who suffered at their hands or they will choose what they believed for more than a decade which was violence. We know what violence leads to and it is a vicious circle of violence. The violence of the past results in violence of the present, and the violence of the present results in violence in the future. If warlords do not consciously and intentionally decide to break this cycle, of future violence then it will continue to go on and bring more misery.

So they need not neglect their duties and place an unprincipled man, or in other words, a warlord in the highest office in the country; the violence will multiply and the new TFG will soon be



corrupted; laws will be made not for the public good so much as for the selfish or tribal purposes. Therefore it is their responsibility to elect a good leader for their country. They must remember at the moment that they are offering their vote, that they are not there to please one of the candidates whatever the reasons, but they have to remember that they carry responsibilities beyond this interim period and generations to come. When it comes to vote, all it takes is a little cross on the ballot paper. But that mark could well change their life and the whole country in the next few years. Elections are about more than just picking a candidate.

Overall, it is important to recognise that we need time to understand and absorb how democracy is used in other parts of the world and how we, as Somalis, need to adopt a system that can truly reflect our needs and background.

It is obvious that the tribal model of democracy is not what our founding fathers expected in the 21st century Somalia. But it is what Somalis have in their hands now. It should be a transitional model where people use as a conflict resolution and be used as an instrument that powers are shared and transferred peacefully now; because it is not a genuine model as long as elections, votes, policies are managed and influenced by the clan. While Somalis instability and conflict caused by application of tribal politics into the government and all government position based on the clan and tribal criteria. This is what makes many Somalis to see this tribal model as a factor of conflict rather than a solution.

Thus, there are several Somali presidential candidates who remain firmly favourable to succeed in the next five years when all tribal MPs are complete-

ly selected in the new Transitional Federal Assembly. But there are criminals among them and there is a concern about this whether an awkward voting manoeuvre may occur and intentionally elect the "wrong" candidate rather voting for the "right" candidate. This will be a good example whether tribal MPs choose the road to peace, or road to further violence. If they choose a right candidate the destination of their country is relatively certain.

On the other hand, instituting "Rule of Law" in Somalia is necessary in order to preserve life and protect property, but the new transitional federal government needs not to institutionalise the clan politics and government machine being selected meritocracy process in order to serve national interests. If it does so, the new TFG will maintain order in the country.

Will the EU Keep Faith with Turkey?

by Martti Ahtisaari and Albert Rohan
EMBARGO 6 SEPTEMBER 2004

More than forty years ago, Turkey applied for associate membership of the European Economic Community. With the Association Agreement of 1963, a special relationship was established, culminating in the customs union of 1996. During all these years, European governments consistently confirmed Turkey's eligibility for full membership, making accession dependent on compliance with membership criteria.

Turkey's formal recognition as a candidate state in 1999 led Turkey to undertake unprecedented reform efforts in the area of human and minority rights, including abolition of the death penalty, safeguards against torture, promotion of religious freedoms, gender equality, and restriction of the military's role in political life. Should the EU consider the accession criteria as having been fulfilled, it must decide to open negotiations in early 2005. Not to do so would mean to renege on political commitments and to severely damage the EU's credibility in the world.

In many parts of Europe, however, Turkey's admission to the EU is viewed with skepticism owing to its size, relatively poor economy, fears of massive immigration, and, above all, cultural and societal differences – a euphemism for Islam. It would be foolish to deny that some of these factors represent serious challenges. However, they are often exaggerated and certainly not insurmountable. Negotiations with Turkey would be lengthy and accession may not occur before 2015. This period of time would offer both Turkey and the Union an opportunity to come to terms.

With 80 million people, Turkey would be one of the largest EU states.

But the size of a country plays only a limited role in the EU's decision-making process, because political influence within the Union depends more on economic power. Moreover, for decades Turkey has been a responsible member of many European institutions, and there is no reason to believe that it would act differently in the EU.

Because of its weak economy, Turkey would be eligible for substantial EU assistance. The size of these transfers, however, would depend on the EU's financial policies at the time of admission, the outcome of accession negotiations, and economic developments in Turkey. In any case, the EU's practice of "capping" its budget would prevent an explosion in the financial costs entailed by Turkey's accession.

Immigration should not be a cause for undue concern, either. Human mobility is limited, and Turkey workers' would probably be allowed to move freely within the EU only after a long transition period, possibly not before 2025. Given the expected upswing of Turkey's economy and its declining birthrate, experts predict a figure of around 2.7 million immigrants by that point. Meanwhile, diminishing and aging populations in most of Europe will have made immigration a necessity. Among the countries from where immigration to the EU is probable, Turkey has the best prospects for successful adaptation.

It is Turkey's Muslim population that creates the strongest emotions. Many feel that Turkey simply does not fit into a European society based on Christian traditions and culture. It is also feared that Islamists may one day turn Turkey into a fundamentalist state. Unlikely as it may be in view of Turkey's deeply rooted secularism, such a risk cannot be totally excluded. But the same is true for any other democracy, where radical groups could well misuse the democratic process for their purposes.

Surely, the best protection against such a calamity is to strengthen Turkey's democratic system, which can best be achieved by anchoring it firmly in a bloc of similarly democratic countries. As for the EU, it must decide whether it wants to be a closed "Christian club" or an open and inclusive society, drawing strength from cultural and religious diversity. Turkey's accession to the Union would give a powerful answer, one that would be heard with particular clarity in the Islamic world.

The need to refute arguments against Turkey's admission to the EU leaves the advantages rarely mentioned: its unique geopolitical position at the crossroads of the Balkans, Southern Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East – vitally important regions for Europe's security; its role as mayor transit country for energy supplies; its military capabilities at a time when the EU is developing its new European Defense Policy; and the great potential of the Turkish economy, with its young and dynamic labor force.

At the same time, the risks of rejecting Turkey must also be taken into account: the likelihood that the reform process would collapse, bringing radical currents to the fore and leading to instability and political unrest at the EU's doorstep.

Turkish EU membership presents both opportunities and challenges. On balance, however, the advantages far outweigh the risks.

Martti Ahtisaari, Finland's former president, is chairman and Albert Rohan is rapporteur of the Independent Commission on Turkey. Other members include Kurt Biedenkopf, Emma Bonino, Hans van den Broek, Bronislaw Geremek, Anthony Giddens, Marcelino Oreja Aguirre, and Michel Rocard.

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By Yahya Al-Olf
alolfi@hotmail.com

Assassinating Islam:

Iraq's Mysterious Brutes "Les Affreux Misanthropes Mysterieux"

The grisly scenes of the savage beheading of innocent Nepalese workers amongst others and the idiotic insulting capture of French journalists serves only to kill Islam at its core as well as its related tenets. What will Iraqi resistance gain out of such Stone Age tactics.

Americans have just discovered new planets outside the Solar System and Muslim fanatic brutes are practicing Stone Age manual killing in Iraq. Don't they know that they just bring calamities shame and disgrace to Islam and the Muslims in general? Is this Islam? What is even more distressing is the sheer pretext they're clutching to, with regard to the French journalists.

I am so intrigued, are the perpetrators real Iraqis or for that matter real Muslims? Please, don't tell me this is true! Unfortunately, I cannot deceive myself more than that, they most probably are. They most certainly are products of fanatic religious teaching. They're merely showing us a bit of their delicacies and how they shall rule if ever they seize power.

Far be from it! If the perpetrators are Muslims, they are everybody's enemy anywhere. They are first and foremost enemies of the Arabs and Muslims. Many people still come up with the idea that MOSAD and CIA are behind all of this.

Based on my humble assumption I don't think that such accusations are fathomable. Although, I disapprove of Israeli racism and their maltreatment of the Palestinians, fanatics in Iraq are equal if not worse.

Such actions and deeds are like bullets hitting the living heart of Islam and do project it as a religion of brutes. I remember that, Uday, the son of the Iraqi deposed president threatened prior to the American invasion of Iraq that he would behead American soldiers.

What I see now is merely poor

Nepalese laborers and multi-national truck drivers being killed and beheaded savagely. Even American soldiers must and should not be treated this way if captured because this is not Islamic at all.

Do they think that with such primitive inhumane tactics they can force the American out? They are so naive because if they were like this everyone around the world would like them to be wiped out first before the Americans do get out. If there is a good aspect in the American invasion, I think it is getting rid of Saddam and showing us the true color of political Islam. Political Islam is being controlled by Stone Age mentality everywhere and anywhere.

Such Muslim Barbarians are not the first, for there were also Christian, Jewish and Indian Barbarians and indeed are still there, preparing for their turn. The world in general should stand against all types of fanaticism of any kind. In order to avoid accusing the Americans and Israelis unnecessarily, the Americans and the Interim Iraqi government must show us proofs and confessions of such human-like animals? If these terrorists are real courageous men why don't they fight the Americans face to face in the battlefield.

Even France which stood against the occupation and whose people are sympathetic with the Palestinian cause are being paid back ignominiously? In fact everybody is surprised what will we gain from gaining French animosity? Muslims in France are guests either they behave like guests, assimilate or else leave politely. Nobody wants a guest to order him about in his own house.

Iraqi Fanatics by this behavior are calling for French animosity and are declaring themselves as staunch allies of Monsieur Jean-Marie Le Pen, Haider, Sieg Heil! and the rest of the European Heil Hitler-like culture as seen in some parties here and

there including, Danish and U.K's nationalist party.

I am writing this and I have not heard about the developments regarding the French hostages. If anything happens to them it is a true calamity and a true disgrace.

I think that the experience has proven that oppression makes people turn to religion but what is more intriguing is how such nations are reticent about their locally made oppressors. The botched rescue attempt of children in Northern Ossitia falls upon the shoulders of the Russian government.

The Chechen problem should not and virtually cannot be linked to international terrorism albeit Arabs are being inserted in Russian futile declarations. The Chechens have been fighting for their independence for more than 300 years now and many of them have fled around the world. Putin is acting in a Stalinist manner trying to force his will on people hating to become part of the Russian Federation.

Chechens and Palestinians are oppressed people and one can understand their positions. Islam here is merely used to raise the spirits of the fighters but is not in itself an objective. It is like Bosnians when they were forced to assert their being Muslims due to Serbian carnage of poor non-observant Muslim Bosnians. So, it is unwise for the world to link the Chechen problem with international terrorism.

Chechens have none to help them and are being ready to receive any assistance from anywhere including Al-Qaeda Devil.

If the kidnapers are Arabs and humans they shall set the French journalists free but if it is proven through Bin Laden and his aides, that he / they have ordered slaying the hostages, Arab governments should send their armies to get rid of these harmful pests because they are damaging Islam and the Arabs more than anything else.

Continued from page 1

Court heedless to suspect's transport permit

Political observers considered the document as evidence of the penetration of terrorists into the security apparatus of the country. This document is still creating ripples about security in Yemen, which seemed to have been penetrated by al-Qaeda. The US officials were concerned after the September 11th terrorist attacks in the US, that al-Qaeda actively operates inside the security and military institutions in Yemen.

Al-Samawi presented two alibi witnesses who confirmed that the second suspect Jamal al-Badwi was not present in Aden

before, during and after the USS Cole terrorist attack, and that he was in Sana'a during that time. The two witnesses Amar Rashad and Omar Abdulrahman said that al-Badwi was in Sana'a at that time.

During the proceeding, al-Samawi also asked that the camera, which the prosecution claimed that it was to be used in filming the attack on the Cole, should be inspected by a photo expert to see whether it is able to film at the distance between the house of monitoring, and the location where the Cole was attacked. The court asked Mohammed al-Shaibani

to verify and present a report on that in the next hearing, in which the case will be adjourned for final hearings. The court will also listen during the next hearing, on Wednesday, to the confession of defendant Fahd al-Qis'e concerning the camera. The prosecution said previously that al-Qis'e confessed he was given the camera by al-Badwi to film the bombing, but in court, he said al-Badwi asked him to preserve it for him. Al-Samawi said earlier AL-Badwi used to use it in filming mosques that needed support and furniture, to present the films to benevolent people.

More dead and wounded

Several religious, social and political figures tried last Friday to hold a sit-in at Al-Shawkani mosque following a call from cleric Mohammed Al-Mansour, and judge Hamoud Al-Moayad to press for a cessation of the war in Sa'ada, and to save the spilling of more blood.

The sit-in did not take place because sheikh Yahya Al-Daylami, preacher of the mosque, told the congregation that he had received threats from the ministries of defense and interior, and the Political Security, to shut down the mosque to foil the sit-in.

Secretary General of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) told people they could come to hold the sit-in at the headquarters of the YSP next Monday.

"Sit-ins are ways of peaceful expression of opinion, and this is ensured by constitution, laws, and international conventions," he said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) expressed in a statement to Al-Shura Weekly its concern about the miserable conditions in the embattled areas.

Mr. Roland, member of the ICRC in

Sana'a, said that they had offered many times their services to the government, but were rejected.

"The committee is trying to follow up the humanitarian conditions, which is still unclear, including the conditions of refugees. It is difficult to estimate the reality without arriving in the area," he said.

Several politicians, clerics and men of distinction have appealed directly to President Saleh to put an end to the war in Sa'ada to save blood, safeguard national unity, security and stability, as well as to avoid further harmful consequences of war.

US lifts ban on arms sales

The ban on the sale of weapons, or any military equipment, resulted from Yemen's position following the Iraq invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Government officials said that the United States clearing the sale of arms will help Yemen continue its fight against terrorism.

"This will assist Yemen to fight against terrorism," Gazem Alaghbari, Head of the Europe Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the Yemen Times. "We will concentrate on using the equipment to help fight terrorism."

Yemen joined the United States in fighting terrorism soon after the attacks on American soil on September 11th 2001. Yemen authorities have since rounded up hundreds of terrorist suspects, including key members of the international Al-Qaeda network.

Six terrorist suspects are on trial charged with being involved in the bombing of the USS Cole at the port of Aden in 2000. Fifteen others were recently convicted of taking part in terrorist activities, including the attack on the French oil tanker Limburg off the coast of Mukalla in 2002.

For nearly three months, the Yemeni

government has been battling with a rebel group headed by Muslim cleric Hussein Al-Houthi in the Saada province, 240 km (150 miles) north of Sana'a near the border with Saudi Arabia. Al-Houthi is accused of inciting violence and terrorism against Western interests in Yemen - especially American.

Before it teamed up with the United States to fight terror, Yemen, which is the ancestral home of Al-Qaeda's leader Osama bin Laden, was perceived as a safe haven for terrorists.

Alaghbari said, "The United States and Yemen have worked well together fighting terrorism over the last few years. Bloomfield told me after his meeting with President Saleh, that the United States is very pleased with the results of Yemen's fight against terrorism and that Yemen has a good understanding of fighting terror."

According to government officials, up until now, the United States has provided roughly \$100 million to support the fight against terrorism, mostly for technical equipment and training. Alaghbari said that now that the ban has been lifted, Yemen will start by concentrating on obtaining spare parts for military equip-

ment.

Tom Casey, Spokesman for the US State Department, said that the delivery of spare parts for C-130 cargo planes was cleared last week, which came soon after the sales of spare parts for F-5 fighter jets was allowed.

The United States delivered nine gunboats to Yemen last spring to assist the newly established Yemeni Coast Guard, to protect the country's coastline and ports. Two months ago, the United States decided that its warships could refuel at the port of Aden due to improved security. US warships stopped arriving at the port after the bombing attack on USS Cole four years ago.

Last April, President Saleh held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow that included furthering arms deals between the countries. After the talks, Russian military officials said that Yemen will be supplied with anti-aircraft missile systems, helicopters and fighter jets.

Russia began delivering military equipment to Yemen in 2000 when Russia sent 31 modern T-80 tanks. In 2001, the two countries signed a contract for the shipment of MiG-29 fighter planes, the first batch of which was delivered in 2002.

أفراح آل السقاف



بقلوب تفيض وداً وفرحاً نتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للدكتور

عزيز عقيل السقاف

بمناسبة الزفاف الميمون

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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (70): Marriage Anniversary

Marriage anniversary revives the fond memories of the happy wedding. The couple reaffirm their love for each other and pledge to cross many more milestones of their happy togetherness.

- Congratulations as you celebrate your anniversary. Warm wishes for a future that just keeps getting better.
- May the happiness and love that the two of you have shared over the years be just the start of more beautiful times ahead and may you find that the bond of your love keeps growing stronger, with each passing year that you are together.
- Don't worry about potholes on the way. Keep celebrating the journey year after year. Happy Marriage Anniversary!
- Happy Anniversary with lots of love. Congratulations as you celebrate your anniversary. Warm wishes for a future that just keeps getting better.

II. How to say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. One should always help his friends in difficulty.
2. Hana should avail of this golden opportunity to get success in her life.
3. In Bombay he enjoyed to his heart's content during his stay at Taj Hotel.
4. If I were him, I would not go there at any cost.
5. The speed of my new motor cycle is much higher than the old one.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. I love **going** there at any time of the day.
2. I feel that it is quite **easy to do** this work without the help of others.
3. He should **take leave of** you after an hour.
4. You and he tried **your best** to pass the exam.
5. Every one of us should do **his** duty to the mother land.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. The distance between the middle and the top or bottom of a sound wave.
2. The study of animal behavior.
3. The study of human bodily communication.
4. Word or phrase made by changing the order of letters in another word or phrase.
5. The condition of being unable to feel pain even though conscious.

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. The character, quality, feeling, etc of a place: **ambience** (n)
2. Having opposing feelings towards, or opinions about, one person or thing: **ambivalent** (adj)
3. Things or circumstances that make life easy or pleasant: **amenity** (n)
4. Appliance for increasing the strength of electrical signal: **amplifier** (n)
5. Study of laughter: **gelotology** (n)

(B) Some useful terms and their origin

Give the source of origin and meaning of the following

1. slang
2. slogan
3. solecism
4. soliloquy
5. sonnet

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **serial** (Lat. 'series': 'row, chain, succession'): The term serial is derived from Neo-Latin 'Serialis' in the 1830s. There are three basic usages: a) a story occurring in sections in a magazine; b) a work published or broadcast on television or radio in parts; c) a periodical like a scientific journal which has numerous part

- and is catalogued.
2. **sermon** (Lat. 'sermo' 'talk, discourse'): As a form of literature is a means of the preaching orders.
3. **sic** (Lat. 'so'): Put in brackets after a word or expression or even perhaps a sentence from a quoted passage to indicate that it is quoted accurately even though it may be incorrect, absurd or grotesque.
4. **simile** (Lat. neuter of 'similis': 'like'): A figure of speech in which one thing is likened to another, in such a way as to clarify and enhance an image. It is an explicit comparison (as opposed to the metaphor, where the comparison is implicit) recognizable by the use of the words 'like' or 'as'.
5. **similitude** (from Lat. 'likeness'): A synonym for parable and allegory; and thus in the sense 'in the guise of'.

(C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. sanguinary, sanguine
2. shade, shadow
3. casual, causal
4. whither, wither
5. abet, abate

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **communication** (n) (the act of passing on news, information, etc.): Communication is a basic need of human beings.
2. **cheat** (vt) (act in a dishonest way to win an advantage or profit): You shouldn't cheat in the exam.
3. **deceive** (vt) (play a trick on): We were deceived into believing that all was well whereas there were serious problems.
4. **delightful** (adj) (giving great pleasure): Wish you a delightful holiday.
5. **delicious** (adj) (pleasing to the sense of taste or smell): The chocolate cake is very delicious.
6. **freedom** (n) (the state of being free): During the holidays students enjoy their freedom.
7. **liberty** (n) (freedom from prison, control, etc.): Can I have the liberty of disclosing my mind?
8. **attend** (vt) (give care and thought to): I have to attend an important meeting today.
9. **escort** (n) (person or persons going with another or others or with valuable goods to protect them): The remittance was sent under police escort.

(D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following idioms in illustrative sentences

1. as fresh as a daisy
2. flog a dead horse
3. play one's cards right
4. be on the go
5. be in a cold sweat

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **at full stretch** (exerting full power, energy, etc. in doing something): The advocate made efforts at full stretch to save his client.
2. **out of the top drawer** (out of the upper social classes): People out of the top drawer have little knowledge about the sufferings of the poor.
3. **have a job** (to have difficulty in doing something): You will have a job proving your innocence in the matter.
4. **to make one's bed and have to lie in it** (to have to suffer the consequences of one's own actions): No one sympathizes with him after he committed an offence because he made his own bed and has to lie in it.
5. **work like a charm** (to be very effective): Her soothing words worked like a charm on him.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Rewrite the sentences without changing the meaning

1. The musical concert was so successful that all the tickets were sold. It was ...
2. 'Drop in and see me tomorrow.' Ali said to me. Ali told ...
3. He carried on working in spite of his illness. Although ...
4. I haven't seen my aunt and uncle for quite a long time. It's ...
5. Henry wasn't hurt because he was wearing a seat belt. If ...
6. I won't let you forget about your appointment. I'll ...
7. They crossed the Atlantic in just over three days. It ...
8. She isn't old enough to play in the championship. She is too ...
9. Someone almost certainly stole the car during the night. The care must ...
10. He didn't become an accountant because he failed his exams. If ...

Suggested answers to last week's questions

1. **Profile**: a description of a person's characteristics
2. **attitude**: a way of thinking or behaving
3. **relationship**: the connection between two or more people
4. **meeting**: an assembly of people, especially for discussion
5. **suit**: to be right or convenient for
6. **bonus**: a sum of money given in addition to a salary
7. **motivate**: to stimulate someone to take an interest in something
8. **redundancies**: reduction in the number of employees
9. **sack**: to tell an employee that he/she must leave his/her job
10. **rationalize**: a statement which tells you what you should do

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

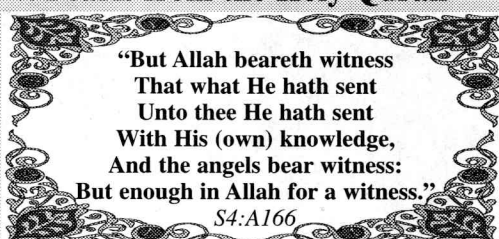
78: LIBERTY CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT DISCIPLINE

Last week's topic

77: LOVE KNOWS NO BARRIERS

Love is an elemental emotion. It is an image of God. Love is a fine flower and the salt of life. 'Love consists of lots of emotion and sighed effect.' It is such a powerful emotion that knows no bounds. That's why it is said that 'love's law is out of rule and that love rules its kingdom without a sword.' Shakespeare exclaims: "O powerful love! That in some respects makes a beast a man, in some other, a man a beast." Under the powerful and overpowering impulse of love, the lovers are prepared to face any challenge or hardship however formidable it may seem to be. The course of true love never runs smooth; yet love conquers all barriers of caste or class or social status and seeks fulfillment or consummation at all costs.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Food for Thought

"I am a happy man, indeed. I visit the Pure Land as often as I like; I'm there and I'm back, I'm there and I'm back."

—Saichi

A tribute to the lighthouse that cleared to shine anymore:

Reminiscence

BY SURESH BABU
DEPT. OF ENGLISH, FACULTY OF
EDUCATION, HAJIAH,
SANA'A UNIVERSITY, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
sureshbleena@yahoo.com

Death, in some cases is an unwanted and unwelcome guest. But in the case of Mohamed Ali it is a blessing. Exactly Mohamed Ali was not my friend, but something more than that...He was my guide and even philosopher. A torchbearer who led me to the lights.

He was the vital presence in our village library. I was only a boy who was amazed at the vast knowledge stored in the books. As for Mohamed Ali, he was a voracious reader. Almost all the good books and classics were already read by him. He had a deep knowledge in literature and other branches of learning. Of course he was a genius with keen understanding and sharp views. Naturally people called him "Genius Mohamed Ali".

In the beginning I was afraid to go near him and talk to him. He was in the college, me a school boy. He hailed from a respectable Muslim family, which is known for broad secular views and noble values. His brothers, all of them were highly educated and well employed.

The books he read opened his eyes and he began to see the world in a different light. He realized that there were a lot of injustices in the world around him. His young and sensitive mind probed the cause for this injustice. The answer he got was that the world is divided into two classes—the rich and the poor. The majority of the poor are being exploited by the rich. The rich continues to be rich and poorer are becoming poorer. This is something that young Mohamed Ali could not put up with. The Communist philosophy that offers equality for all is a panacea for all the ills of the world, he thought. He began reading Communist theories and Socialist principles. Soon he became a radical Communist, rather a revolutionary. There must be a change. The oppressed and the privileged should come to the mainstream, how? He thought deeply. The evolution is a peaceful legislation, which will not be a solution. There must be a revolution for a complete change. These are the ways his mind traveled by. Consequently he became an active member in the party, later he left college and studies.

During the period of internal emergency in India in 1975 his party was banned and the party workers took shelter in the hideouts. Many of them were arrested and subjected to severe physical and mental tortures. Some died in the police camps due to the cruel and inhuman ways of police interrogation.

Somehow Mohamed Ali was spared for some time. In those days he took shelter in my house for three days. We were trembling with fear because if he had been caught from our house, we too would have been arrested for harboring a wanted one. I did not talk to him in those three days, rather I was scared to. He was reading all the time. I started respecting him. I knew that he knew something and he was something.

Later he was arrested from somewhere and was put in the jail. The corporal punishment he had been subjected to was severe. His mental equilibrium was disturbed greatly. Two years later he was released. His faith and devotion to the theory of salvation was still unshaken.

By this time I was in the college. Casual reading paved the way for serious reading. Many books, which I thought tough and difficult, were read. Things became clearer and plainer. In those days I used to meet Mohamed Ali in the library. One day he acknowledged me by talking something. I was thrilled because, to me he was a great man.

I had two good friends, Mohamed Najib and Basheer Ali. They were serious readers. Thanks to them I was acquainted with English books, particularly the classics. We three were a group. Reading books and discussing them in the evening was the only past time we had. I still acknowledge with humility that if these two friends had not been there, I would not have been able to reach the place where I am now. The part of the credit goes to them, truly.

Mohamed Ali had a great impression about us. And sometimes he would come to us and sit with us. We

were immensely pleased when he joined us. Then we gradually learned that we were just children before his vast knowledge. The way he spoke about the books he had read was inspiring indeed. His command over English was really superb. He used to speak in a scholarly language. We looked at him mouth wide open. When he was in a good mood he lectured on anything under the sun—Philosophy, science, religion, God, literature, art, music, painting, cinema and what not! Aristotle, Plato, Karl Marx, Hegel, Shakespeare, Camu, Kafka, Kazantzakis, Sartre, Beckett, Faulkner and Charley Chaplin often came to our evening conversations. Mohamed Ali gave them life and pictured them before us in a beautiful way. He was a great source of inspiration to read and learn new things.

We enjoyed his company and our respect for him grew further. And we began loving him. He liked us. We were very happy when we learned that he liked us. And he started treating us equals. He used to tell others that we were good boys. Whenever there was any meeting of serious nature he would invite us. We enjoyed being together. By this time Mohamed Ali was going away from his party slowly. As for my friends and me, we had no political affiliations and sentiments to any political parties, we were anarchists, we believed in a kind of nihilism.

As years passed, we were separated, but continued friendship with Mohammed Ali. By this time Mohamed Ali had undergone a drastic transformation. The mental shock he received in the jail made him a psychic patient. It can also be ascribed to the frustration of his cherished ideals of a beautiful world or a sudden loss of an illusion once firmly held. Anyway he became mentally upset and began walking in the streets hair uncombed and with shabby clothes. Sometimes he misbehaved with people and even quarreled. Once I was abused public when he felt that he was being avoided. But it was only a misunderstanding. I tried to explain that I never saw him. He believed me and in the next moment hugged me wholeheartedly and kissed me right in front of the same people.

Thereafter I was very careful. Like my friends I too was afraid of him, for he may turn violent any time. But still we liked him. His friends, many of them well placed intellectuals continued helping him. His people and friends took him to various hospitals but the subtle chemistry of his mind was beyond correction, it was a chronic one.

He continued to wander in the town and villages like a lost soul. Still he was sensible enough to understand things. In the meanwhile he got a job in the Government of

Kerala. With his unsteady mind he tried to work there. His colleagues helped him and he was forgiven for his lapses. One day he forced us to stay in his house, he even threatened, if not stayed, he would commit suicide, we yielded. Sometimes he was very obstinate.

We were so sorry for his fate. Such an intelligent and young man who had great ideas to change the world wanders! Whenever we saw him we felt very sad. He himself knew that he was abnormal. He used to tell us about his hallucinations and strange dreams when he felt normal.

Last year when I went for vacation I met him. He was tired and pale. The smile and grace had already disappeared from the face. He looked tense all the time, a typical lunatic. Yet he greeted me and asked about my welfare. I silently prayed for him in vain. Yesterday I was informed that Mohammed Ali is no more. His body was found floating in a pond in our village. He must have embraced the comfort of his own death. A sad culmination or a tragic end of a promising youth, you may say. But for me, I realize painfully that Mohamed Ali is no longer with me. And he will not illuminate the obscure realms of our minds with his brilliant speeches any more.

I would say with all the privileges that he was a lighthouse that used to spread light and we were just flies that fly around the light. The knowledge that he is not with me makes me an orphan. Yet the lights he had shed earlier will continue to spread gleam in the days of darkness.

A humble child who grew up listening to your stories

WONDERWORD®

by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions—vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| Airborne | Drugs | Lungs | Pool | Steroids |
| Alerts | Dust | Mask | Powder | Sting |
| Animals | Eyes | Medicine | Pressure | Summer |
| Annoying | Fans | Mildew | Products | Sunlight |
| Asthma | Fever | Miserable | Rain | Supply |
| Avoid | Filters | Mosquito | Rash | Swell |
| Bites | Flowers | Move | Reaction | Swollen |
| Blow | Food | Noses | Redness | Tent |
| Bugs | Fumes | Ozone | Relief | Testing |
| Bumps | Grass | Peanuts | Scratch | Throat |
| Cats | Help | Perfume | Season | Time |
| Children | Hives | Pest | Shot | Tissue |
| Climate | Hospital | Pets | Signs | Toxins |
| Common | Humid | Pharmacy | Skin | Trip |
| Congestion | Itch | Pick | Smog | Uncomfortable |
| Dirt | Lake | Pills | Smoke | Watery |
| Dogs | Last | Poison | Sneeze | Weeds |
| Drops | Lotion | Pollen | Spray | Wind |

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Squirrel

ALLERGIES

Solution: 14 letters

E	A	I	R	B	O	R	N	E	N	D	M	I	S	E	R	A	B	L	E
L	M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O	S	N	E	R	U	S	S	E	R	P	A
B	H	C	T	A	R	C	S	M	I	I	E	M	G	W	A	T	E	R	Y
A	T	S	U	S	S	E	O	T	N	W	G	N	I	T	S	R	T	E	S
T	S	G	N	W	S	K	C	N	O	A	U	A	P	T	S	I	G	N	S
R	A	U	A	O	E	H	I	L	G	L	M	H	N	M	D	A	I	O	I
O	H	R	E	L	I	E	F	N	S	E	A	S	O	N	I	X	L	Z	P
F	H	D	P	L	P	T	H	S	A	R	S	G	E	V	O	M	C	O	T
M	I	L	D	E	W	E	C	N	M	T	K	T	N	T	V	Y	L	I	S
O	V	R	A	N	S	P	R	A	Y	S	L	L	I	P	A	L	I	P	E
C	E	F	S	T	T	D	C	F	E	V	E	R	C	O	E	R	M	N	P
N	S	O	U	R	I	Y	T	S	U	R	Z	A	I	N	N	U	A	F	G
U	U	O	I	M	S	P	S	D	S	M	E	R	D	M	B	N	T	I	I
N	M	D	U	T	E	P	S	I	T	E	E	Y	E	S	L	O	E	L	N
Y	M	H	A	N	O	S	I	O	P	E	N	E	M	D	O	M	N	T	O
L	E	C	S	R	K	H	W	R	H	P	S	D	E	E	W	M	T	E	I
P	R	O	D	U	C	T	S	E	E	B	I	T	E	S	G	O	D	R	T
P	E	U	S	I	T	L	T	L	O	O	P	I	R	T	C	P	S	O	
U	S	G	U	B	P	P	S	S	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	E	K	A	L
S	T	H	G	I	L	N	U	S	T	H	R	O	A	T	G	D	U	S	T

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**BY SHAKER AL-MOLSI
FOR YEMEN TIMES**

Among all that is going on in Sana'a in 2004, while it holds the title of Arab Cultural Capital, a joint Yemeni-Italian artistic workshop has been organized by the Ministry of Culture, and the Italian Embassy at Sana'a. Yemeni and Italian artists are working together, exchanging experiences and adding to the glamour of the celebrated city and at the end of the workshop, a gallery will be opened to expose its fruits



Yemeni and Italian artists working together in the workshop

Italian ambassador at the workshop
His Excellency Italian ambassador

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Giacomo Sanfelice attended the Atelier, and visited various artists to observe how things were going on. He declared himself "very pleased" with the works that covered the walls.

This particular workshop was the initiative of the Sicily-based Orestiadi Foundation, an establishment that sponsors and produces events in the world of theater, visual arts, music and poetry, as well as scientific, publishing and professional training. On his visit to Yemen, the chairman of the Foundation was received by the Minister of Culture and Tourism Khaled Al-Rowaishan, and they discussed together the possibility of contact between Italian and Yemeni artists.

"As the headquarters of the foundation are in Sicily, it could get in touch with well-known contemporary painters, and sculptors."

Two Italian artists agreed to come and participate in this workshop," elaborated the ambassador.

He is optimistic about the outcome of the workshop. "I do believe that such an exchange is very fruitful for both sides."

Continued on page 10



كمالات

المدان الرائقي..

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