

## Al-Shura to be banned for six months, editor-in-chief imprisoned one year

# Press freedom endangered

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Although President Saleh, chairman of Supreme Judicial Council, gave directives a few months ago to abolish the imprisonment of journalists, the West Sana'a Court has flouted the Presidential decree, and sentenced Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, the editor-in-chief of Al-Shura Weekly (the organ of the Public Forces Union), to one-year of imprisonment.

All nongovernmental organizations and opposition parties, as well as social and political figures, have denounced the sentence, seeing it as politicized, unfair,

and in contravention of democracy and the constitution.

The Public Forces Union (PFU) was the first to express its condemnation of the sentence, which it described as "oppressive and illegal."

"This fierce attack on Al-Shura, and its editor-in-chief, represents a gross violation of the constitution and the law, and undoubtedly affirms the disregard of the authorities towards rights and freedom, especially freedom of expression, without which democracy becomes meaningless," said a statement distributed by the PFU on September 5th.

It added: "It completely violates the

President's initiative to abolish the imprisonment of journalists. These arbitrary procedures are a reflection of the bogus democracy which the government declares and tries to promote abroad. It reflects the excessive influence of the executive authority, and its disrespect for the separation of authorities, and its abhorrence of journalistic freedom and democracy."

**Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani**

The statement continued: "The proce-



dures taken by the authorities against Al-Shura are the result of the newspaper's opening of corruption and malfeasance files, which led to a mock trial of the newspaper, beyond the frame of law, and ended up with an unfair political sentence, the arrest of the editor-in-chief and the shutting down of the newspaper."

Continued on page 5

## Parliament raises oil deal scandal again

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

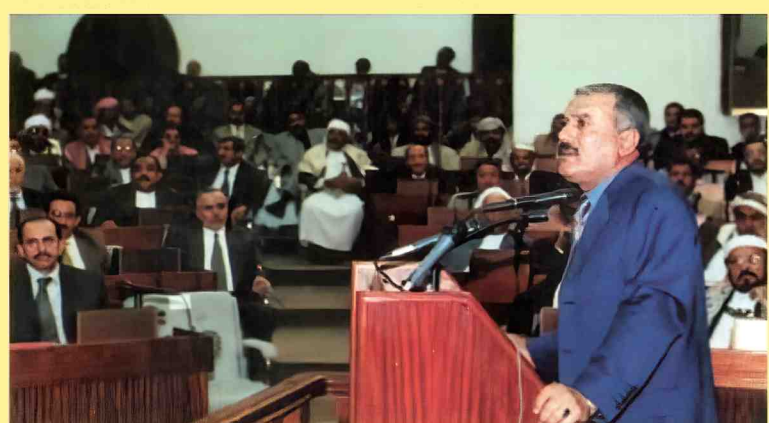
Yemen's parliament reiterated its demand that Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajamal should be questioned about several issues of corruption, including the contract for the sale of 60% of the oil from the field in bloc 53, child trafficking and contaminated medicines. During heated debates on Saturday and Sunday, MPs decided that the government should be held to account concerning its commitment to call off the oil deal, which was considered by the parliament as 'fishy' and against the law. Parliamentarians, who succeeded last June in thwarting the oil deal, said that the government has not fulfilled its commitment to call off the deal. They decided that the government must inform them of what has happened to the oil deal, or they will summon Bajamal to be questioned.

The Ministry of Oil signed a contract

with an investor, in which it sold 60% of the oil in field No. 53 at \$13 million per year, while its annual revenue reached \$20 million. The Ministry denied that the bargain was against the law, and argued that it was in favor of Yemen. But, MP's said Yemen would have lost YR 37 billion, had the deal been implemented.

The parliament also decided to discuss in their agenda, a number of reports written by the central Organization for Accounting and Auditing. The scandal of child trafficking, and contaminated-diluted medicines, were some of the vital issues that MPs considered in need of elaboration from the government.

The MPs also demanded that they be kept informed of developments in the on-going fight between supporters of the fanatical cleric Hussien al-Huthi, and government troops, which has claimed the lives of thousands of people. This fight has raised concern



President Saleh during one of the parliament sessions - YT archive.jpg

among different political parties, particularly the socialist, who have demanded an end to the confrontations, which have proved useless in ending the problem.

This firm action by some MPs has

come after reports that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have threatened to stop their cooperation with Yemen, mainly because of corruption, which the WB and IMF recognize as a pervasive problem.

## Government prevents protest against Sa'ada attacks

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni authorities prevented a demonstration in Sana'a last Monday, planned to call the government to end fighting in north Yemen.

The protest, which was expected to take place at the YSP headquarters, was organized by the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) and backed by other leading opposition parties.

"The authorities prevented many people from entering the area near the YSP headquarters," said Ali Saleh Obad, Secretary General of the Yemen Socialist Party. "Most people were afraid to come and only representatives of parties and a few scholars, par-

liament members, and lawyers were allowed to come. Now that its time to fight terrorism, it appears that everything is prevented by rules fighting terrorism."

It was the second protest in recent days, against the ongoing clashes between Yemeni forces and followers of Muslim cleric Hussein Al-Houthi, to be stopped by the authorities. A

demonstration scheduled for last Friday at Al-Shawkani mosque was called off due to orders to protest leaders, from the authorities.

The YSP's headquarters was surrounded by blockades and soldiers, who did not allow the gathering of people wishing to participate in the protest.

Continued on page 5

## US Supports Yemen's efforts to crack down on al-Houthi rebellion

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The US announced on Sunday, its support for the efforts of Yemen's government, to crack down on the rebellion, led by the fanatic cleric Hussien al-Huthi, in Sa'ada governorate. Thousands have been killed and wounded in the fight that erupted on June 28th. The state-run Saba News agency reported that Commander of the US Central Command, General John Abizaid, expressed the readiness of his country to support Yemen in its war against terrorism, and acts of bane. Abizaid paid a short visit to Yemen Sunday and met President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Saleh and Abizaid's talks focused on the bilateral relationship and joint co-operation between the two countries, mainly in the fight against terror. Abizaid "praised Yemen's efforts in combating terrorism", and said Washington was interested in boosting co-operation between the two countries, Saba added.

The talks follow an announcement by US Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, Lincoln Bloomfield, during a visit to Sana'a on Wednesday, that Washington has lifted a 14-year ban on the supply of military equipment to Yemen.

The ban on supplying Yemen with weapons or any military equipment, including spare parts, was imposed following Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, at which time Sana'a was perceived as having taken a sympathetic stance toward Baghdad.

Yemeni sources said the US had agreed to a Yemeni request to provide Sana'a with spare parts for F-5 fighters and C-130 transport planes, purchased

before north and south Yemen merged into a single state in 1990.

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## In brief

## WBT surveys Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

A World Bank team (WBT) is conducting a number of studies and field surveys in the Red sea and the Gulf of Aden. The team intends to set up a draft policy concerned with a special project on fishery wealth in Yemen, at the cost of \$100 million. The project, which is of crucial importance, aims mainly at raising the quality of fish production through reinforcing the main structures, improving the living standards of fishermen, supporting studies and research into fish wealth.

Harbor reconstruction, laboratories and supporting fish projects for coastal woman, will also be covered by the project.

## Workshop to combat blindness

The national workshop for combating blindness, started on Monday 6th September 2004. The workshop aims at limiting the phenomenon of blindness, as well as training a number of ophthalmologists all over the Republic.

Infection problems cause many eye diseases, from which a large number of Yemenis suffer. The workshop will also attempt to discover the causes and factors that facilitate infections and determining proper strategies to end such illnesses.

## Child abuse in Taiz

A barbaric crime occurred in Al-Jahmalia in the city of Taiz, on Saturday September 4th 2004 when a human beast, called A. M. A., raped a three and a half year old girl as he was in her father's house. The police caught him and initiated legal proceedings. The case has now been transferred to the responsible authorities.

Seven bus drivers also admitted committing adultery in Beer Basha with a 13-year teenager (R. H. Sh.) who used to accompany them. The seven men, as well as the girl, confessed that they have been committing adultery together for two months. All of them (except for the girl) were transferred to the concerned authorities to take legal procedures. The girl was sent to her father through the chief of the zone as she is still a minor.

## Overwhelming torrents kill a man and three girls

Heavy rains in Taiz and its suburbs have led to the death of an unidentified man who was found in the torrent of gathered rainwater, which passes through the city.

Staff Colonel Yahya Al-Haisami, deputy security official of Taiz, said the victim was transferred to Al-Jumhuri Hospital, and added that strong torrents have also lead to the deaths of three young girls.

## Special course on engineering ports

BY SALEH AKBOOR  
ADEN BUREAU

The Yemen Ports Authority have organized a special intensive course on ports engineering at the Marine Training Center in Aden during the period from September 6th - 22nd 2004. The course aims to elevate the level of engineering at Yemeni ports.

Dr. Hamdi al-Qamhawi who is specialized in engineering ports and marine establishments in Alexandria University, is delivering lectures concerning the harbor's framework,

marine establishments, winds, ebb and flood tides, waves, coast processes, and on many other topics, including the criteria of harbor design, control equipment, storing services, and glide problems.

The course is of significance because it aims to increase the level of Yemeni engineers coming from ports in Aden, Hodeida, and Al-Mukala so that they'll be able to participate in various projects being established in Yemeni ports.

## Abu Walad celebrates 2nd draw

HODEIDA BUREAU

A wonderful celebration of the Abu Walad Biscuit took place at the cultural center in Hodeida last Monday evening. The celebration consisted of many artistic, cultural and funny sections, and was attended by an enormous number of Abu Walad fans.

The celebration marked the occasion of the 2nd draw of the "Furnish your House" festival of Abu Walad 2004.

It was attended by Abdulfattah al-

Aswadi, deputy general director of the company, with a number of the company's branch managers, the company's local agents and representatives of other companies. During the celebration, a draw was conducted and the winning names were announced.

The festival is considered an annual tradition adopted by the company, to exchange sincere affection with its Product's audience.

The final draw will be made next Monday, Sep. 13th 2004.

## Planting coffee discussed

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A workshop on the current condition of planting coffee in Yemen and the future developmental horizons, starts its activities on Monday September 6th 2004. The workshop is being held in Sana'a and aims to diagnose the current situation of coffee in production areas, and to discuss and evaluate both the positive and negative aspects of the production, harvest and marketing processes, so as to improve the quality and quantity of coffee produce. The course is concerned with analyzing problems

and finding possible solutions, in addition, it aims to specify to the responsible authorities the recommendations arising from the workshop according to a 5 year temporal program that should lead to the achievement of its goals.

The workshop will be attended by 70 academics and specialists, who will discuss 24 papers within the 3 days and approve suitable solutions and strategies. They are studying the factors that caused a reduction of coffee plantations despite the fact that coffee is considered as an agricultural product for which Yemen is famous for.

## ASCS summer camp wrapped up

AHMED AL-BUKHARI  
TAIZ BUREAU

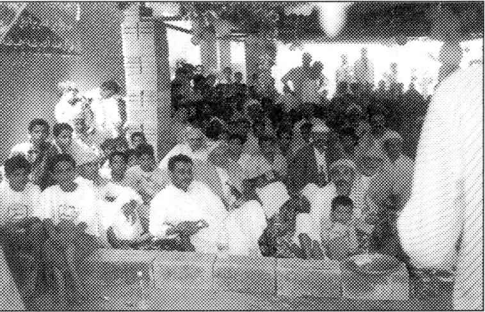
Al-Khoorah Social Charitable Society (ASCS) In Al-Ma'afer district in Taiz province concluded the 3rd annual summer camp this week. The camp was organized and sponsored by the society and included summer courses in various subjects, such as Computing, English, Holy Qura'an, Mathematics, Painting, eradicating illiteracy, and sports activities.

During the concluding celebration, many talented students presented artistic



selections: songs, poems, and jokes, focusing on the many social problems, like high dowries and shootings during weddings and festivals.

The celebration was attended by Ali Ahmed al-Sagheer, Head of the GPC branch, Ali Ahmed al-Mashwali, Secretary General of the society and its information official, a number of Sheiks and groups of locals. Those present thanked Haj Abdulrab Mahyub Salem al-Mashwali who was generous, in presenting the prizes distributed during the celebration.



## Al-Bab Gallery features Yemeni and Italian works

BY RAMZY AL-ABSI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A host of Yemeni and Italian artists have exhibited their works at Al-Bab Gallery, in the old city of Sana'a after holding a joint workshop at Sana'a Atelier.

The gallery was inaugurated on Sunday Sept 5 by Nabil Al-Faqih, Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, and Mr. Giacomo Sanfelice, Italian ambassador to Sana'a, in the presence of members of the political corpse, and will last for five days.

The gallery featured innovative works of Yemeni and Italian artists that deserved the appreciation of the visitors.

"What has affected my soul is the harmony among works and their accuracy which suggests that art is an open language for communication between nations," said Nabil Al-Faqih.

Italian artist B. Diodato wrote the following: "(It is) a very successful result of the friendly cooperation and artistic exchange between Yemeni and Italian very prominent artists."

The gallery was visited on Tuesday by HE Minister of Culture and Tourism Khaled Al-Rowaishan, and Tawfiq Al-Ahmer, who said it "is wonderful, and reveals chanting horizons of colors that emanate the Yemeni spirit, beautiful



color, creative cooperation, and identical emotions of the human in Yemen and Italy."

## Sports Festival Celebrated in Taiz

BY TAIZ YT BUREAU

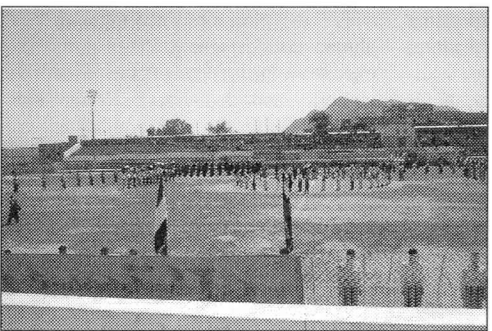
The fourth sports and cultural festival took place on Tuesday 7th September at Al-Shohada'a hall in Taiz. The celebration started with the recitation of verses from the holy Quran and then a parade of participating teams and scouts on the occasion of the national commemorations of September 26th, October 14th and November 30th. "These parades are a wonderful Yemeni display", said Mr. Shokri Al-Forais, General Manager of the Yemeni Company for Ghee and Soap Industries (YCGSI). He praised the activities and competitions arranged throughout the Festival, adding that the festival is organized by the Sports Union, supervised by the Youth and Sport Office in Taiz, and sponsored and financed by YCGSI.

He also stressed that such sports and



cultural championships is a way of discovering youthful talent and ability in Taiz and other rural areas. Encouraging and creating opportunities for activities like this makes an effective contribution to sport and the cultural scene in the governorate, and the support offered by companies to cultural and sporting activists is a reflection of their community spirit - as demonstrated by the Hayel Saeed Group. Our youths deserve such luxuriant support from our hearts, Mr. Al-Furais added.

The celebration was attended by Assistant Deputy of the Governor of Taiz, Mohammed Al-Ansi, Military Police Commander and a number of prominent persons among whom was Mr. Mokhtar Al-Forais, Information Consultant at the YCOSC, Dr. Ridha'a al-Kazdaghi, and Mr. Zaid Al-Nahari, Manager of the Information Office of Hayel Saeed Group.



## Girls World Communication Center

## Concludes its 7th summer camp

By: Fahmia AL-Fotih  
For the Yemen Times

As schools have started opening their doors and after a summer full of activity and vigorous work, around 120 students of the Girls World Communication Center (GWCC) celebrated the closing week of the 7th summer camp.

The camp, that lasted for two months, focused mainly on improving students in the English and French languages, besides learning computer skills, swimming training courses, and conducting research.

Ms. Najeeba Hadad, the deputy of the minister of culture and tourism, was among the distinguished guests who

admired the vital role that the GWCC has played in developing young skills and promoting their talents.

She praised the GWCC's various activities that connect the students with social issues and problems, and adapting day-to-day technology.

She confirmed that the ministry of culture and tourism was grateful for such beneficial and successful projects.

She also asked parents to pay full attention to their children by enrolling them in such centers instead of wasting their time in summer.

The students presented different shows and expressed their happiness with beautiful songs and performed sketches in English, as well as expressing their gratitude for the administration

of GWCC represented by Ms. Kabool Al-Mutwakel, Ms. Entelak Al-Mutwakel and Ms. Hana'a Al-Shami, along with the qualified and professional teachers.

It is worthy mentioning that GWCC has been implementing a number of programs among which is a one-year development program for young leaders among secondary school graduates, as well as raising awareness about human rights. Moreover the GWCC gives a hand to underprivileged and limited-income students by giving them scholarships.

A qualified female cadre teach at GWCC aided by some foreign specialists particularly in the implementation of the workshops.

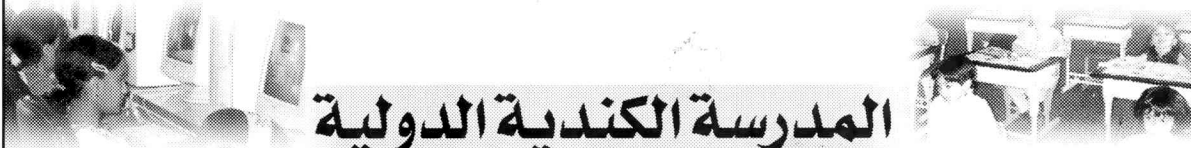


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## \$50million from Saudi Development Fund

Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training has received a loan of \$50 million from the Saudi Development Fund to establish 19 technical institutes in several areas of the country. The new institutes are additional to the 16 government-funded institutes, said Minister Ali Mansour bin Saffa'a.

The European Union is also going to fund an institute for hotel services in the Capital City, and will support female specialists in Aden in the gas and oil industry, the minister added.

"The establishment of these institutes in different governorates will

enhance the role of institutes greatly, help meet labor market needs, and contribute to poverty alleviation," he said.

He defended the Cabinet's decree to transfer community colleges to the domain of the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, "since they are related to the market."

He added that the ministry has set up a plan for a national technical education and vocational training strategy. This involves developing the infrastructure, operating the 35 institutes (which are still being prepared), and designing syllabi and training programs to meet the needs of the labor market.

## UN Secretary-General on the death of Yemen Ambassador

The Secretary-General was saddened to learn of the death of Ambassador Abdullah Saleh Al-Ashtal, who served as Yemen's Permanent Representative to the United Nations for almost 30 years.

Deeply committed to the work and ideals of the Organization, Ambassador Al-Ashtal was a doyen of envoys to the United Nations. He presented his credentials on May 29, 1973, as Permanent Representative of

the People's Democratic Republic

of Yemen to the United Nations, and continued to represent a united Yemen from 1990. He remained in his post until July 2002, giving the title of Permanent Representative exceptionally real meaning. As one of Yemen's most articulate diplomats and a widely popular delegate to the United Nations, he was a leading advocate of economic and social development.

The Secretary-General extends his condolences to the family of Ambassador Al-Ashtal, as well as to the Government of Yemen.

## Training course on food industry concluded

A training course on the food industry concluded at the hall of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Taiz on 31st August. The course was organized from August 14th by the Al-Ofuq Professional Society for Women's Development and was financed by the Social Development Fund under an agreement signed by Shawqi Ahmed Hail Sa'eed, head of the consultant board of the professional societies union, and under the supervision of the CCI.

There were 22 female participants on the course, who received first-class administrative and technical training, to be able to get a source of income, said Intisar Al-Aghbari, the director of the society.

The course consisted of three main

units: the food industry, in which trainees learned how to make drinks and pastes out of household materials; the pastes industry, in which participants learned how to prepare pastes with modern equipment and were exposed to new ideas; and sweets.

At the closing ceremony, participants were given certificates and prizes by the National Company for the Ghee and Soap Industry.

The ceremony was attended by Abdullah Abdul-Wahab No'aman, representative of Shawqi Hail Sa'eed, representative of the CCI, Mr. Volkmar Jahn, advisor for the Small Enterprise Developing Center in the CCI, and Faidah Abdul-Jalil Shaher, head of the Program Department in the Al-Ofuq society.

## Yemeni Architecture Conference

The Yemeni Culture Conference started its events in Sana'a on Saturday 4th September 2004. It is organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism within the events of Sana'a as the capital of Arab Culture. This three-day conference will discuss more than 25 work

sheets presented by Yemeni, Arab and foreign architects, researchers and other interested parties. An exhibition for Yafai architectural art was set up within the aforementioned conference, so as to introduce a portion of unique Yemeni peculiarities and colour.

## Seminar on vocational training for women

A seminar on vocational programs for women came to an end on 25/8/2004. Experts from Syria, Palestine, Libya and Jordan came to participate in the three-day seminar, which underlined the need for the exchange of information within the Arab world. Such topics were discussed as the function of

establishments to govern these programs, the roles that visual, aural and print media could play and the encouragement that ought to be given to women to join in. In addition the use of mobile training units to reach women in remote areas was considered.

## International Day for eradicating illiteracy

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen partakes with countries around the world, in celebrating the International Day for eradicating the illiteracy the 8th September of every year. Yet it should be remembered that the percentage of illiterate people in Yemen rises every year. This topic has been representing a real danger to the Yemeni community and has now reached a critical stage. The attempts

to eradicate illiteracy have been numerous but unsuccessful, meanwhile, in the developing communities, this failing has been interpreted as an incapability of dealing with computers and the Internet. The numbers of those unable to read and write give increasing cause for concern and it is all the more surprising then, that the issues are not given the due consideration by the official and non-official authorities, that befits the gravity of the situation.

## UNDP and Ministry of Planning launch Global Human Development Report 2004 "Cultural liberty in today's diverse world"

Sana'a 1st September 2004 - Under the auspices of H.E. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of planning and international cooperation (MoPIC) the UNDP is organizing a ceremony to launch the global Human Development Report 2004 (HDR), entitled "cultural Liberty in our Diverse World". The ceremony will take place at 10:00 am on Sunday 5th September 2004, at the police Academy club in Sana'a.

A number of senior government officials are expected to attend, as well as members of diplomatic corps, United Nations agencies, and other governmental and non-governmental bodies. Speeches are expected to be delivered by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister, the new Resident Representative of UNDP in Yemen- who assumed her position as of

1st September 2004 - as well as by some relevant ministers. The official launching ceremony will be followed by a press conference that is aimed at stimulating a national discussion on some of the key issues raised by the Report.

The 2004 Human Development Report argues that cultural freedom is an essential element of human development because being able to choose one's identity -i.e. who one is - without losing the respect of others or being excluded from other choices is important in leading a full life. All over the world, men and women want the freedom to choose their identity and way of life and to be regarded as equals without fear of punishment or diminished opportunity.

The Report also argues that if the world is to achieve the millennium

Development Goals geared towards halving poverty and hunger by 2015, the critical issue of how to build culturally inclusive societies will need to be addressed. This is important not only because healthy, stable, inclusive societies are essential factors contributing to successful human development, but also because societies where all citizens are treated as equals and are free to express their cultures is an important development end in itself.

This year's Report carefully examines - and rejects - claims that cultural differences necessarily lead to social, economic and political conflict.

As the Report makes abundantly clear, cultural liberty will not happen on its own, any more than health, education or women's rights just happen. Rather, it requires active measures by state and society to foster culture liberty

even where there are no explicit policies of persecution or discrimination. To this end, the report outlines five key areas where state policies should be developed: political participation, religion, access to justice, language, and access to socio-economic opportunities.

It is also noteworthy that HDRs, commissioned by UNDP, are gaining momentum as major global reference publication on human development. The Reports rank the progress being made by countries in the areas of human development on the basis of specific criteria and indicators. According to this ranking, Yemen is 149th out of 177 countries.

For this important report to receive enough attention, the UNDP urges colleges in the media sector to attend and cover this important launching ceremony and press conference.

## Hertz Yemen & Emirates extend skywards benefits

The ongoing joint promotion of Hertz Yemen and Emirates Airline for the benefit of Skywards members is extended until the end of September 2004.

Through this promotion, the skywards members who are renting vehicles in Hertz Yemen will be entitled for a 500 bonus miles and enables them to take part in a grand raffle to be held on the first week of October 2004 at the Emirates office in Hadda. Emirates offers two economy air tickets one to any Emirates destination in Europe and the other to any Emirates destination in

the Middle East.

"Since the promotion started in late July 2004 to benefit all skywards members in Yemen and/or visiting members, this extension will help achieve highest turn over for mutual benefits" said Saleem Sheikh, the GM of Hertz Yemen.

Meanwhile, Badr Abbas, the Area Manager of Emirates Airline disclosed that "this promotion represents a wonderful opportunity for Skywards members to get the best vehicles at the best prices."

## Saudi medical team performs surgery in Sana'a

A 3-surgeon Saudi team specializing in brain, nerves, backbone and cardiac surgery, has started to conduct operations in Yemen this week. The visit is in the framework of the Saudi-Yemeni medical cooperation, where Saudi Arabia offers medical treatment.

It is worth mentioning that Saudi

Arabia has also granted Yemen about US\$ 2.5 million for building and expanding the Military Hospital in Sana'a, which will be completed by the end of this year.

The one-week visit will cover some surgeries and diagnoses of several cases.

## Robbers target telecom centers

A new trend has appeared among gangsters who attack telecom centers. They beat or threaten operators, then plunder mobile cards, and pull telephones from booths, security sources in Taiz revealed.

The last incident happened at Al-Azhar Telecom Center belonging to Khaled Mahioob, in Hawdh Al-Ashraf area, where the operator was beaten and the contents of the center were

robbed. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the matter.

Gangsters use usually on motorcycles for such operations, so as to flee the scene.

Other types of robbers take plastic sacks and get into booths, after making calls, they unscrew the telephone bolts, put it in the bag and leave the owner to discover later that the telephone has been stolen.

## Environmental course in Yemen

The Central Planning Organization, with the collaboration of the project for upgrading the economical and financial department in Yemen, has set up a training course on the environmental census, which was attended by 22 trainees representing census bureaus in most of the Republic governorates, and the parties issuing the environmental census data.

The course runs from 30th Aug. to 8th Sept. 2004. It is considered the first course of its type, and aims to improve environmental data and census in Yemen in order to inform those who

draw up policies and strategies, and those who take decisions about environmental protection and sustainable development, in a scientific modern style. The course will help the participants to acquire the many of the scientific and practical skills to do with the environment, and provide them with an introduction to the environmental census facts in Yemen. These censuses include the shortage of elements connected to the natural environment such as air, earth and water, human waste products, natural incidents, and the impact had on the environment.

## Islah da'awah camps in Mareb

The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) is organizing a number of summer camps in Mareb, at which students from Al-Eyman University and religious leaders will deliver lectures.

Islah is trying to broaden its support base in the tribal community through ideological and religious construction. In the areas of Mareb and Jawf, the party is active and has a greater base than any other party, (including the ruling GPC).

However, areas such as Sa'adah, over which the Zaidi influence has surged, its influence (and that of the Wahabi sect) has been decreasing.

The control of religious sects over regional districts is dangerous, broadening any clashes between them and the government - as is happening in Sa'adah, rendering the government ineffective in quelling the rebellion of religious leader Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi and his followers.

## Back to school

Approximately one and a half million students all over the Republic, in both primary and secondary education, will have restarted their school term on Saturday, 4/9/2004, following the end of the summer holidays, and as announced, the Ministry of Education has provided the schoolbooks. This year sees the introduction by the ministry of an ambitious plan, which involves the

restructuring of the ministry itself. The main objectives are to retrain and qualify 40 thousand teachers, both male and female, throughout the whole Republic, over the course of a four-year training program, for which purpose there has been allocated a budget of \$100m. In addition to this, the Ministry intends to set up educational establishments in more deprived areas.

## Air conditioning training course

By YT TAIZ BUREAU

The Taiz Technical and Industrial College played host to the third training course in air conditioning technology. The events, which began on the 28/08/04 and which lasted for a week, were organized by the Electronics and Electric Trade Society in collaboration with the private sector and the GTZ. 15 trainees from the Society in total participated in these events, in the context of skills development and maintenance modernization.

Mr. Muhammad Abdullah al-Hukami, the head of the Electronics Trade Society said that the aim of the course was to increase the potential and review the skills of employees and owners of small enterprises, and to raise the performance standard in general. He went on to claim that the inauguration of a new course for owners of electronic equipment maintenance enterprises, starting from the bottom

rung of the labor market, would help them acquire the knowledge necessary to become stable and stay in the labor market.

The Director of the private sector aid for creating work opportunities, Dr Yousef Tomma, corroborated the President of the Republic's statement that "the foundations of development are created internally, and if there is a will within various societies to pursue paths to create new employment opportunities, and if we see that the response to such is positive, then we will endeavor to provide the support required, for such is the basis of development"

The course was run by Detlef Genath, coordinator of the inauguration, Dr. Muhammad al-Hukami, Dr. Muhammed Mahmood, supervisor of the Department for Development of Small Enterprises, Mr. Faisal al-Nadheef of the Taiz Vocational Training Fund for Small Enterprises, and Mr. Jameel al-Qadasi, the general manager of the Taiz Technical and Industrial College.

## CSCDT organizes events in Taiz

The Cultural and Social Center for Development and Training organized on August 31st a night for poetry and short story recitations, in cooperation with French Dia organization. A number of young poets and short story writers participated including Amin Al-Duba'I, Na'aim Mohammed, Ayoub Hassan, and Hamim Mohammed.

The event was enriched with interventions and discussions on regular (amoudi) verse and its influence. Sawzan Al-Adimi said the aim of the activity is to display the talents of

youths, and encourage them to produce creative works of poetry and short stories.

On the other hand, the center, financed by Dia, is organizing a two-month training course on beautification and cosmetology, starting from mid August.

Director of the center, Hana'a Ahmed Abu Taleb, said the course is to train female participants so that they can improve their lives.

The Center trains women to get professions and skills in order for them to conquer poverty.

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- Excellent interpersonal skills
- International experience and/or background in education are preferable
- University degree or equivalent experience
- Translator experience is a plus

### FINANCE MANAGER

Will be responsible for financial management of an office located in Sana'a. He/she will perform financial transactions, prepare computerized monthly financial reports using both financial software and Excel spreadsheet applications, disburse/monitor petty cash. Additional responsibilities include budget charging, cash flow management, budget preparation, and other financial services tasks. He/she will establish constructive relationships with headquarters staff in USA. He/she will be part of the team ensuring the project is always in compliance with requirements of the US government, Yemeni government, and implementing agency.

#### Qualifications Required:

- Proficiency in written and spoken English and Arabic
- University degree or equivalent experience in accounting/financial management
- Prior use of accounting software (QuickBooks preferred or will train)
- Advanced computing skills (MS Office)
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- International experience is preferable

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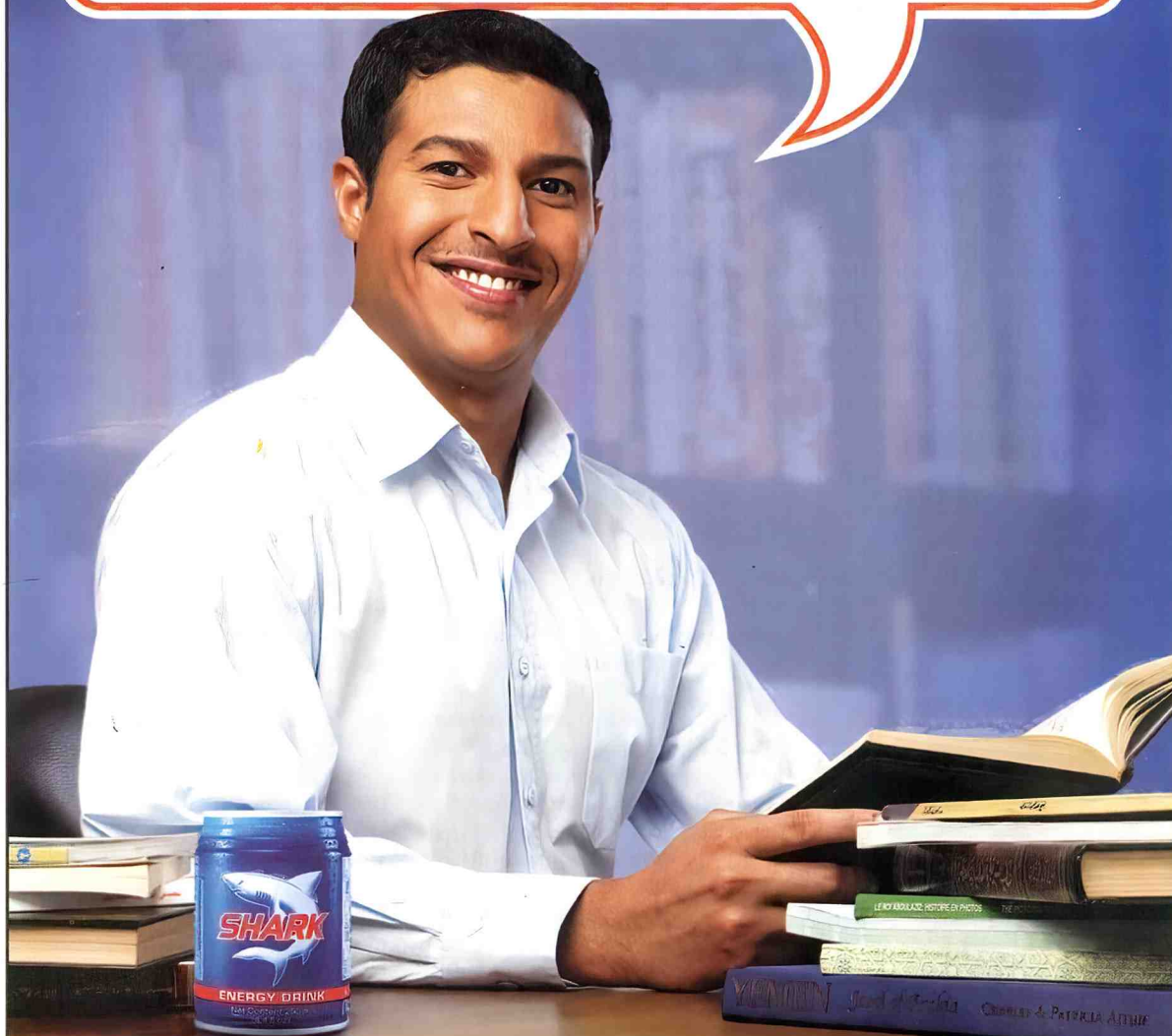
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# Six U.S. soldiers killed in separate Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, Sept 7 (Reuters) - Insurgents killed two U.S. soldiers in separate attacks in Baghdad on Tuesday, the U.S. military said, raising the official Pentagon U.S. death toll to at least 994 since the start of the war in Iraq.

In Baghdad's sprawling Shi'ite Sadr City slum, guerrillas with rocket-propelled grenades killed one soldier and wounded two, the U.S. army said. In a separate attack, insurgents armed with small arms killed one soldier in the western part of the city, the military said.

Tuesday's attacks followed four separate roadside bomb blasts on Monday that killed four U.S. soldiers.

The U.S. military said one soldier was killed in a blast in Baghdad on Monday afternoon, and another died of his wounds after an explosion on Monday evening.

In a third attack, near Baghdad, a soldier was killed late on Monday when his convoy was targeted. And in Qayarah, near Mosul, one soldier was killed in a blast on the same day.

REUTERS



A car burns at the centre of Baghdad's district of Sadr City following clashes between U.S. army and Iraqi Shi'ite militia. A car burns at the centre of Baghdad's district of Sadr City, following clashes between U.S. army and Iraqi Shi'ite militia, September 7. Guerrillas attacked U.S. troops in Baghdad's sprawling Shi'ite Sadr City slum district with rocket-propelled grenades on Tuesday, killing one soldier and wounding two, the U.S. army said. REUTERS

## Algerian bomber tries to save Qaeda-allied group

BY PAUL DE BENDERN

ALGIERS, Sept 7 (Reuters) - A university student skilled in bomb-making has taken charge of Algeria's largest Islamic rebel movement but the al Qaeda-linked group is fighting for its survival as the army pounds its hide-outs and members surrender.

The Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), which seeks a purist Islamic state in the Maghreb, made headlines last year with the kidnapping of dozens of European tourists and reportedly secured 5 million euros (\$6 million) in ransom money.

After more than a decade of holy war or "jihad" resulting in the deaths of more than 150,000 people, according to human rights groups, the GSPC is the last powerful rebel force, operating with a few hundred armed members, in Muslim Algeria.

The GSPC said in an undated statement obtained by Reuters on Monday that Abdelmalek Droukdel, previously thought to have been killed in combat, had been made chief three months after the death of Nabil Sahraoui.

All the group's top leaders apart from Droukdel, 33, have either been killed in battle or arrested in recent months.

"He's the last senior terrorist to have

the stature to salvage the GSPC," said Mounir Boudjema, an expert on rebels and editor at influential daily Le Quotidien d'Oran. "He is faithful to Sahraoui's philosophy and membership of al Qaeda."

The GSPC statement was seen as a rallying call to members, in line with the tradition of Algerian militants of announcing appointments or attacks in a bid to discredit authorities' claims to be winning their war against fundamentalists.

Algeria's jihad was sparked by the powerful military's annulment of elections a radical Islamic political party was set to win in 1992. The army feared an Iranian-style revolution.

Over the past year the United States has increased its attention to North Africa in its global war on terror, fearing al Qaeda is trying to establish a presence in the vast and uncontrollable Sahara desert, possibly through the GSPC.

Algeria has emerged as a key African ally for Washington thanks to its expertise in fighting rebels, many of whom have been involved in foreign attacks and still operate abroad.

The GSPC, on the U.S. foreign terrorist organisations list, has pledged allegiance to al Qaeda and some of its

members once fought Soviet forces alongside Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

### Unify force, Sahara threat

Droukdel, alias Abou Mossab Abdelouadoud, is faced with unifying factions and halting the surrender of members as the army pounds key units in the mountainous Boumerdes province.

The GSPC funds its activities through robberies and extortion, particularly in the province just east of Algiers.

Washington sees the GSPC as a regional problem, saying it is able to move between neighbouring states, recruiting followers and buying arms.

Al Qaeda-GSPC ties were reinforced in 2003 when a Yemeni bin Laden operative was killed in Algeria alongside local rebels.

Despite recent GSPC setbacks, the Sahara region presents a threat, analysts say. Libya found a GSPC base in June and this year over 100 rebels have been killed in Algeria and neighbouring nations.

"It's a good place for people that want to be left alone to operate outside the reach of the law to go unnoticed, take time to recruit, to regroup ... That's

our challenge and that's what we're working on," General Charles Wald, deputy commander of the United States European Command (EUCOM), told Reuters.

The United States is working with several regional countries against the GSPC, but Wald would not go into specifics, although he hinted that U.S. satellite imagery had been effective in identifying pockets of militants.

Wald said the aim was to identify areas where al Qaeda could potentially gain a foothold and to "head it off at the pass" through various means including traditional intelligence methods and counter-terrorism training.

The capture of Amari Saifi, alias Abderrazak el Para, by Chadian rebels has deprived the GSPC of its second-in-command, who led a kidnappings campaign and expanded its Sahara base.

"The GSPC is no longer organised and structured. After the death of Sahraoui and capture of el Para, it's moving towards its end," said Mohamed Zaaf, an Islamist and rebel expert.

But analysts remain concerned by a recent rise in bombings against military targets and energy installations.

REUTERS

## Jordan sentences five for trying to attack Israel

AMMAN, Sept 7 (Reuters) - Jordan's state security court sentenced five Palestinians on Tuesday to jail terms of up to four years for trying to infiltrate into Israel to attack Jewish settlements, judicial sources said.

The five men were arrested in November.

Security sources said they belonged to an unnamed Muslim fundamentalist group sympathetic to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. All were from the Palestinian refugee camp of Hiteen, on the outskirts of the capital Amman.

All five pleaded not guilty to charges of buying and unlawfully possessing arms with intent to use them

and of planning to cross the border into Israel illegally.

Officials in Jordan, which has a peace treaty with Israel, privately say there has been a surge in such infiltration attempts in the past two years. Publicly they say the border has been quiet despite a Palestinian uprising that is nearly four years old.

In July Jordan said its troops killed three suspected guerrillas trying to cross into Israel from its northern border.

The country's main cities, where support for the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation is high, are mostly inhabited by Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

Continued from page 1

## Press freedom endangered

At the end of the statement, the PFU condemned these illegal procedures, requested the authorities quickly release Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, (and the guard of the newspaper detained at a police station), and demanded the abolition of all procedures taken against the newspaper so far. It called on all forces in the civil community to support Al-Shura, and its editor-in-chief, for the sake of freedom and democracy, for which the Yemeni people struggled for a long time in hope of a prosperous and stable Yemen.

Similarly, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) held a meeting at the headquarters of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and released a statement on the sidelines of a sit-in against the imprisonment sentence on Al-Khaiwani. The whole zone was encircled by security personnel who were scattered around the area surrounding the YSP's headquarters. The security measures compelled many people not to participate in the sit-in. The YSP's headquarters was disconnected from power, water, and fixed telephone services, and whoever went inside was searched by security who even forbade the use of mobile phones.

The JMP expressed its surprise at that siege set around a civil organization.

"We reiterate the oppressive measurements taken by security authorities against Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, starting with the false trial, under an incompetent judge, the unlawful proceedings of the trial after the withdrawal of the defense, and ending up with the derogatory arrest at 10 pm on Sunday September 5th. They stormed the headquarters of Al-Shura and plundered its belongings."

The statement added: "all these violations took place with the knowledge of the Attorney General and with the consent of judges, who have proved to be

mere employers of the executive authority, and under the control of chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council. The Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council has the power to appoint and dismiss judges and is also the head of an opponent (GPC) party within a political system supposedly based on pluralism. Thus, the result of such a fact is arbitrary oppression of whoever the ruler thinks criticizes or contradicts his policy."

"On what has been mentioned before, as the JMP condemns this practice, it sees that things will not go well, civil rights will not be equally attained unless the executive authority stops controlling the judicial authority. The JMP also calls for the quick release of Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, and holding those responsible for maltreating him to account," added the statement.

The Yemen Journalist Syndicate (YJS) has announced that its board will continuously hold meetings to follow up developments in the case. It emphasized its judicial support for Al-Shura Weekly and its editor-in-chief, calling for rights and freedoms, and on local and international organizations to denounce the oppressive sentence and attempt to stop its application by all means.

The Reporters Without Borders Organization sent a message to the President of the Republic appealing to him to release Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani.

"Reporters Without Borders is dismayed at this very harsh sentence against a journalist and intellectual well known for his professionalism and outspokenness," the organization said.

It added: "We remind the President that he regularly advocates respect for human rights and that this judicial decision is all the more astonishing given that he recently said he opposed Prisons terms for journalists," added the message.

## Government prevents protest against Sa'ada attacks

Cameras were not allowed near the headquarters, and high-ranking representatives of opposition parties could not carry their mobile phones past the blockades.

Representatives said water at the headquarters was cut off early Monday morning and there was no electricity when the demonstration was planned to take place at 10:00am.

One YSP representative said that over 1,000 people were expected to take part in the protest.

"People are killed everyday in the fighting, including men, women and children," said Obad. "Too many people have died and thousands have fled their homes. The solution is in the government's hands. We urge the government to find a peaceful solution."

Fighting in the Saada province, 240 km (150 miles) north of Sana'a near the border with Saudi Arabia, has been raging for nearly three months. The official death toll is in the hundreds, but some believe that the number of people killed, especially soldiers, is actually in the thousands. Many families have had to flee their homes in the areas where fighting has been taking place.

Al-Houthi is accused of inciting violence and terrorism against Western interests, especially American, in Yemen.

"The government is responsible for the fighting and there are many options to choose from to solve the problem," said Abdul Malik Al-Makhafi, Head of the Nasri party. "Unfortunately, it has only tried to use only one solution, which is fighting, and that hasn't worked. I think that the government might listen to opposition parties, but it is now late in the struggle that has already cost many lives."

Analysts have expressed concern that on top of the unexpectedly large death toll, other extremists may emerge after seeing Al-Houthi's supporters holding out.

Others fear that fighting might spread as intense clashes continue in the north.

"The issue is no longer just the fight with Al-Houthi. The risk is that fighting could spread into other governorates if it isn't stopped soon," said Obad.

Representatives that gathered at YSP's headquarters also expressed concern over the arrest last Sunday of Abdel Karim Khiwani, Editor in Chief of Al-Shoura daily, hours after he was sentenced in court to one year in prison. He was accused of courting Al-Houthi, and the newspaper was closed for six months. Khiwani's conviction and sentence is considered as the first action taken against a journalist in Yemen since the country was unified in 1990. Last June, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced that he would change the publication law and eliminate the imprisonment of journalists.

"This is a violation of freedom in Yemen and a violation of our constitution," said Mohammed Al-Muttawakil, Assistant Secretary General of Yemen's Popular Forces Union party. "It is authority over the judicial system, authorities controlling the courts."

The Yemeni Journalists Association began a sit-in at its headquarters in Sana'a last Monday, calling for Khiwani's release. A statement from the association said that "the strange and unjust ruling sabotaged all claims by the regime that it is based on democracy, freedom of the press, and respect for human rights

## 2-Clashes in Baghdad slum kill 22 Iraqis, US soldier

BY TOM PERRY

BAGHDAD, Sept 7 (Reuters) - Iraqi fighters battled U.S. troops in a Baghdad slum district on Tuesday, raising the death toll to 22 Iraqis and one U.S. soldier and threatening to wreck a ceasefire called by rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

At least 15 Iraqis had been killed in fighting in the Shi'ite neighbourhood of Sadr City since 9 a.m. (0500 GMT), the Health Ministry said. Sadr City doctor Leith Ghazi told Reuters at least seven others were killed in overnight fighting.

The U.S. army said one soldier was killed on Tuesday when insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades in Sadr City, where U.S. forces and Shi'ite militiamen have clashed frequently since Sadr first launched an uprising in April.

"Multiple engagements between Multi-National Forces and Iraqi insurgents took place today," the U.S. military said.

Rocket-propelled grenades were fired at soldiers several times overnight and on Tuesday in Sadr City, and several roadside bombs had been detonated in the neighbourhood, it said. At least five American soldiers were wounded.

Sadr City was not included in a peace deal which ended three weeks of fighting in August in the Shi'ite holy city of Najaf between U.S. and Iraqi troops and fighters loyal to Sadr, who has become a figurehead for Shi'ite Muslim resistance to U.S.-led forces and Iraq's interim government.

Sadr aides said last week the young cleric had called a ceasefire and intended to field candidates in elections due in January, campaigning on a platform calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

The death of the U.S. soldier in Sadr City pushed the official U.S. death toll for the Iraq war to 993.

A car bomb killed seven U.S. marines in the restive city of Falluja, west of Baghdad, on Monday, the dead-

liest attack on American forces in five months. Four other roadside blasts on Monday killed four more U.S. soldiers — two in Baghdad, one near the capital and one in northern Iraq.

Insurgents have also targeted Iraqi officials. Guerrillas ambushed the car of Baghdad's governor on Tuesday, opening fire and then detonating a roadside bomb as his convoy drove past. He was unhurt but an Iraqi in another passing car was killed.

In the northern city of Mosul, the son of the governor was shot dead by guerrillas on Tuesday, hospital sources said.

### French journalists

Hopes that two French hostages, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, might soon be freed gave way to expressions of doubt after a statement setting out new demands for their release was posted on the Internet.

The statement, posted on Monday, demanded a \$5 million ransom for the two journalists within 48 hours.

"We always take this type of infor-

mation seriously... We are trying to check its authenticity which is not established at this time," Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said on Monday.

The Internet statement, made in the name of the Islamic Army in Iraq which has said it was holding the hostages, said the militants had planned to release the men but attacks by American troops had prevented them from doing so.

Video tapes in the name of the Islamic Army in Iraq have been sent to the Arabic television station Al Jazeera showing the two men since they were seized on Aug. 20.

Scores of nationals from more than two dozen countries have been kidnapped since April, when guerrillas embarked on new tactics to force foreign troops and firms to leave Iraq. More than 20 foreign hostages have been killed.

The tactic has scared away some foreign companies, disrupted supplies to U.S. troops and discouraged investment.

REUTERS



# Taliban renews threat as Afghan campaign starts

KABUL, Sept 7 (Reuters) - The campaign for Afghanistan's first direct presidential election opened to little fanfare on Tuesday, but the Taliban — ousted in 2001 in a U.S.-led invasion — vowed again to disrupt the Oct. 9 poll.

As candidates got off to a slow start wooing voters in the capital, the night before the start of the month-long campaign period saw fresh violence in the provinces.

Government officials said at least four Taliban fighters and a government soldier were killed after a group of 70 guerrillas attacked a district headquarters in Zabul province.

They said two more Taliban fighters were killed in another part of the province after ambushing a joint U.S. military and Afghan convoy, but there were no U.S. or government casualties.

Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi, meanwhile, said guerrillas shot down a U.S. helicopter in neighbouring Uruzgan on Monday.

The U.S. military denied this and the Taliban claim that 18 soldiers were killed, but said a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter had made "a hard landing" in the province, causing no injuries.

Hakimi, who spoke from an undisclosed location, reiterated the Taliban's vow to disrupt the U.N.-sponsored polls, which President George W. Bush hopes will go smoothly ahead of his own election show-down in early November.

He said the guerrillas would target all 18 presidential contenders, those standing in next April's parliamentary elections, and anyone who voted.

"They will become our targets through all kinds of attacks possible, suicide or otherwise," he said.

During the campaign, which lasts until Oct. 6, candidates are promised equal access to state-run media and can hold rallies and deliver speeches in the provinces.

But with no big rallies or speeches planned for Tuesday, few residents of Kabul were aware the campaign was under way.

"I didn't know about the start of campaigning, but I hope this election will bring peace and security," said Majnoon, 45, who makes a living selling gasoline from a small cart.



Afghan presidential candidate Masooda Jalal greets women during the first day of election campaign in Kabul September 7. The official month-long campaign for Afghanistan's first-ever direct presidential election opened on Tuesday in what will be a major test of U.S.-led nation-building efforts since the 2001 ouster of the Taliban. REUTERS

## KARZAI SEEN AS FAVOURITE

Incumbent President Hamid Karzai, strongly backed by the United States and the West, is seen as favourite, although rivals may force him into a run-off.

On Tuesday he arrived under heavy security to open a vegetable oil processing factory on the outskirts of the capital, but made no reference to the election or politics in a brief speech.

Posters of his main rival, Yunus Qanuni, could be seen pasted all over Kabul, along with those of lesser rivals and Northern Alliance hero Ahmad Shah Masood, who was assassinated two days before the Sept 11 attacks on the United States.

There were few posters of Karzai, who has been accused by opponents of unfairly using state resources to push his chances.

Qanuni took an apparent dig at Karzai and his U.S. backers while launching his campaign at a Kabul hotel, saying that past regimes had never before been the result of popular will.

"They were either hereditary, brought in via a coup d'etat, or by foreign meddling," he said. "Now people have a chance to choose their favourite government."

Bush sent U.S. forces into Afghanistan in 2001 to overthrow the hardline Taliban after it refused to hand over al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden

following the Sept. 11 attacks.

He will be looking to hold up Afghanistan as a success to balance the difficulties he has faced in the subsequent U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

But security has been an overriding concern for the elections after the death of around 1,000 people, including soldiers, militants, election workers, aid workers and civilians, in militant-related violence in the past 12 months.

The failure to disarm warlord militias has also raised fears of voter intimidation, especially in the north and west.

"The best case scenario is this election ushers in new politics for Afghanistan and delegitimises the old politics," said Andrew Wilder, director of the Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit, an independent think-tank.

"The worst case scenario is that it will be deeply flawed, losers cry foul, engage in destabilisation efforts and the actual election ends up not being viewed as legitimate."

More than 10.5 million of a population of between 25 million and 28 million have registered to vote, far surpassing earlier expectations but raising allegations of multiple registrations.

Victory requires 51 percent of the vote, otherwise a run-off will be called, which could delay results until November.

# South Africa, Likud hold historic talks on MidEast

PRETORIA, Sept 7 (Reuters) - South Africa opened talks on Tuesday with Israel's ruling Likud party, hoping to draw on its own successful negotiations that ended apartheid to help Israelis and Palestinians resolve their long-running conflict.

South Africa has been an outspoken critic of Israeli policies towards Palestinians, but political analysts said it was equally keen to demonstrate its cardinal belief that dialogue produces far better results than the use of force.

"Bedrock South African foreign policy and politics is that you don't exclude anyone from a conversation," said Professor John Stremlau, head of international studies at Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University.

South African Foreign Ministry spokesman Ronnie Mamoepe said the first talks between Pretoria and Likud continued contacts with Israelis and Palestinians that began in 2002.

"In 2002 we had a joint meeting with Palestinian and Israeli representatives in Cape Town. Then we had separate meetings with the speaker of the Israeli parliament and (Palestinian Foreign Affairs Minister) Nabil Sha'ath," he said.

President Thabo Mbeki and several of his cabinet members welcomed the delegation from Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's right-wing Likud at the start of the talks in Pretoria.

By comparison, the Likud delegation led by deputy minister of trade and industry Michael Ratzon, was at a much lower level.

"We would be honoured to help find a solution to a conflict that has been going on for too long. We are interested in peace for the people of Israel and Palestine," Mbeki said.

South Africa has been a vocal opponent of a wall Israel is constructing in the West Bank and made presentations on it at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The court found the wall's construction violated international law.

The Non-Aligned Movement, the largest political grouping outside of the United Nations and in which South Africa has a leading role, last month condemned the wall and called for sanctions against companies involved in constructing it.

Last month Israel complained about what it saw as a snub when South Africa sent its top foreign ministry civil servant to Tel Aviv for talks while it had a deputy minister visiting Syria.

## MANDELA SPIRIT

Stremlau told Reuters former President Nelson Mandela set the benchmark for a policy of engaging all comers in dialogue by endorsing talks between the now ruling African

National Congress (ANC) and white rulers who kept him behind bars for 27 years.

"I think it is important for South Africa to show that it can maintain a serious dialogue despite disagreement," Stremlau said.

It was equally important for Israel to be seen to be engaged with Pretoria as it tried to end lingering resentment in South Africa over its previously close ties with the apartheid regime.

"There is a residual of ill-will and unease on that relation," Stremlau said, adding that Israel has been concerned about the ANC government wanting to downgrade relations.

"So Likud wants to show that they are talking. Thanks to Mandela, everybody wants to talk to South Africa. How can you be a civilised nation and not talk to South Africa?" he said.

Mbeki's group also included Pik Botha, the last foreign minister in the apartheid government and a key player in negotiations on transition in South Africa — underlying Mbeki's belief that an all-inclusive settlement was key to peace.

Ratzon said discussions would include Israel as a state of Jewish people, a review of the conflict between Israel and the Arab people and the political and historic process as well as the relations between the two countries.



South African President Thabo Mbeki (R) meets with Michael Ratzon (L), Israel Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, and other members of Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's ruling right-wing Likud party in Pretoria September 7, 2004. The two-day meeting is the latest in a series of contacts with Israel and Palestinians organised by South Africa to promote a settlement there which could emulate South Africa's own transfer to majority black rule a decade ago. REUTERS

## S.Africa seizes uranium enrichment materials

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 7 (Reuters) - South Africa seized 11 shipping containers of uranium enrichment materials in a raid on a firm run by a man it has charged under laws forbidding nuclear proliferation, a government agency said on Tuesday.

The South African Council for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction said the containers were now stored at a safe location and had been sealed by both South African police and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the two agencies would maintain control.

"IAEA inspectors will visit South Africa on a regular basis to inspect nuclear material and related equipment," the council said in a statement.

It was the first detailed description of the raid last week by police and other investigators on a small engineering firm that led to charges against 53-year-old Johan Andries Muller Meyer for manufacturing nuclear-related material and exporting goods that could be used to develop nuclear weapons.

"At the premises of Tradefin Engineering, 11 shipping containers were found containing components of a centrifuge uranium enrichment plant as well as related documentation," the council said. "Investigations are still ongoing."

Meyer was remanded in custody until Wednesday when his bail hearing will be heard.

Last week the United States embassy in Pretoria issued a statement linking him to Libya's nuclear programme, which the north African country disclosed in December 2003 before agreeing earlier this year to a disarmament process.

Libya began its quest for nuclear

arms in 1980 and decided in 1997 to seek centrifuge equipment via the atomic black market, established in the 1980s by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb.

Meyer was accused of offences between 2000 and 2001 relating to the import and export of a flow-forming lathe without necessary permits. He was also charged with possessing and producing certain components of a centrifuge enrichment plant without authorisation from the minerals and energy minister.

In court papers, Meyer was also accused of "unlawfully and wilfully possessing and manufacturing nuclear-related equipment and material" between 2002 and 2004.

"These items do not constitute a weapons of mass destruction, but they are essential components in the process to enrich uranium," the council said.

Meyer denies the charges, which could result in anything from a fine to a 15-year jail sentence.

Government officials have said they knew of no link between the inquiry and al Qaeda or international terrorism.

South Africa voluntarily dismantled its nuclear arms before apartheid ended in 1994 — the only nuclear-armed state to do so — and has been eager to show support for international efforts to limit nuclear know-how with a series of new laws since 1993.

Khan's network spanned the globe and included suppliers, often unwitting, from Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

U.N. atomic weapons experts say more than 20 countries were involved, though it is trying to grasp the full extent of what IAEA calls a global supermarket for countries interesting in acquiring nuclear weapons.

# Prominent HK democrats risk losing seats in polls

HONG KONG, Sept 7 (Reuters) - Leading Hong Kong pro-democracy politician Martin Lee said on Tuesday he was in danger of losing his seat when the city votes for a new legislature next week because of an electoral system that fragments the vote.

The city's complicated proportional representation system, which was introduced by its pro-China government after the 1997 handover by Britain, makes it difficult for any one party to win a large number of seats even if it has widespread support.

This election has drawn a number of popular independent pro-democracy candidates and their participation could further dilute the share of votes that have traditionally gone to Lee and other candidates of the Democratic Party, analysts said.

"It's the first time in my life that I am not in a sure win position. It's a very tight race," Lee told Reuters.

"I want more of our supporters to come out to vote. I want to send a clear message to Beijing that Hong Kong people want and deserve full democracy," he said.

The polls are expected to be the most competitive ever in Hong Kong, pitting pro-democracy forces against Beijing loyalists who have controlled the 60-seat legislature since this former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Pro-democracy candidates may make gains although recent sex and money scandals have tarnished their image.

Their gains are bound to rattle communist leaders in Beijing although the pro-democracy groups are unlikely to secure a majority in the chamber.

Lee is Hong Kong's foremost pro-democracy figure and has long been a thorn in Beijing's side.

His frequent trips abroad highlighting campaigns for more voting rights have drawn sharp rebukes from Beijing, which has repeatedly warned against foreign interference in Hong Kong.

On Sunday, 60 seats are up for grabs, and of those 30 are chosen by largely pro-Beijing professional groups while the



Supporters of candidates from various pro-democracy parties and groups applaud during an election rally in Hong Kong September 5. Pro-democracy parties in the territory will make history this week if they win a majority in the city's legislative elections, the first time that democratic forces would control a lawmaking body in communist China. REUTERS

other half are directly elected by Hong Kong's 3.2 million registered voters via proportional representation.

Proportional representation awards seats to lists of candidates in individual constituencies based on the percentage of votes they win.

Candidates in a single party usually fight the election together, with their names on a single voting list, to avoid splitting the vote between them.

Seats are awarded according to the order of the names on the list, so candidates at the top have the best chance of winning election.

## DEMOCRATS SEEK HARBOUR BLESSING

Lee is fighting for one of the 30 directly elected seats but is placed second on his party list in the Hong Kong Island constituency, where a total of six seats are

to be contested.

However, his party fears it may only gain enough votes to secure one seat — for Chairman Yeung Sum who heads the list.

Polls show that many supporters of the pro-democracy camp may instead vote for highly popular lawyer and independent legislator Audrey Eu, who may secure seats in Hong Kong Island for herself and for her running mate and fellow lawmaker, Cyd Ho.

The Democratic Party, which hopes to win two seats on Hong Kong Island, has urged families to distribute their votes evenly among leading democracy figures on different lists.

However, political analyst Joseph Cheng, who heads a think-tank that supports democracy candidates, said that tactic may not succeed.

"Polls have shown that 80 percent of

Hong Kong voters don't like to be told what to do. They want to make up their own minds," Cheng said.

Political analysts say Beijing fears that the democrats could paralyse the city's China-backed government if they win a majority in the legislature, which does not set policy but has the power to vote on legislation.

To drum up support, democracy candidates running for Hong Kong Island took a boat tour on Tuesday in famed Victoria Harbour, which many residents fear will be turned into a river or even disappear altogether because of relentless government land reclamation projects.

"We're reminding voters that the Victoria Harbour will change, even disappear, and they will need legislators to monitor the government. We will protect the harbour," said Democratic Party strategist Law Chi-king.



# Russians rally as Putin rules out Chechen talks

MOSCOW, Sept 7 (Reuters) - Russians massed in their hundreds of thousands on Tuesday to denounce terrorism, as President Vladimir Putin rejected talks with Chechen separatists, blamed for at least 335 deaths in last week's school hostage siege.

In Moscow, tens of thousands gathered at an evening rally near Red Square in the heart of the city, streaming across a bridge with Russian and Soviet flags held high, as truckloads of police, many with dogs, patrolled.

Rallies were held across the country following the siege at a school in the southern town of Beslan. Around half of those killed in the operation to retake the school were children.

"Children are our future, defend

them," read one banner in Moscow. "Russia's heart is in Beslan today," said another.

Religious and government officials addressed the crowd from a makeshift platform at the foot of St Basil's cathedral, each ending their speech with a defiant: "We will win!"

"Muscovites! We are not weak. We are stronger than them! Stronger!" Moscow's high-profile mayor Yuri Luzhkov bellowed. "The fascists couldn't beat Russia and terror won't beat Russia either. We are together. We are going to win!"

Putin had earlier rejected talks with Chechen separatists, and ruled out a public inquiry into the storming of the school.

"Why don't you meet Osama bin Laden, invite him to Brussels or to the White House and engage in talks, ask him what he wants and give it to him so he leaves you in peace?" he said.

"You find it possible to set some limitations in your dealings with these bastards, so why should we talk to people who are child-killers?" he added in a meeting with journalists.

Opposition politicians said the Moscow rally was intended to parry criticism of the Kremlin's handling of the crisis and Putin's failure to ensure security for ordinary Russians.

Pressure on the media to toe the line increased on Monday with the sacking of the editor of the respected daily Izvestia, which splashed harrowing pictures in its Saturday edition.

But Putin appeared to be avoiding personal criticism for Beslan, with a survey showing most Russians blamed corrupt special forces for failing to prevent rising terrorism. Few held the president responsible.

Fifty-four percent said the security and police services were corrupt and 23 percent said they did not know how to do their job properly.

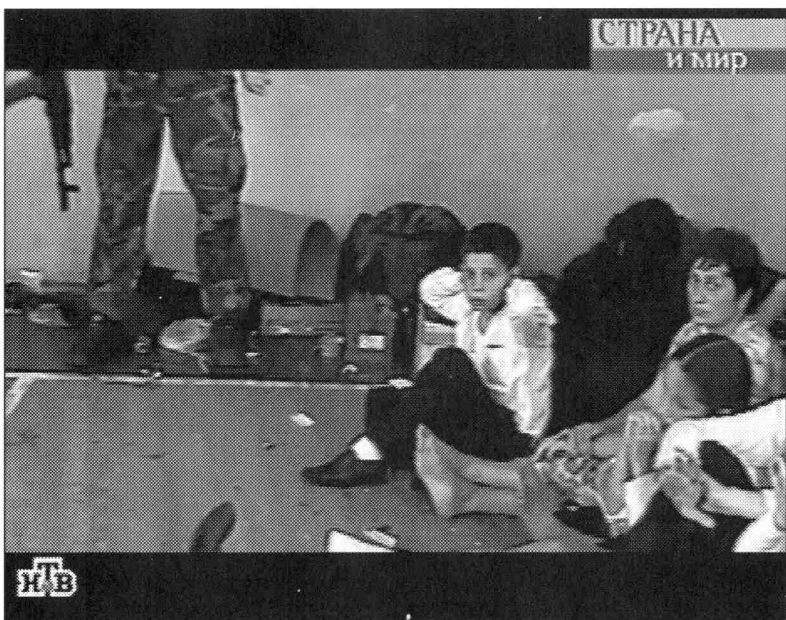
## "PAIN THAT CAN NEVER EASE"

Beslan buried more of the dead from the chaotic operation to free them from captors demanding independence for Chechnya.

The ruins of School No. 1, where more than 1,000 hostages were held for 53 hours, have become a memorial where processions stop and lay flowers on their way to a new cemetery for victims.

Heavy rain on Monday and overnight turned the improvised extension to the cemetery into a sea of mud, with family members slipping as they trudged across the field to bury their dead.

Every few metres a new grave was being dug or filled with a coffin. Behind



A video grab image shows a militant with a child being held hostage in the gym of the school in Beslan, Russia, which was shot by the militants on the first day of the siege and released on September 7. Russia's NTV television showed graphic footage shot by the militants who took more than a thousand hostages in a school in Beslan in the south of the country last week. REUTERS



Local residents light candles in a gymnasium at the school, which was seized by heavily armed masked men and women, in the town of Beslan in the province of North Ossetia near Chechnya, September 7. Russian President Vladimir Putin rejected any dialogue with Chechen separatists, blamed for at least 335 deaths in the school hostage siege, as hundreds of thousands joined rallies against terrorism. REUTERS

them a mechanical digger gouged out more graves.

"The whole town is crying, wailing for the pain that can never ease," said Masha, neighbour of four-year-old Rada Solkazanova and her mother Larisa, buried together on Tuesday.

"Now all people want to do is find their loved ones and bury them. Can you imagine the pain of never knowing what happened and never burying your children?" she added.

"They're not people, they're animals," said Assiya, another neighbour. "They call themselves Muslims, but what have they got to do with any kind of religion if they can kill children?"

## BUNGLED OPERATION

Critics say Putin failed to keep a pledge he made on coming to power in 2000 to end the separatist revolt in Chechnya. They also say troops bungled Friday's operation.

Over the past two weeks, Chechen rebels have also been blamed for the downing of two airliners, killing 90 people, and a suicide bombing which killed 10 at a Moscow metro station.

NATO and Russia agreed to boost cooperation on Tuesday after the siege. Ambassadors from NATO states and Russia in Brussels condemned the "barbaric and insidious" global terror threat and pledged to develop an action plan to defend their peoples.

Chechnya has long been a problem in cooperation between Russia and Western

countries, many of which question Moscow's rights record as it fights separatism.

The European Union has advocated a political solution to the 10-year Chechnya conflict, which has ravaged the tiny province.

Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot outraged Russia when he called on Friday for an explanation of the Beslan events. He repeated his call on Tuesday, saying "we need to know what happened". But British Prime Minister Tony Blair called on the world to show solidarity with Russia. "To kill and maim innocent children in this way is something I think that has taken terrorism to a different, even more depraved level," he said.

# Many to blame on Iraq intelligence-UK inquiry head

LONDON, Sept 7 (Reuters) - The head of an inquiry into the case Britain made for attacking Iraq hit back on Tuesday at allegations his report was a whitewash as Prime Minister Tony Blair battled to shift the media focus to domestic matters.

Former civil servant Lord Butler, who cleared Blair in July of deceiving parliament and the public over intelligence on Iraq, said his report had identified "collective shortcomings" in the penning of a September 2002 dossier on Iraq's weaponry.

"We did not of course say that no one was to blame for the shortcomings," Butler told parliament's upper chamber.

"I said no individual was to blame."

The failure to find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq — the primary Anglo-American motive for war — plunged Blair into one of the rockiest periods of his premiership as his public trust and popularity ratings nosedived.

Blair has repeatedly tried to draw a line under Iraq and move the media focus to issues like schools, hospitals and transport with a general election expected next year.

But Blair remains highly vulnerable over Iraq, with a small number of parliamentarians even calling for him to be impeached for allegedly duping them and the country over Iraq's weaponry.

Given Blair's huge parliamentary majority, any talk of impeachment will do little more than embarrass him but the call underlines the fact that Iraq remains a thorn in Blair's side.

Blair on Tuesday denied he was trying to put Iraq behind him, although he dedicated much of a news conference



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown walks in Westminster in central London, September 7. British Pensions Minister Andrew Smith resigned from the government on September 6, setting Prime Minister Tony Blair on course for cabinet reshuffle. REUTERS

to a presentation of school results and other domestic issues.

"It's not a question of moving on," he said, adding Britain was committed to stability in Iraq.

"There's an exit strategy. We go when the job is done."

Eventual stability and democracy in Iraq could help Blair win back some disaffected members of his ruling Labour Party but continuing violence could further erode support.

"If Iraq and Afghanistan go in the right way ... that is a huge, huge blow to this extreme terrorism," Blair said. "I'm not moving on from that at all."

But he said the domestic agenda had occupied much of his time in the last

year. "You deal with both," he added.

Blair had hoped Butler's report would silence his critics over Iraq but many of his opponents dubbed it a whitewash.

Defending his conclusions, Butler said that blaming John Scarlett — Blair's top civil service intelligence adviser in the runup to the war — for the dossier "would have been unfair in respect of what were collective shortcomings".

But he said the failings of the Iraq dossier were grave.

"The government dossier in September 2002 did not make clear that the intelligence underlying those conclusions was very thin," he said. "We regard it as a serious weakness".

boost the image of the ruling party. Romania's constitution says the president must be non-partisan until he ends his term.

Moscow-educated Iliescu, 74, resigned as PSD leader shortly after winning the 2000 elections to conform with the rule. He will return as party head after the elections.

The Romanian parliament voted on Tuesday to add a paragraph to the existing election law saying "the incumbent president of the country can run as an independent on a party's list". The two main opposition parties boycotted the vote in protest.

BUCHAREST, Sept 7 (Reuters) - Romania's parliament, dominated by the ruling ex-communists, amended its election law on Tuesday to allow President Ion Iliescu to run for the senate in Nov. 28 elections.

Iliescu, who ends his second and final term as president after the elections, plans to run as an independent on the list of the ruling Social Democrat Party (PSD) he founded after the 1989 fall of communism.

Opposition parties say the move is unconstitutional because, even though Iliescu proposes to run as an independent, his candidacy would

# Kerry: Bush 'chose' Iraq war, Americans pay bill

GREENSBORO, N.C., Sept 7 (Reuters) - Democratic White House challenger John Kerry sharply rebuked President George W. Bush on Tuesday for choosing to go to war in Iraq and sticking Americans with the \$200 billion bill.

With a tighter stump speech and a sharper message built around a riff on Bush's middle initial, Kerry declared: "W stands for wrong — wrong direction, wrong choices — and it's time to put it right."

He said he would start to do that by internationalizing the security and reconstruction effort in Iraq and showing "the kind of statesmanship and leadership that builds a true coalition to share the costs and share the burden."

The Massachusetts senator has publicly struggled to explain his vote for the congressional resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq and his subsequent vote against \$87 billion to fund operations there and in Afghanistan. Bush has branded him a flip-flopper.

Since Kerry said last month that he would have voted for the resolution even if he had known that Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, Bush has tried to convince voters that they both agreed on the need to get rid of the Iraqi leader.

But Kerry scornfully took Bush to task

on the issue, telling a town hall meeting in Greensboro: "He says that he's confused about the differences in our positions on Iraq and he even tried to claim that we had the same positions."

"Let me explain to him in a few simple words — it's not that I would have done just one thing differently in Iraq. I would have done everything differently in Iraq."

Kerry, who campaigned in Republican-leaning North Carolina, the home state of running mate Sen. John Edwards, called the "mess" that Bush had made in Iraq the president's "most catastrophic" wrong choice.

## "WRONG CHOICE"

"It was wrong for America to choose," Kerry said. "This was his choice. He chose the date of the start of this war. He chose the moment and he chose for America to go-it-alone and today all of America is paying the price."

As the number of deaths among U.S. troops neared 1,000, Kerry pointed out that almost all the coalition casualties in Iraq were Americans and then opened a new line of attack by addressing the economic cost of the war and laying out how the money could have been better spent.

"The price tag so far, \$200 billion dollars and rising," he said. "That's \$200 billion that we're not investing in health care in America, that's \$200 billion we're

not investing in schools in America, that's \$200 billion that were not investing in prescription drugs for seniors."

Struggling to catch up to Bush in national polls after the Republican Convention last week, Kerry revamped his campaign staff to bring on new advisers and sharpen his message two months before the Nov. 2 election.

Despite outside advice to avoid the issue of national security — regarded as Bush's strength — and focus on the economy and domestic issues, Kerry himself raised the subject of Iraq early in his remarks.

He also lambasted Bush's record on jobs — almost 1 million have been lost since the president took office — in a state vulnerable to outsourcing overseas. More than 160,000 jobs have been lost in North Carolina, mostly in the furniture and textile industries.

Bush won North Carolina comfortably in 2000, but with manufacturing employment down more than 20 percent since 2001, economic woes have eroded his popularity.

"North Carolina has been hurt by outsourcing, the hemorrhaging of manufacturing jobs and George Bush's failure to enforce our trade laws," Kerry spokesman David Wade said. "North Carolina is a state we believe we can put in the Democratic column."



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown walks in Westminster in central London, September 7. British Pensions Minister Andrew Smith resigned from the government on September 6, setting Prime Minister Tony Blair on course for cabinet reshuffle. REUTERS

# Romania amends law for Iliescu's election comeback



## Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

OUR  
OPINIONDid Lebanon  
lose the  
democratic  
test?

Many in the Arab world thought that Lebanon could have been the leading example of democracy. It is the Arab country with the freest press and the most liberalized media. It is also, amongst Arab countries, a country with one of the highest levels of education and political awareness.

But it has undergone a very difficult test that some predicted would be a decisive turning point in its history.

The constitutional amendment, to extend the presidential term of Emile Lahoud by three more years, was a grave disappointment to those who had bet on Lebanon's democracy. Overturning the amendment in parliament would have been a clear example of the insistence of the people of Lebanon to stick to the democratic principles established in their country. It was a pity that Lebanon didn't pass this test.

This has brought about major concern about the country's democratic experience. I personally believed that the parliament had been representative of the people of the country, but unofficial polls in the country show that the public, especially the enlightened public, didn't support the amendment by up to 70%. For many Lebanese, the amendment constituted a failure to stick to the growing trend in democratic practice in Lebanon, and a tendency to slip back to the domain of other Arab regimes, which manipulate constitutions and parliaments for their own benefit.

But if there is another side to blame, it would be the USA, and European countries, who passed a security council resolution that pointed fingers towards Syria and Lebanon, and dragged a sovereign issue into the international domain.

This has caused extensive damage to the position of the Lebanese people who had opposed the amendment. A friend of mine, whom I met in Beirut, explicitly told me that his position changed after the exertion of external pressure from the security council, because, for him, it would be difficult to stand with the USA and others against a fraction of his people, so he would rather be united with other Lebanese against international interference. "It was a dumb, or maybe intentional, move to bring such an issue to the international arena, while we could have managed internally and, potentially, we could have stopped the amendment if this had not happened," he said.

Three years may not be the problem. Some suggest that the amendment is being pumped up and exaggerated. However, it is important to note here that it is not the number of years, or reasons, that make the amendment a disappointment, it is rather the decision to go for it at a time when Lebanon was advancing very quickly, and being acclaimed as a liberal and free Arab state.

Is this a regression or weakening of Lebanese democracy?

Was our belief that Lebanon could be a state different from other Arab countries a myth?

Let's wait for three more years and see.

The Editor



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## A comment on NGOs

By FREDERIC DIEPENDAELE  
fredericdiependaele@hotmail.com  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

With great respect I read the editorial column in issue 760 dealing with NGO's. It feels good to know that the work done by NGO's is respected! I write this because I work (indirectly) for several NGO's and therefore I know what they do. I also know that the remarks on the column made by Mr. Abdulhaqq Abdullah are worth mentioning. It is indeed intolerable when Western NGO's impose their opinions, and their cultural values on other cultures. And I believe many NGO's do that. But I hope that Mr. Abdullah realizes that more and more NGO's are aware of that. Take for example Oxfam-Solidarity. It is a western NGO, but they have some very important values, namely: they only work with local partners in a non-paternalistic way. One of their projects is situated in Palestine. What they do is to

attract local people (Palestinians) to rebuild their demolished houses and give them a salary in order to start up a new life. So, what's wrong with that? And Amnesty International: what's wrong with reporting torture practice? I can understand that some people will say that human rights are 'something from the West' but I truly believe that human rights are a universal matter. Yes, Amnesty International has its origins in the West, but its respect for human life is a shared value in Islam. Mr. Abdullah says that NGO's promote a solution deriving from secular capitalism for problems like child labor, human rights, press rights, ... So tell me alternative solutions?

Again, I understand the critique that NGO's are just a modern variant of colonialism. In many cases that's true. But one is really exaggerating to say that all NGO's are promoting a culture and a way of life that is mutually exclusive to Islam. This is a slap in the face of all people who are volunteering in an NGO just to make the world a better, safer and

happier place (so what's the link between volunteering and capitalism?)

One of the items is indeed social reform, and yes, indeed, this concerns women issues. Well, when Mr. Abdullah says that this means encouraging promiscuity and tolerance of the immoral, I laugh and at the same time I can't believe that anyone actually believes this... How naive can one be? Between the lines I read some prejudices towards the Western world. By doing this he is making the same mistake as some westerners (true, some NGO's) who have also some totally incorrect prejudices towards Islam and the Arab world. Stop the prejudices! Otherwise we are followers of the 'Clash of Civilizations'-theory of Samuel Huntington. Or in other words of the New World Order principles of the Bush administration.

I'm obliged to thank the Yemen Times for its efforts to make Yemen a modern, civilized Arab country, with respect for human rights, respect for the work of NGO's and respect for its Islamic identity.

## YT is on the wrong track

By AMEEN AL-AMRANI  
ameenamrani\_1@hotmail.com  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

While there're 'tons' of problems facing the Islamic world including Yemen, one cannot ignore the so-called Terrorist 'problem'. Before a Muslim can denounce, oppose, adhere to, or espouse an idea or ideology, he/she must, as an Islamic rule, refer to the Quran and the Sunnah. But since we Muslims have become nothing but 'sad' imitators (of the West in particular), most of us are quick to attack al-Qaeda and all it stands for. We've armies of secularists in our own countries including writers, journalists, rulers, social figures and even the majority of our semi-educated populace. In the course of history, we've - consciously, sub and unconsciously - deserted Islam and undergone a tremendous change in our self perception. For the first time in history, Muslims are defeated spiritually. We want to adopt Western values and ideas, no we don't, maybe we do, we're not sure! How about Islam? Isn't it our ancestor's faith? Don't we want to submit like

them? But wait, we're Muslims; we've been for centuries and no one can tell us otherwise! We pray, isn't that sufficient? What else do those brain washed fanatics and fundamentalists want from us? The Quran; hmmm, well we conveniently pushed it aside precisely like our Jewish cousins! And we want victory! Why? Just by virtue of us being decedents of Arab ancestors? By virtue of the Quran being Arabic? By Virtue of the greatest man ever to have walked the earth being Arab? We deserve the trouble we're in, and it's little, very little, compared to what we really deserve. Allah (SW) might let the unbelievers do whatever they want, kill, fornicate etc but it's never been His law to let those who claim they're believers to get away without trial and without punishment. Yemen; a complex country with complex set of social, tribal and political conditions, one cannot but be grateful it's still intact and still has a President and a social fabric. Yemen is a country where everyone is born a poet, everyone wants to be the President, and everyone is a scholar and expert in every issue and matter. Despite the 'colossal' corruption of the incumbent President, his family and entourage, he remains the best of the

worst, and the best Yemen can have for now, and Allah (SW) doesn't change or alter man's state till he/she is genuine about wanting the change.

Things will change but for the worst, in as much as we've the WB and IMF dictating the policies to the corrupt, and so it will remain as long as people are far from the Quran.

Those whom you - with wonderful insouciance - call terrorists, are the only hope for mankind today. They are a mercy from the Upper-Amnesty to the miserable West and East, and as we humans killed and tortured hundreds of Prophets and Messengers who were sent down with a message from the Infinite-Unknown with glad tidings to us, we're now killing (and cooperating with and helping others to kill) them again and again. Allah (SW) shall judge between us on Judgment Day.

Yemen Times is no different from any other mass media communication tool, and is cooperating - whether it knows it or not, whether it wants it or not - to kill those sent as the last hope for mankind.

May Allah (SW) show us all the right path, though it's never been God's rule to guide those who don't want it and who never strive for it.

## Letters to the Editor

## Memories in Aden

I am a regular visitor to Yemeni Sites. I spent my childhood in Yemen in Aden. This was at a time when my mother was working at Aden's prestigious hospital Al-Gamhouria at Khormakshar. I lived at 584-B, White City, Khormakshar.

I studied from class 3 on wards at the St. Anthony's High School and also at the Mualla Technical Institute when the medium of instruction was changed to Arabic.

I have a deep longing to visit Yemen and also look for my friends. I remember one classmate Tahir, he went to Sana'a, and there were others too, about whom I have no information. But I would love to meet and may be talk to them from India. I live in New Delhi and work for C-DOT ie. Centre for Development of Telematics, a Premier Research and Development Organization under the Ministry of Communications, Govt. of India.

I would like to be in touch with Yemeni students and like to meet them to improve my Arabic Language.

I also appreciate the Yemen Times staff for providing information which is at the tip of my fingers when sitting at my desk. Aden was a beautiful city during my childhood days. There is a great potential for Aden, not just Sana'a. There should be direct flights to Aden Airport. Many people who lived in Aden hold good memories. I hope there are people to help in improving the Business in Aden. Adeni

people are friendly and very good at heart. They deserve the best like any other top class city in the world. My best wishes to all YEMENIS. My heart is always with you. I pray that God may bless the people of Yemen, so that they prosper well.

Leslie David  
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Justice and Development  
Why are most governments, legal systems and media worldwide characterized by double standards and selective morality, representation and access?

Why are most governments, legal systems and media acquiescent to, complicitous with and/or actively involved in some, or many, of the continuing worldwide human rights violations and abuses?

When will there be a very large tax on global war, and war-related industries and businesses?

When will humanitarian and development programs be properly and sustainably resourced and organized?

John Finch  
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When will Israel really want peace?

Israel will never go for real peace. Peace is a threat to the government of Ariel Sharon. In September International sanctions will be imposed upon Israel. And they will continue to deny and defy everything. Like they are denying the failure of the test of their Arrow Missile. These people are mad fanatics and are on a

## Letters to the Editor

course of self destruction. They are a curse upon the world Jewry and the whole world. The only language that they will understand is that of sanctions and extreme force which is already in the making. They are an open enemy of the world especially of United States and Europe who are, or were I should say, their primary beneficiaries.

Sal Azam  
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About editorial on  
"US & Israel"

Treason is a major problem for the U.S. The divided loyalty of Jews in America threatens the country. I have many Jewish friends and acquaintances. While most view themselves as loyal Americans, almost all of them would use every resource of the U.S. to protect Israel and support its expansion. They do not see that such actions contradict the best interests of the U.S. They are advocating the best interests of Israel to the detriment of the U.S. When a discussion of the paradox is opened, accusations of anti-Semitism are the first response because American Jews do not want an open discussion on betraying the U.S. to support Israel.

Tom A

Iraq occupation must  
be condemned

Leaders of the World should strongly condemn the ongoing aggression of the occupation forces in Iraq. Holy shrines or not, the American aggression in

Iraq must stop and the occupation must end. For the Americans to use Iraqis on the ground to kill Iraqis while pounding the city of Najaf from the air, is a moral crime of the first order. It is a lie that Iraqis would start a civil war if the American forces withdrew. Iraqis are united to end the occupation and liberate their country. The American forces want both the Shiite militia in the south and the Sunni militia in the central regions of Iraq to disarm, while the Americans finance, support and arm the Kurdish militia in the north. All peace-loving people should pressure the US and UK governments to stop this tragedy. Unless the occupation of Iraq ends immediately and US and British forces are withdrawn, Iraq will remain a country in ruins. The people did it in the 1960s with the Vietnam war and I am confident it can be done again only if we are awakened from apathy.

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## Thanks Yemen Times

I would like to express my gratitude towards your useful newspaper. I consider it as the best window to the English Language. It enriches my knowledge of English day in, day out. It provides me with the ENGLISH I need in for all fields of life. Moreover, it provides me with the latest news in an easy way.

Ibrahim Mahfoodh  
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COMMON  
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Reaching for  
the Optimum

“For once, I feel like I do not know where we are going”, said Adel to his wife as she was picking up the toys and clothing the children had scattered all over the living room floor.

“When your eldest daughter comes with her kids, it looks like a storm passed through the house! What do you mean? You are going tomorrow to register the kids for the new school season, that is where you're going”, said Furdous setting her husband's mind straight on the course their lives should take.

Adel wanted to show that he hasn't forgotten that schools are reopening: “Oh, I know that, I hope I can get the money together for the registration fee and tuition and the endless charges they tally up. I can't understand why education has become so costly nowadays. I never had to pay anything for my schooling and neither did you. Even our older children's education costs were relatively modest, although they were in the only private school that existed then in Sana'a. Now look at all these private schools that have popped up everywhere. Come to think of it, everybody is complaining that about the only things these private schools offer over the public schools is half-way decent classrooms. I am not sure if the quality of their education is that much worth the money. Look at the grades our son got.”

Furdous had the rationale for that: “Our son did not really pay attention to his studies. Maybe he is not interested in having an English syllabus. He seemed bored by the studies.”

“I am not sure if anybody's children these days has a desire to do well in school. When they go home, they see their parents struggling to keep their budgets as balanced as possible, only to find that their grocery bill has climbed leaps and bounds, and the utility, telephone and other service bills have eaten up a sizable chunk of their monthly income, even after the measly raise the government has approved for civil servants. When they are in school, they see some of their fellow students, who hail from families that seem to have parents with unlimited resources, are walking around with mobile phones and lots of money in their pockets, and luxury cars come to whisk them off from school at the end of the school day. Even their less fortunate school mates know that these are the children of those officials, who have managed to find a tap line to the treasury that floods their parents' coffers. They see these affluent kids not caring about doing well in school, because they can count on their parents leaving them a lot of money. They get depressed further by the fact that some of these affluent kids have parents, who never finished secondary school, at least in an honest way, yet they are holders of sensitive positions that open the way for them to rapid wealth.”

“Come on Adel, we must continue to encourage our children to strive for a good education, things will never remain the same”, Furdous was still optimistic about the future.

“Look my dear!”, remarked Adel, continuing “optimism by itself needs to be backed by trends that show we are heading in the right direction. Where do you see these trends? Corruption and favoritism are the rule rather than the exception in many government functions and thus children have really not much to look for, in terms of a reward for a good education. Even teachers have a hard time doing a proper teaching job. Do you know that there are teachers who have been working as ‘volunteer’ teachers for years, hoping that the Ministry of Education will recognize their teaching capabilities and hire them as permanent teachers. But, to their dismay, only those who are ready to pay or who have connections will get on the payroll. That takes care of any hopes for getting a quality education. When they try to obtain jobs in private schools, they find that there are foreign teachers competing with them, because the image of these private schools is enhanced by the presence of expatriate teachers, who can teach the English syllabus. Did you see the grade report of our son from his private school? Did you see how they spelled 18? EIGHTEEN! We paid YR 100,000 for the English syllabus? There is nothing in our education system that shows any real positive trends. Go to some of the public schools and look at how pathetic the classrooms are. Half the furniture is broken down and the windows are almost all broken. At least, our children can find a seat in their private school. But YR 100,000 is a lot of rent for a chair. That is really all we are getting, when you look at the grade report of the children. Where is the guidance and early detection of the teachers to show that they are trying to overcome any shortcomings of the students? None exists, in public or private schools. Why do not the school officials prevent the children of the affluent from showing off their wealth and extravagance amidst fellow students, whose parents had to sell all their inherited assets just to pay for their tuitions and get their kid to at least have a seat to sit on while learning?”

“If only the government can start to set the proper directions our schools should be taking”, said Furdous, as she finally picked up the last building block from the living room floor with a sigh of relief, continuing: “Where are the standards for the quality of our children's education, whether in private or public schools? What regulations govern the way schools are run, such as maximum number of children per teacher/classroom, etc?”

Adel had only one answer: “Government officials are too busy looking out for their own interests to worry about the classroom jungle. They worry that if they do not take maximum advantage of the positions they hold to advance their standards of living as fast, they will lose the chance to make the future of their children worry free. They are reaching for the optimum, while they would give the least care if the rest of the society sinks to the abyss!”



## YT Business

## Righting Reform



BY DANI RODRIK\*  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Most economists now agree that institutional quality holds the key to prosperity. Rich countries are places where investors feel secure in their property rights, the rule of law prevails, private incentives are aligned with social objectives, monetary and fiscal policies are solidly grounded, risks are mediated through social insurance, and citizens have recourse to civil liberties and political representation. Poor countries are where these arrangements are absent or ill-formed. Compare Russia and China. In Russia, an investor has in principle the full protection of a private property-rights regime enforced by an independent judiciary. In China, there is no such protection, because private property was not legally recognized until recently, and the court system is not independent.

Yet during the mid-to late-1990's, investors consistently gave China higher marks than Russia on the rule of

law. That investors evidently felt better protected in China than they did in Russia is perhaps no surprise to anyone who has observed the evolution of Russia's legal system over the last decade. But the important point is the gap between rules and how they are perceived.

To be effective, a formal legal regime protecting investors' rights requires a non-corrupt, independent judiciary with enforcement power. Setting up such a judiciary is difficult and takes time. So the efficacy of enhancing property rights by rewriting domestic legislation – changing the formal aspects of the institutional environment – is naturally uncertain. That seems to have been the trap in which Russia's transition was caught for some time.

How did China evade this trap? The largest boom in "private" investment in China took place (at least until the mid-1990's) in Township and Village Enterprises (TVEs). These were firms in which local governments typically held ownership. Private entrepreneurs were effectively partners with government.

In a system where courts cannot be relied upon to protect property rights, letting the government hold residual

rights in an enterprise may have been a second-best mechanism for avoiding expropriation. In such circumstances, the expectation of future profits can exert a stronger discipline on the public authority than fear of legal sanction. Private entrepreneurs felt secure not because the government was prevented from expropriating them, but because, sharing in the profits, it had no interest in expropriating them.

This illustrates a broader point: there is no unique, non-context specific way of achieving desirable institutional outcomes. China could provide a semblance of effective protection of private property *despite* the absence of formal rights. The Russian experience strongly suggests that the obvious alternative of legal reform would not have been nearly as effective.

We can multiply the examples. For instance, China provided market incentives through two-track economic reform rather than across-the-board liberalization, which is usually the standard advice. In agriculture and industry, price efficiency was achieved not by abolishing quotas and planned allocations, but by allowing producers to trade at market prices *at the margin*. In international trade, openness was achieved not by reducing import barriers,

but by creating special economic zones with different rules than those applied to domestic production.

The good news is that everything we know about economic development suggests that large-scale institutional transformation is hardly ever a prerequisite for jump-starting growth. True, sustained economic convergence eventually requires high-quality institutions. But the initial spurt in growth can be achieved with minimal changes in institutional arrangements.

In other words, we need to distinguish between *stimulating* economic growth and *sustaining* it.

Solid institutions are much more important for the latter than for the former. Once growth is set into motion, it becomes easier to maintain a virtuous cycle with rapid growth and institutional transformation driving each other.

Ricardo Hausmann, Lant Pritchett, and I recently identified and examined more than 80 episodes of growth acceleration – in which a country increased its growth rate by 2% or more for at least seven years – in the period since 1950. The surprise was not only that there were so many cases, but that the vast majority seemed unrelated to conventional economic

reforms, such as liberalization of trade and prices. To the extent that we can identify growth triggers, they seem to be related to relaxing constraints that held back private economic activity.

Even in the better-known cases, institutional changes at the outset of growth acceleration were typically modest. China's gradual, experimental steps towards liberalization in the late 1970's were similar to South Korea's experience in the early 1960's. After taking power in 1961, Park Chung Hee's military government moved in a trial-and-error fashion, without recourse to system-wide transformation, experimenting at first with various public investment projects. The hallmark reforms associated with the Korean miracle – devaluation and a hike in interest rates – came in 1964 and fell far short of full liberalization of currency and financial markets.

Such instances indicate that an attitudinal change on the part of political leaders towards a more market-oriented, private-sector-friendly policy framework often plays as large a role in boosting economic growth as the scope of actual institutional reform. Such an attitudinal change appears to have had a particularly profound effect

## Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.7900	184.9300
Sterling Pound	328.1200	328.3700
Euro	222.8600	223.0300
Saudi Rial	49.2700	49.3100
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.8300	627.3100
UAE Dirhem	50.3100	50.3500
Egyptian Pound	29.7300	29.7600
Bahraini Dinar	490.1500	490.5200
Qatari Rial	50.7600	50.8000
Jordanian Dinar	260.6300	260.8300
Omani Rial	480.0100	480.3700
Swiss Franc	145.3000	145.4100
Swedish Crown	24.4200	24.4400
Japanese Yen	1.6733	1.6746

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

in one of the important growth miracles of the last quarter century — India since the early 1980's.

The trick for policymakers is to identify the binding constraint on economic growth at the relevant moment in time. In South Korea in 1961, the major constraint was the gap between the social and private return on investment. In China circa 1978, the constraint was the absence of market-oriented incentives. In the India of 1980, it was government hostility to the private sector. In the Chile of 1983, it was an overvalued exchange rate.

Of course, it is easier to determine these constraints after the fact. We need to develop a framework for "growth diagnostics" capable of pinpointing where even a little reform can go a long way.

Dani Rodrik is Professor of Political Economy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

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## Internet café's, tempting investment projects

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Internet café's spread in the capital Sana'a strongly compete popular inns in attracting young people.

Although the Yemeni private sector has been investing its money in information and Internet since the year 2000, it has found out that such investment yields high and alluring project estimated at 75% compared to investments in tourist or other sectors.

Statistics mention that there have been increasing members of investors in the sector of Internet and telephone communication centers. Internet home subscribers number does not exceed 15 thousands, whereas during the past three years the number internet café's licenses doubled three folds.

An owner of an internet café in Sana'a says we have discovered that using our money in opening internet café's gives us unexpected a mounts of

project. In this café we have 20 computer machines linked to one telephone line, with cheap price not exceeding one Yemeni rial per minute, which the café customer pays. Profit temptation is easily gained. When we have 20 customers using internet in one hour, the average project is 3600 Yemeni rial per day, yielding around YR 180 a month. If the number of hours increases the monthly profit could rise to about YR 540 thousand per month. Such project rates we cannot gain at other sectors with such an ease.

The same owner of the café, on the other hand, complains that project rate has retreated in this year because of the ministry of communications and information technology's decision of ordering internet café's owners to place their computers at the front of their café's instead of being placed inside. This measure came as a result of many complaints by citizens complaining of using the internet in browsing sites showing indecent pictures and topics.

Internet café's owners criticize the idea of placing their computers' screens to be seen from outside the café. They say the measure has resulted in customers' objection as they say it affects their chatting with friends and browsing their emails.

Internet café's spread intensively in the capital Sana'a, especially nearby the University. Many Commercial, shops offering internet services were opened there where large number of students are getting information, data and studies' results to be used by them in areas of their scientific and theoretical specialties. Student Ahmed Nasser al-Udaini, second year college of Medicine says providing internet services close to the University building has facilitated valuable sources of knowledge and sciences in return for convenient prices, not difficult for students, financial ability, especially those students from limited income families. In addition, references are expensive to be compared to information acquired through internet café's.

It is noted that the increasing number of investors in internet services sector has contributed to decrease in proportion of internet café's. Private sector nets have become available in many areas in the capital, in addition to the project proposed by the president of the republic pertaining the supply of computer sets for government employees, abolishment of duties levied for internet services, all of which helped reduce profits of investors.

Internet services are very much available in citizens' houses and many university students use their own private computers for getting information they want. This development forces many owners of internet café's close down their shops and shift to invest in telephone communications, which in turn witnessed an increase by 85% in comparison with four years before.

An owner of communication center says telephone communication centers are different from internet services in that of easy gaining of profits.

## Yemen relationship with the WB in the balance

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen has been much angered upon media statements mentioning that the World Bank has threatened the Yemeni government of denying assistance to Yemen because it has not met its promise of implementing some economic reforms. Official sources have given outright refused to that news, stressing that the WB's relation with Yemen were based on mutual understanding of the real economic and social situations in the country.

Deputy Premier, the minister of planning and international cooperation Ahmed Soufan said international organisations were cooperating with Yemen in offering requirements of funding some development project in various fields. The minister added that Yemeni deliberations with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund held recently had discussed directions of the third five-year plan 2006-2010 programs.

The Yemeni government is presently preparing the third five-year plan in cooperation with international organisations and the millennium development project of the UN Development Program. Meanwhile the acting director of the WB in Yemen Naji Abu Hatem says he has no information on what has been mentioned about the WB threats of cutting its aid to Yemen, adding that the bank had two years ago offered the Yemeni government three choices.

1- It would keep the present level of assistance the bank is offering if the

government performance continued at this level of reforms.

2- It would raise the level of assistance if the government's performance levels regarding aspects of reforms were improved.

3- It would reduce the level of assistance from its present amount if he government performance in the area of reforms got lower.

Mr Abu Hatem said in a press statement that the volume of assistance represented by the total value of projects supported by the WB amounted to About \$ 600 million while it is expected that \$ 300 million would spent annually at the best of cases.

Observers of economic affairs in Yemen indicate that the government's performance for this year has seen a big receding in the area of fighting poverty and implementation of development and services projects despite of the rise in oil prices and improvement of its revenues in general. People specialized in economic affairs add that the WB is actually exerting pressures on Yemen to accept price reform doses that in turn would aggravate the living condition and create for the private sector and the society more problems and challenges. However, according to some official data, Mr Abu Hatem sees that the Yemeni government has walked long distances in the area of reforms and is working hard in administrative reforms.

The WB confirms that Yemen has in the coming stage record positive indicators in administrative reforms and without that, the state's plans would remain incomplete and inactive.

## Projects to be implemented in Hadramout

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The local council in Hadramout estimated that next year, the costs of projects will exceed YR 37 billion. Local and external resources are going to finance the 900 projects, of which 380 are new additions.

The local council, in its meeting presided over by Salimeen Abboud, also discussed a number of subjects on the agenda, such as the needs of the citizens of the governorate and the reasons for which some projects were halted.

Priority was given to projects related

to health, education, sanitation, electricity, public works and roads especially in rural areas such as the island of Soqatra.

The Al-wade'a area in Hadramout will witness construction to facilitate the trade exchange between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. A road will be built to connect Hadramout Valley with Al-wade'a following plans for housing development in the area.

The underground structure preparation in Al-wade'a will help to increase the commercial activities between Yemen and Saudi Arabia as well as to attract investment in the area that covers 5 square kilometers.



People and university students using internet cafe's in the searches



# *Zain Al-Saqqaf,* The voice of the village

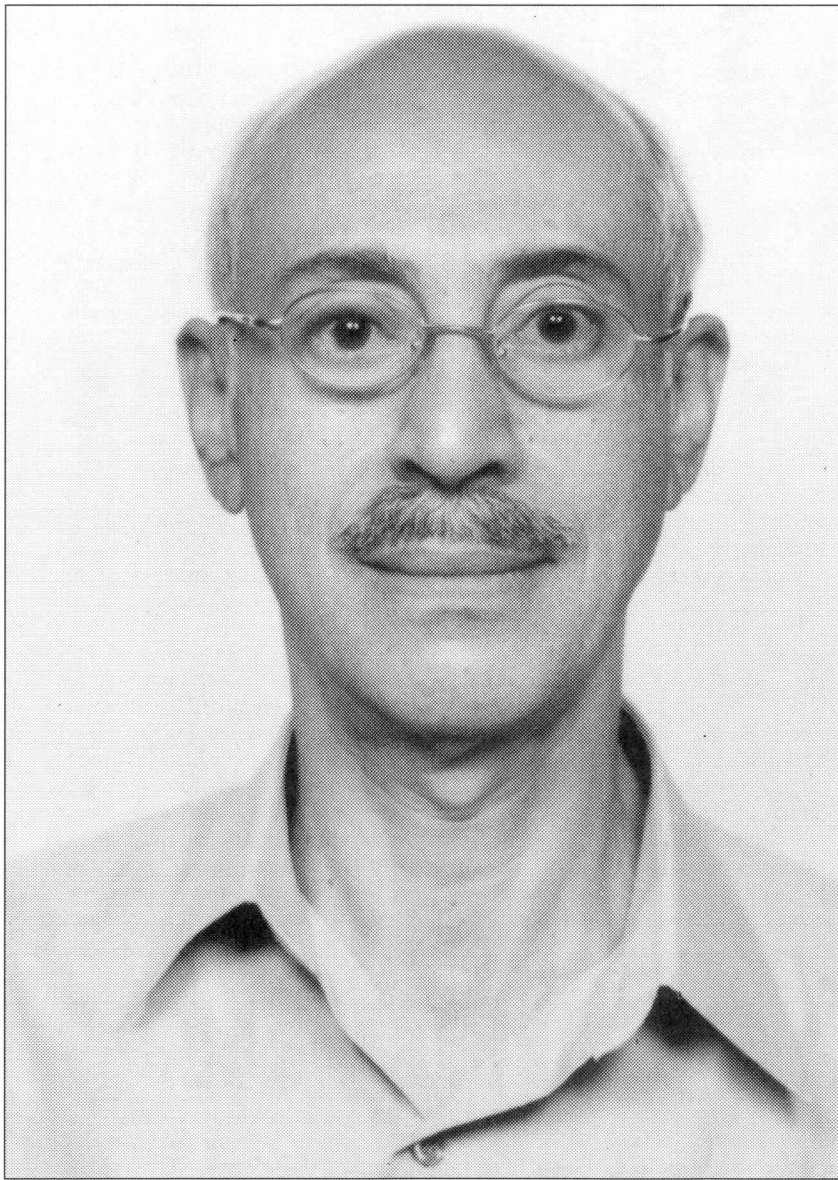
BY AHMED A. MOEN, VIENNA,  
VIRGINIA, USA  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I am indeed saddened to hear of the death of Zain Mohammed Qadri Al-Saqqaf, and I will miss his poetry and writings that echo the voice of the village and its universal appeal to the lovers of metaphors and symbolism. In his death, another star falls from the galaxy of the human universe, of which Al-Saqqaf is its centerpiece. The late Zain Mohammed Qadri and Dr. Abdul Aziz Yasin, represent the perpetual lineage and historical triumphs of universal humanism. Both are products of contemporary history and scholarship embedded in cross-cultural and universal values. Their education marks a long journey from public schools in Ethiopia and Yemen, to famous and well-known universities in America and Egypt. The late Zain studied the Qur'an and Arabic Grammar in the same school that produced most of the elite of the Yemeni immigrant children in Ethiopia. Many of the prominent scholars and physicians who arrived in Yemen in the 1960s were children of a generation that made the difference between the middle and modern age. Dr. Abu Bakr Abdul Rahman Al-Saqqaf, Dr. Abdul Aziz Yasin Al Sakka, Poet Zain Mohammed Qadri Al Sakka and their cotemporary classmates Dr. Jafar Mohammed Said Al-Qirshi and Dr. Amin Ahmed Abdo Nashir are a few of the graduates of the same Quranic and Grammar School, who studied under Imam Ahmed Hamid, and in the Arab Community School in Addis Ababa. Each in his way has excelled in his/her profession.

Zain Mohammed Qadri Al-Saqqaf was alone in living and studying in Egypt. He was a quiet thinker and a humanist who understood fundamental human rights and the desire of his own people for freedom and democracy. He was a poet with an exquisite free style embedded in existential experience. Unlike the classical poets and elite, he became one of the mas-

ters of the popular voice and diversity that glorified and embellished the Arab street. I feel that his symbolic style has never been a barrier to simple communication, but that it penetrated deep into the ears and hearts of common people. He penetrated the inner expression that goes beyond the Egyptian prose known as "Zagal." His writings are closer to home, and touch the life of villagers and city folk alike. These feelings are not accidental, but represent a shared concern for the neglected and isolated mass in the village and inner cities. As an economist, he recognized the neglected core of human development in the third world.

He might have inherited his poetic style from his father, Mohammed Qadri Al-Saqqaf, who had a great influence on his education. His father was gifted with a melodic voice and powerful spirituality that captivated his listeners when he used chant spiritual songs. He chanted and mastered the "Al-Hamaziya" of Albuwesri, and other scholars who glorified the life and traditions of the Prophet Mohammed. These scholarly talents emanated from his ancestor's legacies and from the learning centers in Hadramout. Qarayyat Al-Hadharim was named after scholars and spiritual leaders who migrated to Southern Yemen to establish education and peace among the warring tribes. Mohammed Qadri was an immigrant who believed in the same mission of his ancestors who valued education. He was an avid reader who educated himself through reading Egyptian newspapers and magazines, the Arabic Reader's Digest, and Al-Hilal Publications. He memorized and recited commentaries and writings of Egyptian poets and philosophers such as Ahmed Shawki, Hafiz Ibrahim, Ali Mahmoud Taha and Taha Hussein. The late Zain grew up in a rich scholarly family, surrounded by his father's library. As a descendant of a noble family he was brought up to love and respect the Prophetic lineage, spiritual simplicity, humility and sacrifice, and led a simple life and



Mr. Zain Mohammed Qadri Al-Saqqaf

professional career. Zain began his spiritual and literary journey to fame right in the "Mabraz Al-Hadharim" and his frequent visits to the "Qurya" connected him to his past and projected his feelings into the future as part of his spiritual and cultural continuum.

His higher education in politics and economics enhanced his sense of popular cultures and very often was embellished with his sweet humor and wit. I met him twice after thirty years

of separation in the 1980s when I visited Yemen for the first time as a World Bank and USAID consultant. By chance, Dr. Jaffar Mohammed Said Al-Qirshi, Dr. Naguiba Abdul Ghani and Zain Mohammed Qadri happened to be my counterparts representing the Ministry of Health and Population Program in Yemen. The late Zain impressed me as an advocate, par excellence, for human rights, gender equality and equal access to primary

care and education for men and women. Population growth and economic development were his concern. He realized that these two factors were closely related to gender equality, human rights and quality of life. He brought the skills to his new post as a population economist that he acquired through his past functions as a financial expert in Banking systems and monetary policies in Yemen. He was able to show that human rights and democracy were the key to economic and social development of third world countries. His sense of direction and vision were very clear and he was able to work with the most progressive forces in the Yemeni society.

The late Zain Al-Saqqaf and Dr. Abu Bakr Abdul Rahman Al-Saqqaf were two scholars who represent contemporary thinking. Their stands developed my knowledge and understanding of contemporary social, political, cultural and history. Even though the issue of health, population and development dominated our informal discussions during my consultation tour then, their presence and analysis of diverse worldviews, showed their wealth of experience and struggles to adjust to constantly changing values and economic developments. Those were the days of forums to exchange ideas, to read scholarly works, enjoy poetry and discuss openly political and civic affairs among family members. They were part of our childhood memories in Ethiopia, Egypt and America.

The loss of Zain, one of the pillars of Al-Saqqaf, will be felt deeply. Because of the importance of this generation, the loss of Zain Qadri and Abdul Aziz Yasin, readers of their works will be devastated by their absence. Their scholarship used to serve as a worldwide window through which their audience saw into the minds of many known scholars and thinkers bred in universal education and cultures. The late Zain was not only a scholar and a poet, but also a compassionate human rights advocate.

He was an activist who lived to defend the freedom of speech and democracy. For those who read and understand Arabic, his literary works are evidences of his passion for freedom, popular writing style and colloquial poems. Though his "pedestrian style" is rarely expressed in contemporary Arabic literature, it has become the milestone of contemporary Yemeni scholarship. I speak of Zain as a brother, a friend and a student of his father in spiritual revivals. Zain wore the spiritual mantle of his ancestors to defend what is good and prevent what is bad. He preached wisdom, walked modestly, talked with humility, and respected cultural diversity and believed and advocated human rights and gender equality. When he spoke of "Al-Qarya" in his last interview, he denoted his universal vision and shared humanity in his writing and works. His presence among us was greater than his size in life. Many of his admirers will miss him, but the Al-Saqqaf clan have contributed a great share in shaping world events. They must recognize that their fallen stars shine brightly and their presence in life was a gift to human rights, economic development, free media, literature and democracy. I express my sincere condolences to his children, and I pray for the late Zain, and his wife who supported his works. By standing side by side with their husbands, these women emulated the prominent wives of Prophet Mohammed. The life and works of Zain and Abdulaziz Al-Sakaff, as contemporary role models, show how they cared for their parents and equally treated their lifelong partners. I hope their legacy will continue to be emulated by their descendants. The lifelong companions of these men such as Aziza Ahmed Abdul Ghani Al-Saqqaf, and other women, who wish that their names remain anonymous, proved that the elite of Al-Saqqaf clan are ahead of their time and are exemplars of leadership in a changing world. May Allah bless Zain's soul and those who preceded him on the right path leading to paradise.

## Second Tourism Festival events Inauguration

BY SALAH SALEH AHMED  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ

The Inauguration of events for the second Tourism Festival (Ibb, al-Suddah, & Dhofar - 2004) was carried out Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2004, in Dhofar area, Ibb Governorate. These events and activities were organized by the leadership of the Local authority in the Governorate and in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture & Tourism. It lasted for the period between 21<sup>st</sup> until 28<sup>th</sup> of August. It aimed to showcase the heritage of civilization of the Ibb Governorate, and promote tourism in the area, in the hope that the Governorate can become the tourism capital of Yemen.

The Minister of Culture & Tourism, Khaled al-Rowaishan, has emphasized the vast importance of these tourism festivals in generating tourism awareness and encouraging the internal and external tourism. He hoped that other governorates follow in the footsteps of the Ibb Governorate by setting up tourism festivals and holding them as yearly tradition.

He said in a declaration to Yemen Times, "Dhofar town is in an histori-

cal location, with all that the word means, and it contains large numbers of great antiques. The phenomenon of the festival is a good and excellent type of event and we are always enthusiastic for them".

The minister also announced the Ministry's intention to enlarge and develop the Dhofar Museum next month, and to equip it with all the necessary facilities, he then addressed his wishes to all the guests who were present, and to those who organized the inauguration, especially, the Local council in the Governorate and the Governorate's leadership.

On his turn, Mr. Amin al-Warafi, the general secretary of the Local council in the Governorate, announced on behalf of the Governor, that the value of the Arab investments during this year have exceeded US\$30 million, and he added that the benefits of this tourism festival have already started showing, primarily through the enthusiasm of several men interested in investing in tourism in the Governorate (one of whom is a Qatari business man, Abdullah Al Jaber, who has disclosed his intention to establish a tourism resort value at US\$15 million to be inaugurated in the current year).

Two speeches were given by the preparation committee of the festival. The first speech was delivered by

Amin al-Arhabi; the second was delivered by Miss Najeebah al-Ma'mari, the general secretary of the Local council in al-Naderah District. She Referred to the goals of the festival, its importance, and the role of women in contributing towards making the festival a success. Folklore presentations and popular dances were then performed to the accompaniment of the popular verses and chants by the bands of al-Naderah, Ba'dan, al-Suddah, al-A'smas, and Yerim districts, all of which were admired by the attendants.

The Minister of Culture and Tourism, accompanied by a number of ministers, and Parliament members, (in addition to a number of the governors), then made a visit to Dhofar museum and admired the handy crafts, the ancient jewels, and the distinguished popular clothes, and then went on to visit Damt Raidan and the ancient water tanks.

On Sunday 22nd August, the culture center hall witnessed a forum conducted under the title "sites and opportunities of tourism investment in Ibb Governorate" in which Mr. Amin al-Warafi, the General Secretary of the Local Council, clarified the importance of tourism to the Ibb Governorate and the necessity of looking to avail the tourism industry there.

## Festival by Grandsons of the late Yemeni Poet, Abdullah al-Baradouni

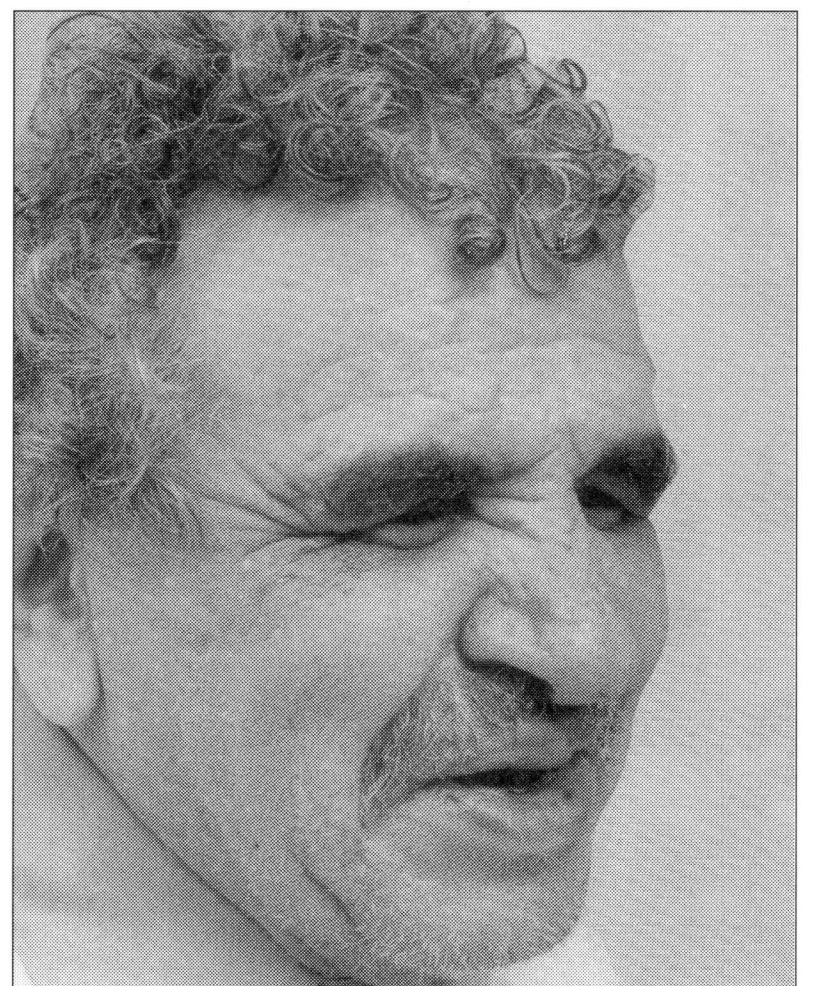
BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In commemoration of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the late Yemeni Poet, Abdullah al-Baradouni, a festival of events by al-Baradouni's grandsons begun last Monday, in the Cultural Center in Sana'a. These events were organized by the Ministry of Culture & Tourism.

The participants in the festive are more than forty poets and critics, most of whose poems and literary experiences were affected by the deceased's poetry. The festival contained three poetic sittings, participated by a collection of young poets. And another four sittings for critics, which addressed the late poet's creations, his personality and life, besides his contribution to and prestige at the national and Arab level, and the prizes that he was awarded by the Arab club.

The events were concluded by a trip carried out by all the participants to al-Baradouni's village, the place where he was born, located in Dhamar town, south of Sana'a.

Al-Baradouni, enriched poetic, literary and artistic grounds with many of his verses and editions. He was artistically innovative and strongly associated with the vertical poetic form. Additionally, he participated in preparing many of the scripted programs, including vast contributions to audio and visual journalism. He is a distin-



The late Yemeni Poet, Abdullah al-Baradouni

guished Yemeni symbol and made many poetic contributions celebrating the

birth of the Yemeni Revolution - 26<sup>th</sup> September.



# Europe's Unity in European Values

By JAN PETER BALKENENDE

Alongside the debate about the European Union constitution, a debate about European values has also developed. This debate is important not only for implanting meaning in the constitution, but will also determine the vitality and energy of the EU itself.

The EU, being the product of several great religious and philosophical traditions, is a community of values. The ideas of the Greeks and Romans, Christianity, Judaism, humanism, and the Enlightenment have made us who we are. Dialogue with Islamic and Arabic cultures also helped form our identity. The pattern of our values has been woven over hundreds of years.

Europe is the continent of Michelangelo and Montesquieu, but also of the guillotine and the gas chamber. Indeed, the bitter experience WWII taught Europeans how fundamental is the importance of shared values. In an impoverished, war-ravaged

Europe, people yearned for peace, freedom, stability, and a new chance to prosper.

The architects of European integration - Monnet, Schuman, Adenauer, De Gasperi, and others - understood that these ideals could be achieved only by combining and interweaving the practical interests of Europe's countries. They built their fragile house of peace on a foundation of coal and steel.

The founders passed the torch on to the generation of Jacques Delors, Helmut Kohl, François Mitterrand, Václav Havel, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and others. They broadened and deepened European cooperation. Their leadership made it possible for Europe to make great strides towards its post-war ideals - peace, stability, and prosperity.

We now stand at the threshold of a new phase of European cooperation. In late October, the EU's Constitutional Treaty will be signed. A new generation of politicians is ready to carry the torch onwards.

But is the torch still burning bright?

In the early 1950s, Jean Monnet wrote: "We are not forming a coalition of states. We are uniting people." Apparently not. As the Union races ahead, it seems that it has lost Europe's citizens along the way. Many are turning their backs on the whole project. They have trouble seeing what is common to Europe. They do not feel part of the great whole. Even in the new member states, enthusiasm for the European family of democracies is cooling. We have achieved a united Europe without uniting Europeans.

Today's post-war generations, lacking direct memory of WWII, view Europe's great achievements - liberty, peace, and prosperity - as a given. The idea of Europe as a heritage and a mission does not mean much. But, without ideals, Europe's foundations will erode.

The emphasis on pure self-interest increases this threat. My generation grew up with the image of Europe as an *economic* form of cooperation. Political motives behind European integration were overshadowed by the

economic project. The result is an impression of Europe as a marketplace. A Europe of markets and money, not of man and morals, dominated the project. But without a moral foundation, there can be no free-market economy.

Today, we are paying the price for not attending to Europe's shared values and common *mission*. Until Europeans know precisely what Europe stands for, what inspires and motivates us, the Union will not be able to take joint action in the world.

The EU Constitution will make Europe more democratic and more transparent. It provides further guarantees that decisions will be taken by those closest to citizens, and it acknowledges the significance the values on which the Union rests: respect for human rights and dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, and the rule of law. These shared values are the glue that binds governments together in the recognition that clinging to pure self-interest is no longer reasonable when common concerns call for a common strategy.

For what is the point of doing away with Europe's physical borders if borders between its citizens remain? How can Europeans be happy that the Iron Curtain is gone if individuals and groups across the Union barricade themselves behind private iron curtains?

Indeed, fear, insecurity, and nationalism are again raising their heads. It is important for Europeans to reflect on that as they prepare for further rounds of enlargement and consider starting accession negotiations with Turkey.

The preamble of the Constitution states that Europe is "united in its diversity." This may be the most concise statement of what makes Europe Europe. But the words "united in diversity" raise the question of where this unity lies.

The answer lies in the values on which the Union is based. They are contained in three concepts: freedom, solidarity, and mutual respect. These three *together* make it possible for Europe to open its doors to a great diversity of peoples and at the same

time to speak as a community of peoples prepared to take responsibility for one another.

Making such a community a reality will not come about by believing that Europe's culture is better than others. We will make it a reality through dialogue and deep reflection about Europe's common values. Values must be the road that leads to what cannot be reached by markets and institutions alone - the accession of Europe's *citizens* to the European Union.

Only by embracing their shared values can Europeans prevent their Union from becoming a spiritless machine. Together, Europeans must find what connects them, and derive new enthusiasm, new spirit from what they find - a spirit sorely needed to tackle the great issues of today. No country can address these issues along. After more than fifty years, Europe as a community of values remains as necessary as ever.

*Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende is Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and President of the European Council.*

# Law and Order, Russian-Style

By VLADIMIR LUKIN

Around the world, people worry that political freedom is disappearing in Vladimir Putin's Russia. Indeed, about the only people who are unconcerned about creeping authoritarianism in Russia are the Russians themselves.

Russians seem to care less about political freedom than they do about social welfare - pensions, domestic violence, children's rights, or police brutality. In fact, most Russians are indifferent to the government's efforts to curtail press freedom and limit the right to protest. Such apathy makes my task as Russia's ombudsman, an office charged by the State Duma (parliament) with protecting political rights in Russia, difficult, if not impossible.

The ombudsman acts as a bridge

between the authorities and the people, seeking to resolve conflicts that arise between state bodies and citizens. My office is open not only to Russian citizens, but to foreigners and stateless people who feel their political rights have been compromised. The standards we apply are not only those contained in Russia's constitution, but also international legal principles and human rights norms, even if they sometimes contradict our constitution.

For example, as ombudsman, I was opposed to curtailing the right of Russians to jury trials. Those who wanted to limit the use of juries supposedly feared a risk to state security in some instances. My office worked closely with the state to assure that, in most cases, juries are used.

Similarly, my office defended the liberal weekly newspaper *Novoe Vremya* (New Times), which was being pressured by Moscow's city govern-

ment on the pretext of a commercial dispute about a lease. That fight is not over, but after my intervention, Moscow's authorities must take into account the public's negative attitude to their effort to quash this publication.

Of course, Russia provides far more headline-grabbing examples of political and human rights problems, such as the low-grade war in Chechnya or the Yukos affair. My office pays maximum attention to Chechnya, although this is not easy to do from Moscow. Indeed, I could spend all my time in Chechnya, but Russia has 89 regions with countless human rights issues to address. This is why I suggested to Putin that Chechnya have its own regional rights ombudsman who would spend all his time there. The new Chechen authorities seem to welcome this prospect.

As to the Yukos affair, my office cannot intervene in any legal process until it is completed. Former Yukos

CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky's lawyers have sent a complaint to the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg. If Khodorkovsky disagrees with the final decision of the Russian courts, he will undoubtedly appeal to that court. Only then will I be able to express an opinion.

Many observers nonetheless insist that those under criminal investigation should be released on bail instead of being kept in prison. Others say that this is not an option in Khodorkovsky's case - being very rich, he could easily jump bail and flee abroad. In fact, this is precisely what happened with other figures accused in the Yukos case.

All of these serious human rights questions expose the fact that Russia's legal institutions remains half-formed. For example, the Duma has taken far too long to enact a law on lobbying, which in most developed democracies clearly defines what constitutes accept-

able and unacceptable behavior. Khodorkovsky might not be in as much trouble if such precise laws existed.

Unformed laws are directly related to unformed ideas. Human rights in Russia are often violated simply because people are not aware that they have some particular right. The most important strategic goal of my office is that people learn how to defend their rights better, and to make the authorities take the complaints of ordinary Russians into consideration. Sadly, most bureaucrats still look upon human rights values with disdain.

But the real problem for my office is neither ignorance nor legal infirmity, it is that in an under-developed legal system such as Russia's, my authority is mostly personal, and requires help from the mass media. Because concepts of human rights remain rudimentary, the best that can be hoped for is that awareness will slowly begin to

take hold.

My tactical goal is thus to raise the public profile of the ombudsman's office, in order to win more respect and recognition by both citizens and the state. This will be all but impossible without cooperation with non-governmental human rights organizations in Russia. Indeed, I view one of my tasks as being to facilitate contacts between these groups and the authorities. The government's response to these efforts will be an important indicator of whether and to what extent Putin's administration intends to include human and political rights within its so-called "dictatorship of law."

*Vladimir Lukin, Ombudsman of the Russian Federation, is a former Russian ambassador to the United States and a co-founder of the liberal Yabloko party.*

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# The Buck Stops at the Top

By JOSEPH STIGLITZ

Recent news coverage showed Ken Lay, the former CEO of Enron, being led away in handcuffs. Finally - years after Enron's collapse - Lay faces charges for what happened when he was at the helm. As is so often the case in such circumstances, the CEO pleads innocence: he knew nothing about what his underlings were doing. Bosses like Lay always seem to feel fully responsible for their companies' successes - how else could they justify their exorbitant compensation? But the blame for failure - whether commercial or criminal - always seems to lie elsewhere.

America's courts (like Italy's courts in the case of Parmalat) will make the final judgment over criminal and civil liability under existing law. But there is a broader issue at stake in such cases: to what extent *should* a CEO be held responsible for what happens under his watch?

Clearly, no CEO of a large corporation, with hundreds of thousands of employees, can know everything that goes on inside the company he or she runs. But if the CEO is not accountable, who is? Those below him claim that they were just doing what they thought was expected of them. If they were not following precise orders, they were at least responding to vague *pro forma* instructions from the top: don't do anything illegal, just maximize profits. The result, often enough, is a climate within

which managers begin to feel that it is acceptable to skirt the edges of the law or to fudge company accounts.

Even though a CEO cannot know everything, he or she is still ultimately responsible for what occurs in the company they run. They choose their subordinates, so it is their responsibility to ask the hard questions about what is going on under their watch. More importantly, it is their responsibility to create a climate that encourages, or discourages, certain kinds of activities. Simply put, it is their responsibility to be true leaders.

What's true for business bosses is doubly true for presidents and prime ministers. The United States is in the process of choosing who will lead it for the next four years. President George W. Bush may claim that he didn't know that the information he was provided by the CIA concerning weapons of mass destruction in pre-war Iraq was so faulty. He may also claim that, with many thousands of troops under his command, it was impossible for him to ensure that US soldiers were not committing atrocities, torture, or violations of civil liberties.

But there is a fundamental sense in which Bush, like Ken Lay, is culpable, and must be held accountable. Just as a CEO with a record not only of poor performance, but also of massive corporate misconduct, should be fired, so, too, should political leaders be held to a similar standard. Bush had a responsibility for the behavior of the people working for him. Instead, almost across

the board in his administration, he chose as advisors people akin to Ken Lay.

Bush chose as his Vice-President a man who once served as CEO of Halliburton. Dick Cheney clearly cannot be held responsible for corporate misconduct *after* he left Halliburton, but there is mounting evidence about misconduct that took place while he was at the helm. Similarly, at the Securities and Exchange Commission, Bush appointed in the person of Harvey Pitt a fox to guard the chickens - until public outrage forced Pitt's resignation.

Bush chose the people who provided him with faulty information about Iraq, or at least he chose the heads of the organizations that provided the faulty information. He chose his defense secretary and attorney general. He, and the people he appointed, created an environment of secrecy, a system in which the normal checks on the accuracy of information were removed.

Most importantly, Bush did not ask the hard questions - perhaps because he, like those below him, already *knew* the answers they wanted. They created a closed culture, impervious to contradictory facts, a culture in which civil rights have been given short shrift and some people have been deemed not to deserve any rights protection at all.

Only such a culture - one that undermined the longstanding presumption that an accused person is innocent until proven guilty - could produce the Bush administration's giggling legal distinctions concerning what is and what is

not torture. The abuses that have been documented at places such as Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo may not have been an inevitable consequence of the administration's legal memos, but surely those memos increased enormously the likelihood that torture would be viewed as acceptable.

Many Americans will reject Bush this November because of the poor performance of the economy or the quagmire in Iraq. Others will oppose him due to his environmental record or his budget priorities. But the intensity of opposition in America to Bush runs deeper than any single issue. There is a growing recognition that the values he and his administration reflect are the antithesis of what America has long stood for - the values of an open society, in which differences of view are freely debated within a culture of civility and mutual respect for the rights of all.

The battle being waged in America today to restore these values is one that has been waged repeatedly around the world. Both in America and elsewhere, much hinges on the outcome, for it is nothing less than a battle to force our leaders to accept responsibility for their actions.

*Joseph E. Stiglitz is Professor of Economics at Columbia University and a member of the Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization. He received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2001.*

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تهاني  
أجل التهاني واطيب التبريكات نهديا الأخ العزيز  
حسين منصور المسني  
بمناسبة عقد قرانه الميمون  
الف الف مبروك وعقبى للفرحة الكبرى  
المهنئون  
بسم أحمد السقاف، رشيد علي السقاف، نصري ابوبكر السقاف، لطفي علي المسني،  
عدنان عبد الله السقاف، هيف عبد الرحمن السقاف وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

الف مبروك  
أجل التهاني والتبريكات نهديا الأخ  
عبد الكريم عبد الله شاحط  
بمناسبة زفافه الميمون  
الف الف مبروك مع تمنياتنا لك بحياة زوجية سعيدة  
المهنئون  
الوالد/عبد الله شاحط  
الأخوة محمد، إبراهيم، علي، خالد، يحيى عبد الله شاحط  
والأنساب علي علي ناجي الحيث، مجاهد علي مجاهد رسام وآل شاحط



## Yemeni Press,

## A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

## Main headlines

- The President meets visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs
- Disclosure of sabotage plot insurgent al-Houthi was planning to implement in a number of areas
- First locally produced computers in this month
- New historical discoveries on history of Yemeni civilization
- After more than 75 days of the war, Scholars appeal to the president to stop the war in Sa'ada
- Razamat shelled, military attack on Wadi Salman repelled
- Message to the president from Sudanese president pertaining to bilateral relations and developments of Darfur issue
- More than 6 million pupils and students begin the new academic year
- Delegation from Tahrir Party meets president Saleh to discuss establishment of "Islamic Caliphate"
- Aden receives the first US super ship in two years
- More than 20 countries participated; Yemen hosts the biggest civilizational demonstration
- Yemen imposes strict monitoring on banking sector in a bid to fight money laundering
- American ships resume calling at Aden port
- America abolishes arms selling ban on Yemen
- WB presents three choices to Yemen government
- Opposition parties assess the ruling party's progress
- Opposition parties approve reforms draft this month
- Security measures at Yemeni sea-ports very high
- After issuing a verdict on Limburg incident, strict security measures at Yemeni ports
- More than 200 killed and scores of wounded the toll of one week of confrontations in Sa'ada
- Threats of blasting "Al Wahdawi" newspaper building
- Israel took part in Yemen war against the Egyptian army
- The president gives directives on abolishing the selling of the government share in oil sector no. 53

**Al-Shumou weekly, 4 Sept. 2004.**

## Main headlines

- Political groups and influential persons try to impose their own interests
- Al-Wazir and leader at the YSP carry out an American scenario to destroy Islah party

Political editor of the newspaper says some try to in a way of going ahead of events through a political address to promote rumours on expected and likely government changes by linking them to appear as if related to Sa'ada events or a reaction to them. The government does not need tens of martyrs for the sake of effecting changes in it and also the sacrifices were not for a cabinet reshuffle of transfer of ministers and high ranking officials. The goal is more sublime than all those trivialities.

**Al-Umma weekly, 2 Sept. 2004.**

## Main Headlines

- 28 persons arrested on charges of affiliation to Imam Zaid society
- Scholars appeal to the president to stop the war in Sa'ada
- In the governorate of Sa'ada, sheiks and notables from Hamzat arrested
- JMP denounces legal violations in prosecution of Shoura newspaper
- Journalists Syndicate denounces illegal measures in al-Shoura prosecution

News department of the newspaper says Yemen has in the international news received during the past days a large portion of news dealing with the so-called terror and its issues inside and outside, where a group of Yemenis are prosecuted in Guantanamo on charges of their link to al-Qaeda. Yemen has also been a party in the report prepared by the UN Security Council with regard to smuggling arms from Yemen to Somalia, accusing Yemen and influential sides of selling weapons for high prices to the Somalis. Observers have associated the practice of German and other for-

eign military ships of searching Yemeni coast with the report.

The Yemeni government confirmations of fighting terror and cooperation with various countries in the world, especially America, have been expressed by separate trials of some persons of taking part in the attack on the USS Cole destroyer and those accused of attacking the French oil tanker Limburg and other incidents.

**Attariq weekly, 31 August 2004.**

## Main headlines

- Fish wealth minister orders investigation into the decay of more than 11 tons of cuttlefish
- Teachers union welcomes dialogues for unifying the unionist work
- Military force helps release a retained trailer owned by the economic establishment
- Aden Chamber of Commerce sponsors a Saudi-Libyan trade agreement

Columnist Ahmed Ali Uthman says in his article it seems that the administrative and financial corruption has exceeded a scope that one cannot keep silent towards it. Corruption base has widened to a dangerous point and necessitates facing its dangers. We have to stress that life necessities of the citizen are the axis of our issue that we demand to be realized and to offer what we can to for the sake of guaranteeing its development. We seek to protect and keep our national constants and the human right to development and progress and none of us can ignore this right.

**Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress, 30 August 2004.**

## Main headlines

- Vice-President of the republic opens the 5th international conference on Yemeni civilization in Sana'a
- The GPC renews its call to various political activities for national alignment and contribution to building modern democratic Yemen
- Finding alternative formulas for administrative restructure
- Somali papers reported news on

ships dropping poisonous wastes on Somali coasts,

- Speedy Yemeni movements to verify information on and taking measures to avoid Yemen from being exposed to ships wastes

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in his article in the first colonialist invasion the head of Arab culture was the main wanted target and in the neo-colonialist invasion, it is clear that uprooting the Arab culture is the first goal. Throughout all ages, the forces of occupation were able to storm fortresses and break through the cities walls but they were not able to pluck out one chapter from the nation's culture books unless they were able to take the nation's life.

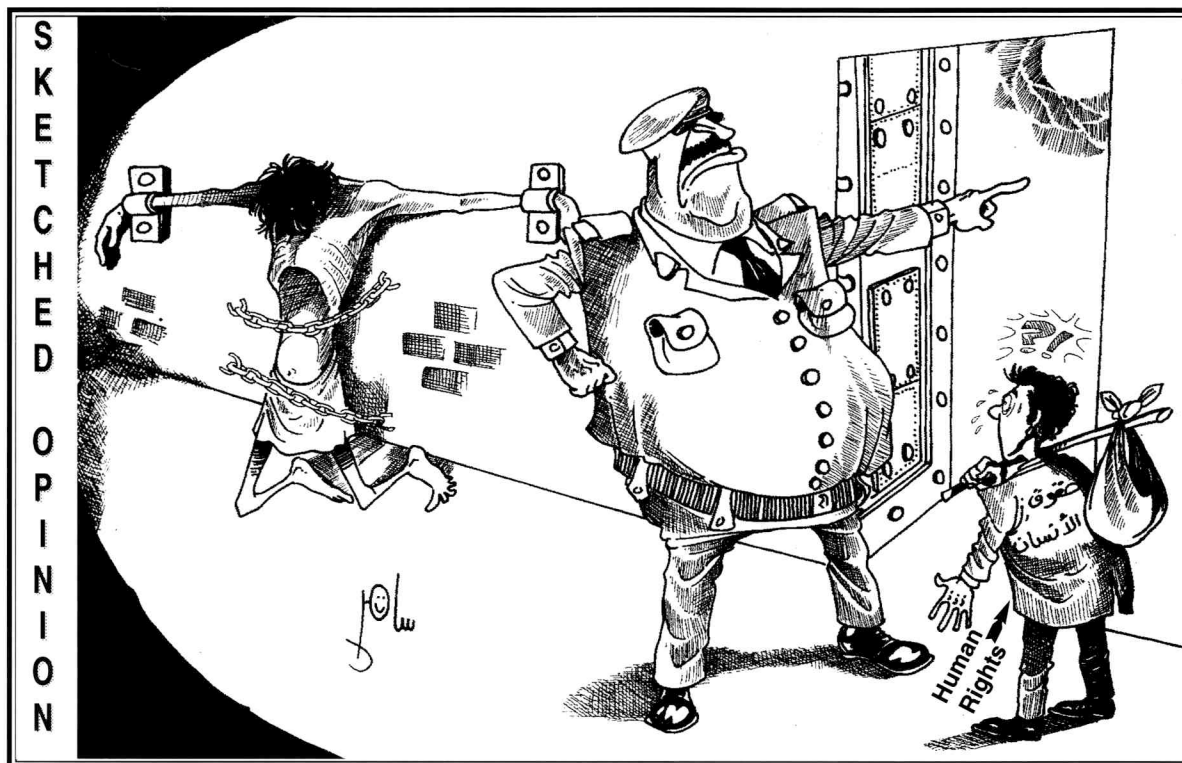
Hence, comes to surface the importance of culture and the importance of keenness on purifying it from weakness and backwardness, rendering it the sincere expression of the nation's spirit. Finally, the new invasion comes to maintain its advance on from the point where the old invasion ended up after realizing that the nation's culture was itself that created her unified feeling and utter refusal of any form of direct or indirect occupation.

**Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 31 August 2004.**

## Main headlines

- Army units engage in fighting with citizens in Taiz, government faces new front in Al-Jawf
- Corruption growth accelerates cabinet reshuffle that may include head of the government
- Projectiles target government complex in Sa'ada
- Thirty-two million riyals, embezzlements at the National Institute
- Court halts appointments of Sana'a University

Columnist Mahmoud Sharafudin says in his article there is no difference between iron shackles chaining journalists and chains of his living life. Both of them represent the same degree of suppression. The first one could force the journalist to write in favour of authority or to avoid writing his opinion against it. The second one could be more destructive forcing him to hire his pen in defense of corruption



and in praising others.

Under such a situation, the Journalists Syndicate, which is busy preparing for issuing a charter on the profession ethics, should head for protecting the profession and its cadre against deterioration, as step preceding the declaration of the ethics charter. This step is represented by putting a scale of wages for journalists guaranteeing their rights, improving their circumstances, and meeting their living needs. It should be applied to official, private sector and partisan press.

**Al-Nahar weekly, 2 September 2004.**

## Main headlines



سجل الآن  
في جامعة العلوم والتكنولوجيا  
كلية الحاسوب والعلوم الإدارية  
شهادة البكالوريوس والدبلوم  
باللغة الإنجليزية  
سنة التخرج في بريطانيا أو ماليزيا  
اتصل الآن .. والاختيار لك



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# European powers wary of more qualifying slips

LONDON (Reuters) - Some of Europe's major powers including newly-crowned champions Greece, France and England, will be looking to improve on Saturday's disappointing results when they play their second World Cup qualifiers tomorrow.

Greece were brought down to earth in a 2-1 defeat by bitter cross-border rivals Albania in their Group Two opener in Tirana at the weekend — and will be looking for a big win against arch-rivals Turkey in Piraeus to put their campaign back on track.

Poland, who won 3-0 in Northern Ireland, are looking to become England's nemesis again when the two sides meet in Chorzow in Group Six.

Sven-Goran Eriksson's side are under pressure after letting slip a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 against Austria in Vienna.

England travel to Chorzow for the first time since losing 2-0 in a World Cup qualifier there 31 years ago — a result, together with a 1-1 draw with Poland at Wembley four months later, that saw Poland qualify for the 1974

World Cup finals in West Germany at England's expense.

France, whose quarter-final upset by Greece at Euro 2004 ended their reign as European champions, are rebuilding after the international retirement of the core of their 1998 World Cup-winning side and in particular Zinedine Zidane.

Their young, inexperienced side were held 0-0 in Paris by Israel on Saturday and they will take an away match against the Faroe Islands lightly at their peril.

## Czech-Dutch thriller

Meanwhile in Amsterdam, the heavyweights from the Netherlands and the Czech Republic meet again after clashing in the finals of Euro 2004 as well as the qualifying campaign.

The Czechs came back from two goals down to beat the Dutch 3-2 in the



Some of Europe's major powers including newly-crowned champions Greece, France and England, will be looking to improve on Saturday's disappointing results when they play their second World Cup qualifiers tomorrow. Photo shows the Greek squad.

REUTERS

best match of Euro 2004 in Portugal — and will both be looking for all three points as they both start their World Cup campaigns.

It will be the debut for both teams in Group One and they will be playing catch-up as Romania have already taken six points from two games so far

and should make that nine when they play Andorra on Wednesday.

Successive defeats against neighbours would be too much for Greece to swallow but that is a prospect they must prepare to avoid at all costs against Turkey by recovering their excellent Euro 2004 defensive qualities.

Turkey, the 2002 World Cup semi-finalists who failed to reach the Euro 2004 tournament, will want to improve on their 1-1 draw at home to Georgia and may feel a Greek side off the boil are there for the taking.

Italy, making a new start under Marcello Lippi after their Euro failure, made a good start in Group Five with a 2-1 home win over Norway in Palermo and they will be looking for maximum points again on their trip to Moldova.

Portugal, who are trying to forget the disappointment of defeat in the final of their Euro tournament, should take a

second successive Baltic scalp at home against Estonia in Group Three following their 2-0 away win over Latvia.

Ireland's trip to Basel to face Switzerland in France's Group Four will be a far better measure of the teams' respective strengths than their easy weekend victories.

They also met in the European qualifiers with the Swiss winning home and away and the Irish, with Roy Keane back in the side, will be keen to avenge those two defeats.

The Irish beat Cyprus 3-0 while the Swiss overwhelmed the Faroe Islands 6-0 with hat-tricks from teenager Johan Vonlanthen and Alexander Rey.

Likewise, Sweden's home match with Croatia should pose more problems than the Malta side they routed 7-0 in Group Eight in which Bulgaria made a good start under Hristo Stoichkov with a 3-1 win away to Iceland.

Spain, one of Euro 2004's biggest let-downs, make their debut in Group Seven away to Bosnia, also opening their campaign.

## Eriksson says Beckham should be fit for Poles

KATOWICE, Poland (Reuters) - David Beckham should be fit enough to captain England in tomorrow's World Cup qualifier against Poland, England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson says.

The Real Madrid midfielder has been struggling with a rib injury he picked up in the 2-2 draw against Austria in Vienna, but Eriksson said he was hopeful his captain would pull through.

"He has had a scan and there are no broken things," Swede Eriksson said on Tuesday. "He will train later today and I think he will play tomorrow."

"It is no risk him training today ... if it was a risk our doctors would have kept him in his hotel."

Eriksson said there was no question of Beckham being dropped for the Group Six match despite heavy media criticism of his performance after England blew a 2-0 lead.

"No, I never considered dropping him," he told reporters. "I cannot agree he played badly at all. I can't tell you how many times he switched play for us in that match."

"I can agree that I know he can play better but that he should be dropped?"

No, I don't agree with that."

## LAST MINUTE

Eriksson said there were no other injury concerns in his squad but that he would not be naming the side to face Poland until the last minute.

"I have still more than 24 hours to decide the team," he said. "And I will use those 24 hours."

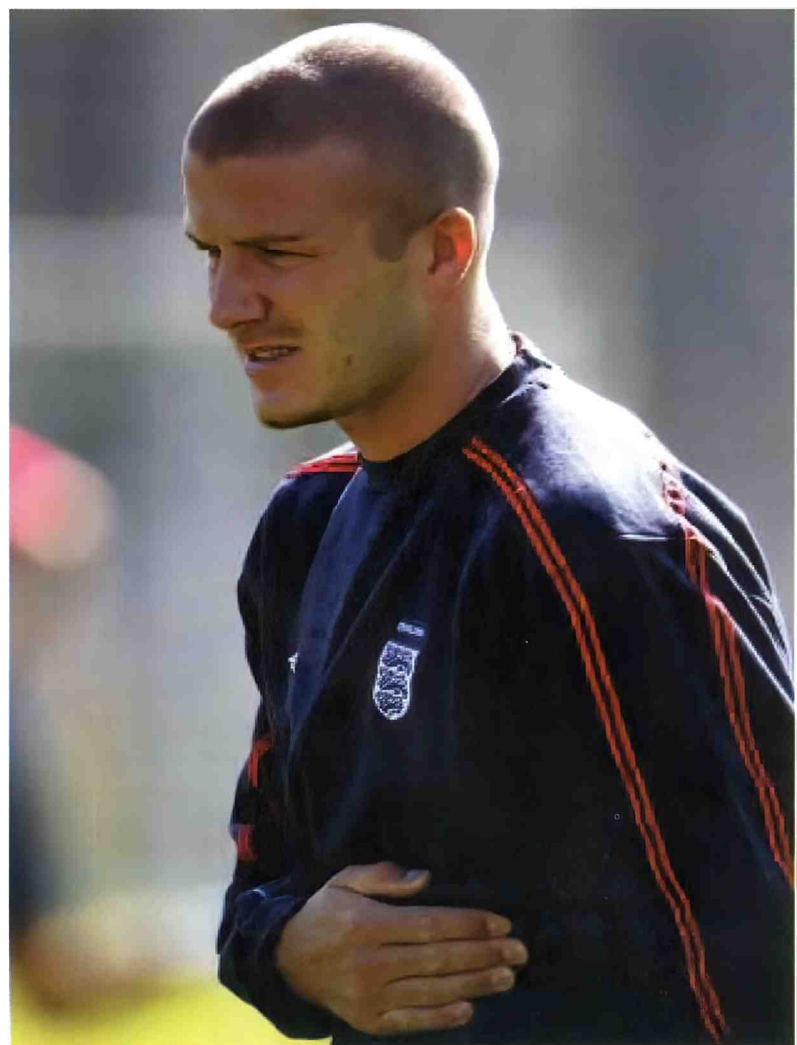
"I am quite sure we will qualify for the World Cup in Germany. I don't agree with those people who are panicking after one drawn match ... one match away which we drew. There are a lot of games to play still."

"We made some mistakes against Austria and they cost us two points, unfortunately. But the will to put Saturday's result right is great within the squad."

"That the players are panicking is not true — they are calm and they are confident ... you know, it is good that people expect England always to win."

"There is 90 minutes work to do out there. It is important the players are calm and they do their job and that's it."

"I am very positive we will still qualify."



David Beckham should be fit enough to captain England in tomorrow's World Cup qualifier against Poland, England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson says.

REUTERS

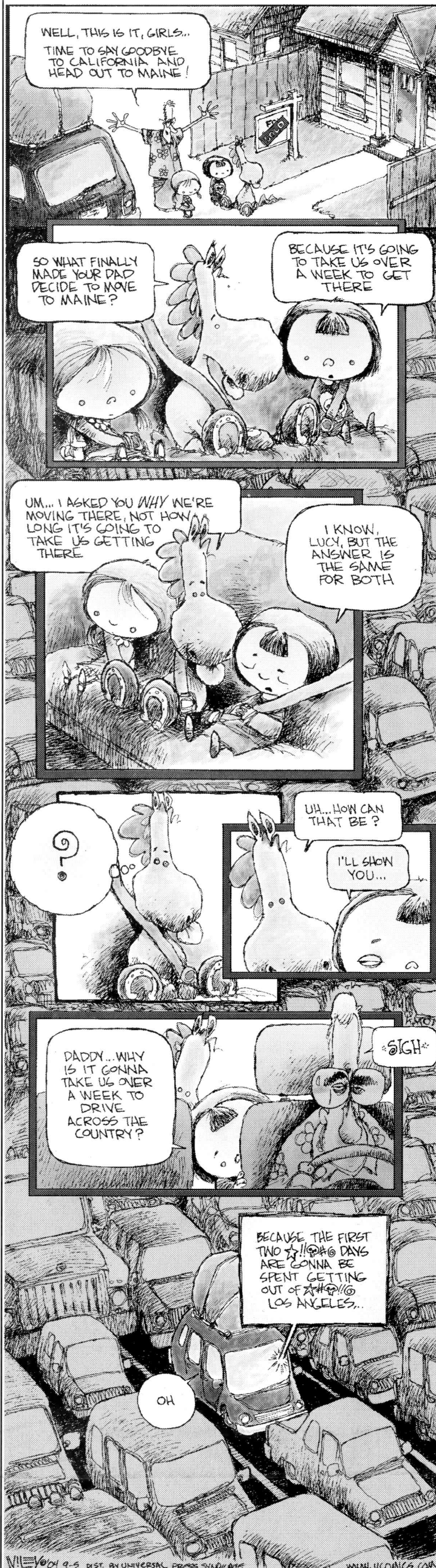
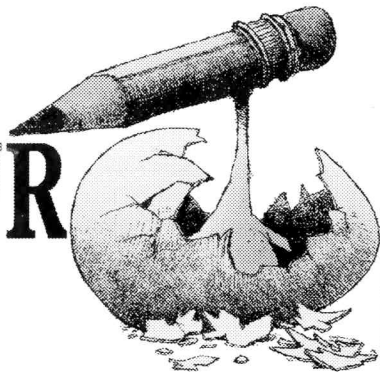
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وغايتك إلى الاستقرار  
*Your mean to investment  
& your object to success*

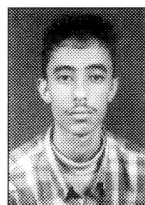
**مسابقة رقم (24) Contest No.**  
**إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر**  
Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer  
الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز أكسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا  
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الفائز بالقرعة سوف يحصل على  
جائزة قيمة من المعهد

*Winner will get a present  
from the institute*

Winner of cont 23



*Hafez AbdulSalam Abdu*

يسرنا فتح باب التسجيل للراغبين في الحصول على شهادة من بريطانيا  
Registration for getting Certificate from Britain starting soon

## Synonyms

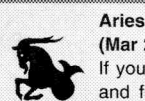
- |               |   |        |             |
|---------------|---|--------|-------------|
| 1- Exited     | → | W..... | الاسم:      |
| 2- Wild       | → | A..... | المدنية:    |
| 3- Clever     | → | T..... | رقم الهاتف: |
| 4- Not happy  | → | A..... |             |
| 5- Bad Result | → | N..... |             |
| 6- Disease    | → | I..... |             |

اقطع كوبون المسابقة وارسله عبر الفاكس مع بياناتك كاملة . ( معهد الفاروق صنعاء - تلفاكس 213711 شارع هائل المدخل الفرعي مقابل مجوهرات الجابري ) \* آخر موعد لاستلام الاجابات هو يوم الثلاثاء من كل اسبوع

## THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



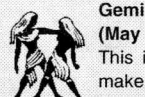
BY Eugenia



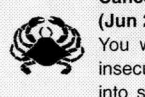
**Aries**  
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)  
If you aren't prepared to stand up and fight for what you want, you will lose. Don't back down because someone is pressuring you.



**Taurus**  
(Apr 20 - May 20)  
Plan something special with your best friend. You owe yourself a little leisure time to catch up. Be forthcoming about your feelings today.



**Gemini**  
(May 21 - Jun 20)  
This is a new day and a time to make changes that will lead you in the direction you have always seen yourself going. Stop making excuses and start to follow your own path.



**Cancer**  
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)  
You will be feeling sensitive and insecure today, so throw yourself into something that will take your mind off your worries. A creative hobby will set your mind at ease.



**Leo**  
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)  
Financial and legal matters can be put to rest or into play today. Deals can be made and closed. You are in the driver's seat.



**Virgo**  
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)  
Organization will be the key and, if you are ready for whatever challenge comes your way, you will impress onlookers. Partnerships are on the horizon.



**Libra**  
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)  
Someone may create a problem for you. Don't let this person know they have the edge. Play it cool and stay in control.



**Sagittarius**  
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)  
Publishing deals, writing, interacting and getting your word out is what today is all about. Your imagination will help you present your thoughts in a colorful manner.



**Scorpio**  
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)  
You may be forced to deal with some serious matters today. Be prepared to take control and make decisions. Underhandedness is apparent.



**Capricorn**  
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)  
You will dazzle everyone today. Partnerships may be uneasy at first, but once you get past the initial stages, you will form a lasting union.



**Aquarius**  
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)  
Use your inventive mind to move in a direction that suits you better. Work can be enjoyable if you follow a direction that challenges you.

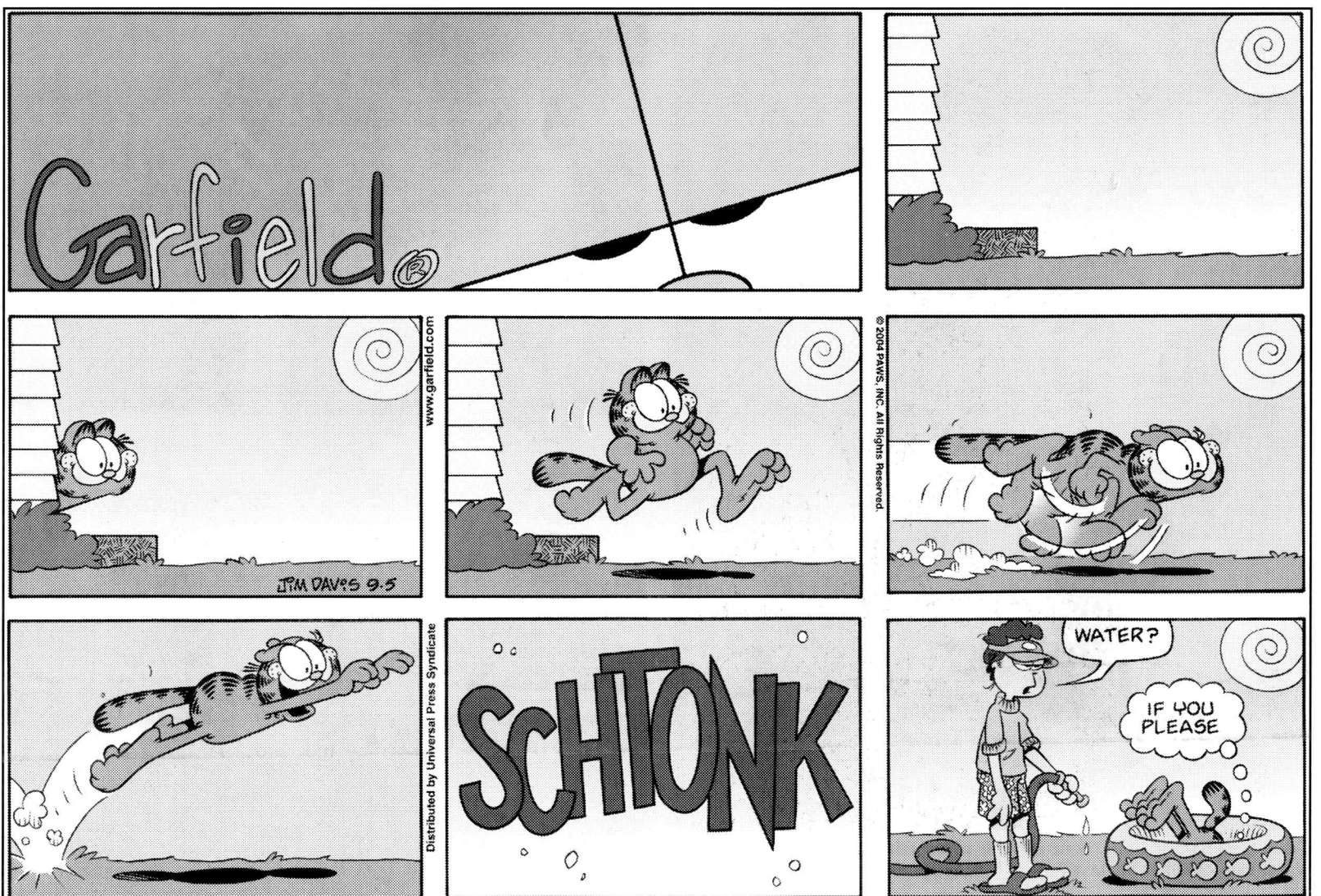


**Pisces**  
(Feb 19-Mar 20)  
This can turn into a spectacular day if you travel about, pamper yourself and do something with someone you really enjoy. Pack this day full of pleasure.

## 7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a							
Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	31	30	29	29	29	30	30
Lo	12	13	12	12	13	13	11

Aden							
Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	39	39	39	39	39	38	36
Lo	27	28	27	27	27	27	28





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■ يعلن المعهد الأميري الأكاديمي عن حاجته لسكرتي مظهر جيد وخبره للفترتين وسيقوم المعهد بتدريس المتقدمين في اللغة والكلمة للتواصل:

٨٢-٨٠ (رياض)

■ فرصة عمل جيدة لسكرتي

يُجيد اللغة الإنجليزية  
جيد  
للتواصل: ٧٣٢٣١٣٦  
■ مطلوب : مسو  
مسوقات للعمل لدى ش  
رائدة. (٢)  
للتواصل: ٤٧٠٤٧٠  
■ مطلوب : خفار مساع  
**Drilmen** دبريك مان  
فلورمان ، للعمل لدى ش  
رائدة متخصصة لخدم  
النفط ويشترط توفر الخ  
على أن لا تقل عن خ  
سنة و ٢ أ  
(٨/٢٠٠٨)  
للتواصل:

٥٩ / ٧٦٦٦.١/٢/٣  
٥١/٧٦٦٦.١/٢/٣

■ مطلوب : سكرتيرة  
(٢) فترة (صباحية) بشروط  
تكون حاصلة على مؤهل  
مناسب لا يقل عن ثانوية عا  
للبالغة ، من المظهر ،  
تدرب علاقات عامة وأن يكون  
ناضل على مؤهل مناسب لا يقل  
نوية عامتاً أن يكون له خبرة في  
المجال لا يقل عن ٣ سنوات أو  
نوات. (٣) مدرسي ومدرسات  
جليزية ، مؤهل عالي أكاديمي ،  
عن ٤ سنوات في تدريس  
تدليلية على الراغبين أخذ  
سيرة الذاتية وصورة شخصية  
يبدية إلى مقر الفرع جوار الكر  
صرفاً أو  
(٨/١٢).٧٦٨.٤٤

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in 2005**



**طيران الإمارات  
EMIRATES AIR**

erseas students attending universities in the centre of England and the Asian communities in this region to benefit," he said. In addition of the Abu Dhabi to Birmingham service, Gulf Air's daily flights from the Gulf to London will be increased to six. Gulf Air currently operates five daily

from the Gulf to  
Heathrow, and the  
of the Birmingham  
will bring the number  
ly flights operated by  
ine to 41.



## The earthen buildings of Shabwa

BY NASSER ABDULLAH NASSER SALEH  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
ADEN

The Governorate of Shabwa is distinguished by the unique landmarks, of its many beautiful high earthen buildings, and their remarkable architectural style. Archeological finds confirm the well established tradition of using local earthen

materials for the construction of villages, trade-markets, castles, and tribal houses. In fact the great civilization of Shabwa, seems to have been built from the earth. These earthen buildings are not merely the remnants of a bygone era, but are evidently still off-preferred by the men of Shabwa to other available building materials such as steel rods, cement, and marble for example. In some towns and villages in Shabwa, 99% of the buildings are made of earthen materials.

The earth is yellow soil taken from cultivated fields and blended with water and locally produced wheat stems that make it possible to raise such splendid buildings. Some such buildings have withstood the harsh climatic conditions for over a hundred

years, and many are still inhabited today. The secret of the success of earthen buildings is that they are strong, solid and resistant to the weather. In cold times the earth retains warmth, and in hot times absorbs the scorching heat. Earthen shelters have always provided comfortable shelter from the elements and protection against enemies.

With regards to the process of building the earthen buildings characteristic of Shabwa in general, and Wadi Yesh-born in a particular, high quality earth from cultivated fields is mixed with water and the dry thrashed stems of Doakah (which is a species of wheat plant) or any other minute-seed plant. This produces a dough like mixture called Thiad, which is then used to produce hundreds of blocks of various sizes called Lebn-Abbadi, Lebn-Hadhr, Lebn-Quarish ila Boaba, and Lebn-Noas. When the blocks have set hard, they are transported to the building site via lorries or, more traditionally, donkeys. Next a team of skilled workers use the bricks to construct the building. In addition to the builder and the foreman are four key assistants known as Al-Nasher (who hands the builder the blocks), Al-Mulaqi (who passes a mixture of wet earth and Doakah), Al-Khabish (who smoothes the



A beautiful blending of mud and modern architecture

outside walls after the blocks have been covered with a mixture of wet earth and Thaid) and the carpenter who deals with the wood. In addition to these, there are several other key workers including: is-hab Al-Mukhalad who prepares the wet earth, is-hab Arraah who provides wet earth upstairs, and is-hab Allibnah, who provides blocks upstairs.

Earthen buildings are totally dependant upon local raw materials such as Nabk tree wood (which is employed in making doors, beams, columns, and windows), Sarah wood, Nabk tree wood, Mudhadh wood, palm-tree wood, and Oasher wood (which are used in ceilings).

Finally, when the building is over, Al-Khabish covers and smoothes the inside walls with earth which is then painted with lime and paints. Some buildings are covered

with cement and painted with lime outside as a touch of beauty and as additional protection against the wind and rain. Old buildings used the manure of cows and Hamoor stone for tops and stairs.

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دبلوم فني أسنان / مهندسات / صيدلة / علوم إدارية.  
مستاء-حد-ت: ٢٠١٤/٢٠١٤ - فاكس: ٤١٢٤٤١ - عدن - ت: ٢٢٢٦٦٦ / ٢٢٢٦٦٦ - فاكس: ٢٢٢٦٦٦  
إب-ت: ٤٠٦٤٠٠ - تمز-ت: ٢٢٢٦٦٦ - فاكس: ٢٢٢٦٦٦ - الحديدة - ت: ٢٣٥٤٤٠

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بريد إلكتروني  
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