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Most responses are negative

U.S. Yemenis critique Bush

By SHAKER LASHUEL
 YEMEN TIMES
 NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

Many Yemeni-Americans, some of them voting for the first time, woke up on November 3rd disappointed to find out the President Bush has won another term.

Like every other American, they accepted the results of this great democratic process that they saw unfold in front of their eyes, especially since it did not resemble the chaos that plagued the 2000 election episode.

The Yemen Times sent an e-mail questionnaire to Yemeni-American professionals online and also conducted several interviews among the community in Brooklyn, New York.

In one of the interviews, Munir Alarifi, who is about to become a U.S. citizen soon, declared he would have voted for Bush. Munir is a 25-year-old Yemeni who arrived in the States three years ago and currently works in a grocery store.

He believes that President Bush has done the impossible in Iraq. "He was able to remove Saddam. Who would have thought it was possible?" Munir is hopeful that President Bush will work to remove the other dictators in the region. He is optimistic about the upcoming four years and felt confident that "President Bush has the experience and will to pull the country out of the Iraqi mess, and do a lot for the economy and health insurance."

Munir's views were not shared by many Yemeni-Americans who wrote in their e-mails, expressing strong disagreement. One of the Yemeni-American community leaders who preferred to remain anonymous wrote that in the next four years "things will get worse." In a detailed response to the questionnaire sent, a Yemeni-American woman, in her mid-20s wrote that:

"In the past four years the Bush



A Sana'a man reads a pre-election issue of the Yemen Times the day before the Nov. 2 U.S. vote that returned George W. Bush to the U.S. presidency for four more years.

(Yemen Times photo by Jamil Abdul Karim)

administration has cut a lot of government programs and lost a lot of jobs. It has made a systematic attack on the liberties of citizens and non-citizens alike. It has tarnished the US image around the world, waged war against countries, hasn't been able to catch Usama Bin Laden, and hasn't stabilized Iraq."

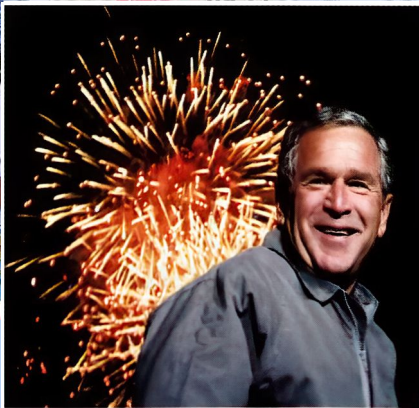
Her declaration that "continual vio-

lence, war and death are inescapable," reflects the extent of the pessimism some Yemeni-Americans feel.

An e-mail responder, identified only as Asma, wrote "Although I am an ever hopeful person in general, I do not feel

hopeful about our future 4 years... I believe that I am not alone in thinking this way.

"The only change she believes will occur in President Bush's policies will be



"stronger demands to change the Constitution to support his right wing beliefs." Like many who have heard President Bush reflects on his decisions in Iraq, many of the respondents do not feel that a change in U.S.-Iraq policy is imminent.

Many of the respondents felt that U.S. and Yemen relations will not change in the next four years. The coming months will tell if President Bush will be able to regain the conservative part of the Yemeni-Americans who voted for him in 2000.

In the minds of Yemeni Americans, a sound economy, a successful transition in Iraq, an improved foreign policy that preserves the image of America as the leader of the community of nations.

See page 8 for more on George Bush as U.S. president

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Berlin, Rome, and the Vatican

Saleh off to Europe

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

To continue to build diplomatic and economic ties with Europe, President Ali Abdullah Saleh is to visit Germany and Italy this week.

Foreign minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi said that the talks between Saleh and German officials will focus on "promoting the various aspects of the Yemen-German relationship, economic and investment partnership as well as the current affairs in the Middle East, mainly the situations in Iraq and Palestine."

Germany is one of the most important donors to Yemen. In 2003, Germany offered Yemen a donation of 23.5 million euros for funding development projects. German imports into Yemen also increased from YR 1.04 billion in 1999 to YR 1.62 billion last year.

Meanwhile, Yemen's exports to Germany increased from YR 261 million in 1999 to YR 332 million in 2003.

Saleh's visit to Germany is expected to boost economic cooperation

between the two countries and push for more German involvement in Yemen.

On November 25th, Saleh will head to Italy where he will hold talks with the Italian president and Prime Minister, also focusing on the bilateral relations, cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the situations in the Middle East.

Qirbi said that Yemen and Italy will sign a security agreement, expecting "more financial aid from Italy in the field of security."

Italy already waived loans to Yemen in favor of supporting Yemen's coast guard. It also supported the UNDP project to protect the Socotra island with \$5 million, and supported the demining program in Yemen co-financed by a number of donors and UNDP.

The record of Italian assistance to Yemen soared to 20 million Euros, out of which 6 million go to health field.

After his 3-day visit to Rome, Saleh will visit the Vatican and meet Pope John Paul II. Saleh already visited the Vatican and Pope John Paul II in 1999.

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In Washington hospital

Al-Anssi burns himself

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES

After what is believed to be a suicide attempt, a U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) informant, Mohammed Al-Anssi, is in a Washington DC hospital.

His injuries include second-degree burns covering thirty percent of his body including his head, back and arms. Al-Anssi, who burned himself Nov. 14, reportedly received \$100, 000 for helping to capture another Yemeni Sheikh.

It is Al-Anssi who motivated the now US-detained sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayad, to travel to Germany with promises that he would take him to a Muslim-American ready to give donations for Islamic issues.

Al-Anssi is a partner in a series of records which involves Al-Moayad and the supposed donor, who himself was an FBI agent.

Continued on page 4

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President grieves Abu Shawareb's death

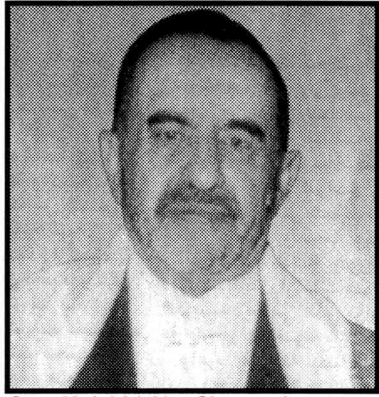
BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has consoled all Yemenis on the death of Gen. Mujahid Bin Yahya Abu Shawareb in a car accident that occurred on Nov. 17 on the highway between Sana'a and Abs District, Hajah Province.

In his condolence notice, Saleh expressed his sorrow over the death of Abu Shawareb, who was also an advisor to the president, saying that he lost a close brother and friend whose life was full of heroic exploits.

The president said this loss makes hearts bleed with sorrow and that the nation lost one of its brave sons who spent his life serving our homeland and protecting the republican system.

"He was an example of the heroic leadership since his youth that he spent in the trenches of battlefields, stabilizing the principles of freedom, justice,



Gen. Mujahid Abu Shawareb

and equality which he powerfully believed in," Saleh said.

Abu Shawareb, 66, occupied several senior positions including governor of the Bani Yousif Area. He was a leader of Al-Majd Forces, member of the Revolutionary Command Council, Deputy Prime Minister for

Interior Affairs, member of the Al-Shwra Council and finally advisor to the president.

The president sent condolence letters to his son Jubran Mujahid Abu Shawareb, Parliament Member, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar and Askar Bin Hajah, leader of Al-Majd Forces, conveying his grief and appealing to Allah to have mercy on the deceased and wishing his family members patience.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, Speaker of the Parliament, consoled the Yemeni and Islamic nation, describing the deceased as being more than his in-law but a close companion in all struggles for protecting the revolution and the republic.

He mentioned that the family will receive the condolences at Apollo Hall, 60th St., Sana'a. The condolence notice included the autobiography of Abu Shawareb.

Wadi Al-Mulk eyed for more tourism

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

The General Authority for Investment & Tourism Development (GAITD) is looking to boost the tourism potential of Wadi al-Mulk.

GAITD is part of the Ministry of Culture & Tourism.

The valley is situated on the coastline of the Red Sea near the city of Mokha, and has the tourist potential to attract investment.

The committee is headed by Abdu Naji Moqbil, Undersecretary of the authority and Abdu Mahdi Salah, General Manager of Investment at the General Authority for Tourism Development, and Sadiq Salah, General Director of Tourism Office in

Taiz.

A recent meeting on the issue was attended by Director of Mokha District and the Secretary General of the Local Council in Mukha as well as representatives from State's Real Estate & Lands Bureau and public works and endowment Offices in Taiz.

The submission of the strategic location to the authority comes in the framework of the state's tourism sector and encouraging investment to ensure the tourist recovery.

Studies and strategies are currently conducted by specialized parties to better boost the tourist investment, according to the Undersecretary of the General Tourism Development Authority.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

Should qat be outlawed in Yemen? (See page 8 for Editorial)

- Yes
- No

last edition's question:

Do you think that Yemeni journalist Al-Khawi's beating in the Central Prison by another convict was arranged by the authorities?

Yes, it was 85%
No, it was not 15%

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Speed still kills during Eid

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

There were 34 traffic accidents that took place in the governorate of Taiz during the vacation of Eid al-Fitr.

The accidents resulted in the death of eight persons, including a female victim.

The loss in properties totaled YR 12.4 million, said Colonel Yahya Zaher General Director of Traffic in Taiz.

He also added that such tragic accidents take place as a consequence of high speed and carelessness on the part

of the drivers as well as pedestrians.

The Traffic Department in Taiz works for passing sanctions upon those who violate the traffic laws.

The administration investigated the death of a pedestrian, Ahmad Abdullah Mohammad, in an accident taking place in Bani Yousif Area.

A few minutes following the accident, the driver fled the scene but only his car could later be found.

The traffic police are expending their efforts to still find the unidentified perpetrator.

One official calls it "routine" U.S. continues warning American travelers

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United States renewed its warning last week for American citizens who are thinking of traveling to Yemen.

The travel warning, released by the US State Department last Wednesday, said that risks remain of possible terrorist attacks and Al-Qaeda is attempting to establish its presence in Yemen.

"The Department of State warns US citizens to consider carefully the risks of traveling to Yemen," said the travel warning. "The security threat to all US citizens in Yemen remains high due to continuing efforts by Al-Qaeda to reconstitute an effective operating base. This could lead to possible attacks by extremist individuals or groups against US citizens, facilities, businesses and perceived interests."

Although there have been complaints from the tourism sector of previous travel warnings from the United States which could have hurt the industry's growth, some say that the latest warning will have little impact on tourism in the near future.

"In terms of American tourists coming to Yemen, the warning will not be a setback," said Brid Beeler, Marketing Manager at Universal Group. "US companies have already developed their tourism program for 2005, and Yemen was not included. They won't develop their 2006 program until next spring.

"This warning will not have much of an effect on European travelers. We have recently done very well in the

European market. The number of customers coming from Europe has jumped up considerably in the last two months."

Taha Al-Mahbashi, Executive Director of Tourism Promotion Board, said that despite the warning, indicators show that tourists coming to visit Yemen will be on the rise from now until next spring.

"Companies in the tourism sector have said that reservations from last month to next March have increased," said Al-Mahbashi. "European tourists are eager to visit Yemen."

The positive forecast for tourism comes after the sector was affected by ongoing clashes in north Yemen from June to September. Many tourist agencies reported that the number of travelers fell dramatically while fighting between followers of radical cleric Hussein Al-Houthi and government forces continued in the Saada province.

The day after the travel warning was released, an official at the Yemeni Minister of Interior said that the statements from the US State Department were "routine," and Yemen is now stable and free of terrorist threats "following the stringent security measures implemented in past years."

Since terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001, the Yemeni government has clamped down on terrorist elements in the country. Hundreds of terrorist suspects have been rounded up, including key Al-Qaeda members.

Suspects charged with being involved in the bombing of the USS Cole at the port of Aden in 2000 and

BY SAMI AL-HADAD
TAIZ BUREAU

Reflecting strong Japan-Yemen friendship and cooperation, and at the time Yemen is going on development through the local authorities forming a turning point towards the financial and administrative decentralization, the Japanese Grants and Aids Project (JGAP) appeared as an effective partner in development.

JGAP supported the local authorities in Taiz to reinforce the educational development allowing the authorities to be more active.

The JGAP planned to build and prepare 18 school buildings with facilities, of which 13 have been completed and received fully prepared with required school equipment and other educational aids. Five schools are supposed to be completed by the end of this year.

There are other achievements that were presented to improve the educa-

the French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen near Mukalla were put on trial earlier this year. Last month, the Yemeni government said that no Al-Qaeda cells have remained in the country as a result of its focus on the war on terror.

"The Yemeni government has made a lot of progress on fighting terrorism," said a Yemeni analyst. "But there are still weapons available and the stagnant economy does not work against radicals very well."

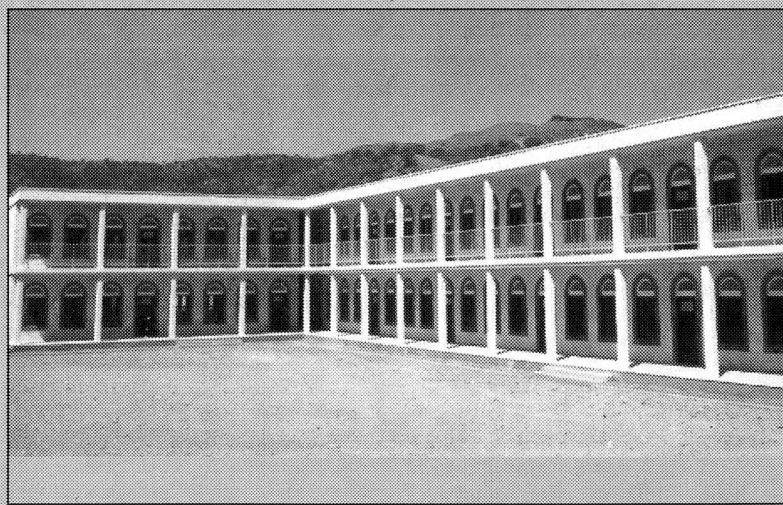
Last July, the Yemeni government made it easier for travelers from over 30 countries to visit Yemen. Instead of getting a visa at a Yemeni embassy, tourists are now able to acquire a visa at Sana'a International Airport or other places of entry.

Also last summer, the British government revised its recommendation to travel to Yemen by lifting its warning against non-essential travel, something the government once viewed as a potential target of terrorist attacks.

The new US warning also encouraged Americans residing in Yemen to take precautions. "US citizens in Yemen should exercise caution and take prudent measures to maintain their security," said the warning. "Maintain a high level of vigilance, avoid crowds and demonstrations, keep a low profile, vary times and routes for all travel, and ensure travel documents are current."

The last travel warning from the US government for Americans wanting to travel to Yemen was issued last May.

Japanese project builds schools



tional process such as the improvement of the school environment.

The strategy of executing that depends on the successive coordination between the project, education office and the local authorities in Taiz.

Training many of the educational leaders from a number of schools is considered a part of the plan.

About the relation between the local council in Taiz and JGAP, Mohammed Ahmed al-Haj, Deputy

governor and Secretary General of the council, said that it is a strong relationship.

The program of training the educational leadership of some schools will last three years and it is a great step in the way of developing the level of education in all districts.

Hussien Hazib, General Manager of Education Office in Taiz, said about the JGAP's role in reinforcing the primary education that "such grants contribute effectively in strengthening the organizational structure of education and it will improve its efficiency.

He said officials value the efforts of the Japanese embassy and what it offers to enable the project to do its tasks. "The efforts of JGAP are tangible and of a positive effect either in the city of Taiz or in the districts it visits. We do confirm that we'll do whatever efforts we can in order to facilitate and pave the way for all their work."



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Competition includes Chinese clothes

Women's clothing is varied in Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

Women sewing and embroidery in Yemen are witnessing an increasing improvement since the reunification, boosted by national developments.

The women's sector was encouraged to join the social work and establish societies in different fields. This has given birth to a number of ideas of a handicraft, professional and productive type which serve women in particular and families in general through two streams: the first works on training and qualifying women and the second pushes them forward into productive enterprises to change reality. It changes women from an idle part of the society into a productive creative power.

Women's work is realized through centers and societies specialized in training and production. It represents a pioneering model of service. It benefits women themselves and strengthens their self-confidence to cope with life challenges and bear responsibility for themselves and their children.

Many women have enrolled in training societies and centers that also offer job opportunities in different handicrafts taught there. Sewing and embroidery is one of the significant handicrafts practiced by females. Some already trained women seek finance from centers supporting small enterprises.

They get loans to start sewing workshops or buy sewing machines to be used at home. These centers have helped many poor and limited-income families to improve their economic conditions.

Here we will examine the average female productivity of ready-made clothes, which are made in the workshops of women societies and centers as well as private ones.

- **Mohammed Rawih Al-Shaibani:** "Clothes coming from abroad have affected national products."
- **Sawsan Abdulrahman:** "I hope there were fashion houses in Yemen."
- **Amirah Al-Mahdi:** "We make dresses, robes, and children clothes."
- **Rafiqah Sa'eed:** "We design according to fashionable models."

Yet, there are problems encountering women's ambitions, that is, in marketing their products. The market is full of clothes similar to the local ones imported from abroad and in large quantities. This has led to low salability of national products though they are more excellently made than the imported.

We, on our part, call on the concerned authorities to foster the products of the women centers and societies and give them priority with traders who sell this kind of stuff.

This subject is better talked about by people engaged in this field. Mohammed Rawih Al-Shaibani, director of the Charitable Society of Productive Families said that his society conducts training courses for women in sewing in order for them to be able to survive life. "Nevertheless, we have our own priorities when accepting trainees. We choose the cases who are in urgent need of sustenance such as widows, divorcees, and spinsters," said he.

The production of the society is estimated at 15,000 suits per year. They produce quality uniforms for private schools and at good prices, as well as clothes for public schools both primary and secondary.

Mohammed Al-Shaibani said that they adopt certain promotional measures such as clothes exhibitions at the

beginning of the scholastic year.

"Moreover, we make clothes according to designs and features requested by clients such as companies and factories. The problem that we face is that the government has opened the country to everything coming from outside, the fact, which has resulted in the importing of Chinese clothes. They largely affect our products. They come from outside without any rules or controls and under plagiarized trademarks. Therefore, the local producer is at a disadvantage, and so are workshops. This goes against the interest of the national production."

Sawsan Abdulrahman, from the center of the Productive Families Society, said that women are making designs of their own. She added "Sometimes we make use of fashion magazines which are made upon request. The low promotion of the products is because in Yemen there is no fashion houses. I hope there were such places to encourage us."

Nabihah Mohammed Ahmed from the Productive Families Society said that they meet the demand of companies, factories and schools. "We usually produce between 15,000 and 16,000 suits yearly.

Rafiqah Hamoud from the same society said that she makes designs according to latest models. "We invent

also designs and produce women's, girl's, and boy's clothes as well as carpets. "Through your newspaper, we thank businessmen who support charitable societies and I hope the government would exempt societies from paying electricity bills."

In Jubari Workshop, a woman worker, who did not mention her name said: "This workshop produces child and women clothes and market them in the following way: We take various samples to the market and see what people want. Designs are either forged by us or modeled after catalogues. We hope there were fashion exhibitions but with decency."

At Al-Fajr Workshop we met Aref Ismail. He described their products saying: "We produce women's clothes and exhibit them in our showroom. But nowadays, there is a dog-eat-dog competition because of the profuse availability of cheap Chinese clothes. They fill markets, and consumers, due to difficult conditions, buy them. We hope that the government, namely the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to quickly resolve this problem so as to protect the national workforce and local products by putting constraints on imported merchandises."

Abdulqadir Al-Madani from the Ra'id Al-Yemen Workshop said the products of women societies contribute to the national economy. We exert ourselves to bring about new ideas to keep up to the latest fashion. But the invasion of Chinese has posed threat to the Yemeni ones. The Chinese products enter Yemen without taxes but we pay taxes and pay electricity bills. Add to that the national product goes through many dealers before it reaches the consumer and this has risen its price."

Wardah Al-Hamadi from the Women Sewing Center said that they produce clothes ordered by companies and factories, with special specifications.

Amirah Al-Mahdi from the Women Sewing Center explained that they make dresses, robes and children clothes.

"The well-trained woman can work in a good and appreciable way," she added.

Nawal Omar from Gulf Women Sewing, Aden mentioned that women have their own ambitions and tendencies. "We sew things upon request. Tastes differ from girl to girl and usually girls come to our center asking for particular styles of clothes."

She said that there is no regular marketing. "We may take samples of our products and around showrooms. Retailers specify the types they want and we make them. Fashion shows should be encouraged otherwise women dresses will not get the attention and promotion they need. After a while sewing in Yemen may become a traditional handicraft annihilated by extinction especially with this overflow of foreign products. Therefore there must be a society or a syndicate for women sewers to organize and encourage Yemeni women working in this field."

Through this press survey on the efforts of women in the field of sewing, we have perceived a notable activity and energy exerted by these women. But it is the duty of concerned governmental bodies to take care of the production of Yemeni women and facilitate their obstacles. This will allow the Yemeni women to compete, be creative and gain money in return. The suggestions mentioned above by the people in the field should also be taken into account.

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The true meaning of Eid

BY MOHAMMED SAEED FOR THE YEMEN TIMES
uhud@lantic.net

Every Muslim loves the day of Eid. It is a day of happiness and joy. Whether it is the atmosphere of the Eidgaah (open ground prayer), the Eid treats and delicacies, the family coming together or the beautiful clothes - Eid means something special to young and old.

For one moment let us stop and ponder what is the true meaning of Eid. When you and your children wear new clothes and shoes on Eid morning, think of the thousands of Muslim children who are not wearing shoes and clothes. When you are enjoying the tasty treats and delicacies of Eid, spare a thought for the millions of Muslims who will have dry bread crumbs.

While you are free and happy with your children and family, spare a thought for the thousands of Muslims languishing under unspeakable conditions in prisons or battlefield all over the world.

Spare a few quiet moments on this Eid Day to pray for our innocent brothers and sisters who are being tortured all over the world for no crime other than the fact that they are Muslims. I pray to Almighty to let sanity and peace prevail once again in this beautiful World of ours.

A verse of affection

The dreams of Eid

BY ISMAEL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Oh prosperous Eid, full of pleasure... we are anxiously waiting for you.

We are eager for visualizing your magnificence and brightness. Eid is coming as waves of sand under which lovers can be blanketed.

Oh Eid
Oh Eid
I offer my complaints to you and I am sure you will answer me.

The beatings of my heart are running fast.

Oh Eid
Since we are of the hope our desires can be fulfilled, we have in our hearts the beatings of love and pleasure.

We expect to spray the drops of perfume of love through our hearts... other kinds of perfume drops are to be sprayed in our faces.

Oh Eid!
Do you sympathize with us? If so the beginning of happiness springs falls among the scattered parts of our Arab nations who are tasting not more than defeats. We gift you the nobility of Khalid and the greatness of Mosa Bin Nussair... the victory of Salahaddine.

Oh Eid
Will you be the canary that holds in its peak the merry song to please children... the taste of tranquility among adults... just as we meet you... and peace for the cosmos. Will you be the plant of hope inside the deprived hearts... tone of optimism for the desperate... the eager for meeting between those who are separated for a long.

Oh Eid
The dreams I need not them die since we do not want to replace them by despair. Your advent is hope, merry and happiness. Our trust in you is great even if you can not draw our dreams on the landscapes of nature.

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Government annual subsidies total YR 300 million

ACCB branch inaugurated in Crater, Aden

By REDHWAN AL-SAQAF
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF

Agricultural Credit Cooperative Bank (ACCB) plays a significant role in the economical and social development; it performs all activities of banking including savings, offering facilities, guarantees, allotments and all commercial services that are needed by the bank's customers. The bank is trying to improve the performance of its branches in all provinces following the international changes and challenges the economical congregations and the free trade especially the World Trade Organization with their basic frames.

In this respect, ACCB services are spread in all Yemeni cities and Aden, in particular, obtains the highest position as the economical and commercial capital of Yemen and because of the promising area, the free zone. It is a very distinguished and famous port in the history of the international navigation; it has an economical location in the international trade field.

On the occasion of the celebration of the Yemeni revolutions, ACCB launched banking in Crater's branch to be the second in Aden, the previous branch of Al-Mansoura. The beginning of banking in the new branch was under the supervision of Hafidh Fakhri Me'yad, ACCB Chairman of the board of directors, and Abdullah Mohammed Basheer, Deputy General Manager.

Me'yad explained that, "the new branch in Crater as well as the branch of



Amar Abdullatif Al-Majmer

of allotments, guarantees, and facilities for insurance and investment promotion. The bank presented YR 4 billion in the past years.

He confirmed that ACCB is devoting its efforts to present the best banking services on the national level. The bank is working on convincing its customers with the developed systems permanently. It also has overspread general relations with all unions besides whatever individual loans it offers. At the time of launching the ACCB branch in Crater, we run the following interview with Amar Abdullatif Al-Majmer, Charged manager of the branch.

Q. What are the activities of ACCB branch in Crater?

A. This branch does all kinds of banking including attracting savings, offering facilities, guarantees, allotments and all trade services the are

bank.

Q. What are the preparations of the bank for facing the internal and external challenges of banking?

A. The government is trying to improve banking services in order to decrease the average of monetary exchange that leads to inflation and lowering the value of currency. We constructed Money Laundering Fight Unit obeying the rules of the Central Bank of Yemen in this respect.

Q. How do you evaluate the importance of this branch?

A. It comes in the frame of raising awareness about banking in the society, and reinforcing the investment, and attracting savings that make an economical movement in Yemen.

Q. What about ACCB ambitions in the field of investment promotion?

A. We are in good relations with those who are abroad promoting investment in Yemen. The bank becomes the link between businessmen.

Q. What does Aden mean to the activities of the bank?

A. Aden is the economical and commercial capital of Yemen. It is the main port and the free zone; it surely has a special position.

Q. In the field of using modern technology in the branch of ACCB, what do you intend to do?

A. The modernist technologies are being entered in all ACCB activities in

order to make speed dealings that are in proportion to the customers' needs. The bank aims to distinctive interaction with banks and the decreasing of monetary constrictions. The automatic cashier will be entered soon to cover the important places on the level of cities and many selling points will be distributed and Visa Card will be used. ACCB

has a strategic policy and great expectations in presenting many services exceeding to the desires of its customers meeting their needs.

Q. What do you want to say to the audience interacting them with the bank activities?

A. We confirm the significance of

dealing with banks and not keeping money in their possession. The monetary dealings should go through banks, which have strategic policy and great expectations to offer services living up to the level of customers' ambitions. The public should be insured that it would get the best treatment in sense of speed accomplishments of banking.



Al-Mansoura and other 33 branches in other provinces will offer the best banking services throughout using the automatic cashier, selling points, and distinctive services to the bank's customers. The bank will improve its dealings with all social classes; it will not be confined in specific classes. The government presents throughout the Agricultural Encouragement Fund YR 300 million to annually support the Yemeni farmers confirming that the opening a new branch in Crater came in the frame of the Central Bank of Yemen to boost the economical and social development. That's among the efforts for achieving the entire constructional and economical development and the globalization of banking."

He pointed out that the bank has an effective noticeable activity in the field

required by the ACCB customers.

Q. What distinguishes the ACCB from the other banks?

A. It's distinguished with being spread in all provinces. This feature allows it to present better services. In addition, it has strong external relations with great banks that have worldwide branches.

Q. What about the deposits in this branch?

A. We accept deposits and give interest according to the laws of the Central Bank of Yemen. The current accounts and savings are available here. About the individual loans, there will be priority for the authorities and establishments that deal with the bank and give their employees' salaries via the

Continued from page 1

Al-Ansi burns himself

The records are the main part of the accusations against Al-Moayad.

Al-Ansi set himself alight at the northwestern gate of the White House in protest against what he said the FBI not fulfilling their pledges after trapping Sheikh Al-Moayad in Germany.

Additional promises, according to Al-Ansi, who also uses the name Mohamed Al-Hadrami, included an unspecified amount of extra money, U.S. citizenship and protection of his identity.

In a previous interview, Al-Ansi reported his inability to travel to Yemen because he has no money, though the FBI gave him the \$100,000 in 2003. He said the FBI seized his

Yemeni passport to ensure his testimony at a Al-Moayad's case.

In a recent interview with the Washington Post, he mentioned that his wife suffers from cancer and he himself is diabetic and has heart troubles.

He added that he committed a big mistake to cooperate with the FBI who have "destroyed his life and his family's life."

He also said the FBI failed to keep secret his role in detaining Al-Moayad and his companion, Mohammed Zayed, both of whom are standing trial in Brooklyn on charges they gave support to terrorist groups Al-Qaida and Hamas.

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Palestinians promised copy of Arafat medical chart

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Nov 20 (Reuters) - France assured the Palestinian Authority on Saturday that a copy of Yasser Arafat's medical chart would be given to the late president's nephew who is also a Palestinian diplomat, Palestinian officials said. Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie said after meeting the French Consul General in Jerusalem, Regis Koetschet, that a copy of Arafat's medical records would be given to Nasser al-Kidwa, Arafat's nephew and the Palestinian representative at the United Nations. Qurie said Koetschet had told him during the meeting that the Palestinian Authority's request for information on Arafat's illness and cause of death was "legitimate".

The 75-year-old Palestinian leader died of an undisclosed illness at a French hospital on Nov. 11.

Doctors have refused to make his medical records public due to French privacy laws, leading to a wave of rumours that he was poisoned. French and Palestinian Authority officials have denied the allegations.

"The French gave us a response to the letter we sent to them regarding the hospital report on the illness and the cause of death of President Yasser Arafat. They responded positively and they understand that ... our request is legitimate," Qurie said.

"A copy of the report was presented to the wife of the president and another copy of the report will be presented to ... Nasser al-Kidwa," he told reporters.

Al-Kidwa was due to arrive in Paris on Sunday and would receive a copy of the medical records on Monday, Palestinian officials said. Kidwa would then pass the medical chart on to the Palestinian leadership, they added.

French Defence ministry spokesman Jean-Francois Bureau said on Thursday Arafat's wife, Suha, daughter, Zahwa, and al-Kidwa would be allowed by French privacy laws to request the records.

The three relatives, he said, would be "free to make whichever use of the medical records they want".

Five German tourists reported missing in Algeria

ALGIERS, Nov 20 (Reuters) - Five German tourists are reported missing in Algeria's Sahara desert, where Islamic militants kidnapped 32 European holidaymakers last year, a government minister said on Saturday.

They disappeared on Thursday night near the southern town of Illizi but Tourism Minister Mohamed Seghir Kara ruled out the possibility of an abduction put forward in the press.

"What's published in the newspapers is based on rumours, the tourists may have sneaked away from guides to visit historic sites ... I completely rule out the kidnapping possibility," Kara told Reuters by telephone.

Daily newspaper El Khabar quoted

"well-informed sources" as saying they feared members of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) may have seized the five Germans. The German embassy in Algiers could not be reached for comment.

The GSPC, an Islamic rebel organisation with ties to al Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of 32 European tourists, including 16 Germans, early in 2003.

The hostages were released in May and August, apart from one German woman who died of heatstroke. The GSPC secured 5 million euros in ransom for them, according to diplomats and officials.

Ship malfunction causes oil spill off Egypt coast

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, Nov 20 (Reuters) - A Maltese tanker leaked oil into the Mediterranean off Egypt's north coast on Saturday because of a technical problem, an official with a governmental environment affairs agency said.

"The spill happened early on Saturday," the official said.

He added the tanker Good Hope had

stopped leaking oil but there was a spill about 1 km (0.6 miles) square in size about 1 km from Egypt's north coast, east of the port city of Alexandria.

He said local authorities were cleaning up the spill and had no plans to close ports on Egypt's Mediterranean coast.

Further details about the tanker were not immediately available.

Annan says Darfur peace deal possible by year-end

DAR ES SALAAM, Nov 20 (Reuters) - A quick peace deal for Sudan's western Darfur region may be possible after a separate agreement was reached between Khartoum and southern Sudanese rebels, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Saturday.

Sudan's government and southern rebels on Friday committed themselves to ending Africa's longest civil war by Dec. 31, signing a pledge in front of 15 U.N. Security Council ambassadors in Nairobi, not far from the Kenyan resort of Naivasha where they held negotiations.

Annan, speaking at a Tanzania summit on Africa's troubled Great Lakes region, said he met Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir in Dar es Salaam and been assured Khartoum now hopes to speed the pace of talks on Darfur to finish them by the end of the year.

"They wanted to inform me that they wanted to finish the Darfur negotiations perhaps even before Naivasha," Annan

said. "The Naivasha agreement, both sides agree, can be a basis for a settlement in Darfur."

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, the current chair of the 53-member African Union which has been largely stymied in its efforts to halt the violence in Darfur, said he also believed the Darfur talks can be accelerated.

"With a bit of luck, and with the spirit that has been generated ... we might even be able to conclude with Darfur at the same time we will conclude in south Sudan. It's not impossible," Obasanjo told the news conference.

Sudan faces conflict on many fronts - mainly in the south where rebels have been fighting the government since 1983. But violence has also erupted in the west in Darfur, triggering what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

More than 1.5 million people in

BAGHDAD, Nov 20 (Reuters) - Guerrillas attacked Iraqi security forces in Baghdad in daylight on Saturday, hours after a top U.S. general conceded it was too early to say if a big Falluja offensive had broken the backbone of the insurgency.

A dawn assault with rocket-propelled grenades on a police station in the Sunni district of Aadhamiya killed at least three officers - one day after Iraq's U.S.-backed National Guard raided a mosque revered by the Sunni Muslim minority.

U.S. tanks and helicopters helped beat off the insurgents after a three-hour battle near the Abu Hanifa mosque, where four worshippers were killed and 17 arrested on Friday.

Thick columns of black smoke rose over the area. Apache helicopters buzzed overhead. Tanks rolled through the streets. An armoured convoy carried away two wrecked U.S. vehicles. The police compound was badly damaged and cratered by bullet holes.

In the western Amriya district, gunmen in cars opened fire on a National Guard unit. A Guard at the scene said seven of the assailants were killed and seven passers-by wounded.

An all-out offensive by more than 10,000 U.S. troops on the Sunni stronghold of Falluja, just west of Baghdad, over the past two weeks has killed, by U.S. estimates, some 1,200 fighters.

Intended to quell a Sunni insurgency before an election due in late January, it has been accompanied by scattered violence throughout the Sunni heartlands north and west of the capital.

A senior U.S. general, backtracking somewhat on confidence expressed by other officers, acknowledged it was "too early to say ... that the backbone of the insurgency is broken".

Lieutenant General Lance Smith, deputy U.S. commander in the region that includes Iraq, also said his command may ask for 3,000 to 5,000 more troops. Confirming plans outlined some weeks ago, he said this would be mainly by delaying the scheduled departure of some soldiers, to improve election security.

The U.S. force numbers close to 140,000 at the moment.

Ramadi blockaded

In Ramadi, scene of frequent clashes just west of Falluja, U.S. forces sealed off roads into the city early on Saturday and called on people through loudspeakers to hand over "terrorists". Helicopters flew over and Americans blocked access in or out of the city as troops searched buildings south of the city centre.

In Baghdad, National Guards and police rounded up over 100 suspects in the Sunni militant bastion around Haifa Street on Thursday, accusing some of escaping the Falluja fighting. The Guards, backed by U.S. forces, followed up by raiding the Abu Hanifa mosque as Friday prayers were ending.

Worshippers resisted attempts to arrest some of their number, troops opened fire killing at least four people

and wounding nine, the Sunni Muslim Clerics Association said.

Sunni Arabs, who account for about 20 percent of Iraq's 26 million people, have long dominated its political life, most recently under Saddam Hussein. The prospect of power shifting to the long-oppressed 60-percent Shi'ite minority after an election in January has turned unease into violence among some Sunnis.

Sectarian and ethnic tensions between Sunni and Shi'ite Arabs and the mostly Sunni Kurds are a major concern as violence threatens to derail attempts to hold an election in 10 weeks.

One militant group, the Army of Ansar al-Sunna, posted a video on a Web site which said it showed it killing two men from the Kurdistan Democratic Party. It showed two men, gagged and blindfolded, being shot in the back of the head by a masked man.

REBUILDING FALLUJA?

The U.S.-backed interim Iraqi government, headed by secular Shi'ite Iyad Allawi, has vowed to crush an insurgency it blames on Saddam loyalists and foreign-inspired Islamists.

In Falluja itself, from where Washington says many of the insurgency's leaders fled before the U.S. assault, there was relative calm. U.S. Marines are painstakingly searching houses for remnants of the rebel force and defusing booby traps.

In Washington, officials said the United States and the interim government plan to begin a \$100 million reconstruction effort within two weeks in Falluja to repair damage. Most of its 300,000 people left their homes before the attack began.

Winning over popular support for attempts to elect a new assembly that can draw up a democratic constitution is a vital part of U.S. strategy, combined with combating the insurgency.

Violence in the capital was not confined to Aadhamiya, a district Saddam



U.S. forces arrive at the scene of a car bomb explosion in central Baghdad November 20, as a group of Iraqis advance chanting anti-government and anti-US slogans after the car bomb exploded killing at least two persons. REUTERS

praised for its loyalty and where he sought refuge after U.S. troops stormed Baghdad in April last year.

In central Baghdad, a car exploded on a busy street, killing at least two people. It was not clear what caused the blast.

In western Baghdad, a roadside bomb exploded as an Iraqi National Guard convoy drove past, destroying

one vehicle, witnesses said. There was no immediate word on casualties.

Another roadside bomb was detonated as a U.S. convoy passed it in central Baghdad. The U.S. military had no details. (Additional reporting by Waleed Ibrahim, Lin Noueihed and Andrew Marshall in Baghdad, Michael Georgy in Falluja and Will Dunham in Washington)



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Singh tries to cool public ire in India's Manipur



Indian army soldiers board a bus as they prepare to travel in a convoy of military vehicles carrying army troops from the border area near Sunderbani village about 80 km (50 miles) north west of Jammu Nov. 20. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh took his proposals for peace to the Kashmiri people this week, holding out the promise of further troops withdrawals on his first visit to region. **REUTERS**

IMPHAL, India, Nov 20 (Reuters) - On a peace tour to India's restive state of Manipur, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh vowed on Saturday to punish troops who abuse their power, in a bid to cool anger over accusations of rights violations by troops. Singh arrived in Imphal, the capital of tiny Manipur, on a three-day tour of the isolated and insurgency-riven northeast. The visit follows a trip to Kashmir during which he reached out to residents of the disputed Himalayan region.

Passions have been running high in Manipur — home to half-a-dozen separatist insurgent groups — since July, after soldiers gunned down a 32-year-old woman, saying she was a rebel.

Locals and human rights groups that have organised often violent protests in Manipur against the killing, said she was innocent and had been raped by soldiers before she was killed.

"While it is unfortunate that the brave men of our armed forces have on occasion become the object of public resentment because of the unaccept-

able behaviour of a few, we must remember they are here to uphold the law," Singh told a convocation ceremony at Manipur University in Imphal.

"I assure you the rule of law will always prevail, whoever the lawbreaker," Singh told hundreds of students, who cheered.

Soldiers guard valley

In Imphal, located in a verdant valley surrounded by hills, soldiers in battle fatigues and armoured cars patrolled streets after the Revolutionary People's Front — a powerful separatist group — called for a boycott of Singh's visit.

Though shops were closed in response to the call, hundreds of residents, many in the traditional dress of the state's Hindu Meitei population, lined streets to catch a glimpse of Singh's convoy as it raced through the town.

On Friday, New Delhi, keen to ease alienation, announced it had set up a five-member panel to review the unpopular Armed Forces Special

Powers Act, which gives troops sweeping powers to search, arrest and shoot suspected insurgents.

Singh held out more hope for those opposed to the law.

"The committee will suggest checks and balances in the Act or replacing it with a more human law that takes into account your legitimate aspirations and national security concerns," he said.

People in the region — home to more than 200 tribal and ethnic groups and more than two dozen insurgent groups fighting for statehood, more autonomy or independence — say the law is widely abused by troops.

Handover of fort

Singh also presided over the handover of a historic fort, used by soldiers deployed to fight insurgents, to the state's civil government, fulfilling a demand by human rights and citizen groups in Manipur.

At the fort, the head of the federal Assam Rifles force handed a symbolic key to state chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh in a ceremony cheered by hun-

dreds of spectators.

The Kangla fort, once the seat of Manipuri culture and history, sprawls over 236 acres (95.5 hectares) in the heart of Imphal, and was occupied for decades by the Assam Rifles, a federal police force created for the northeast.

"It is a very positive step and people of Manipur appreciate the handover," said R.K. Anand, a human rights activist.

On Sunday, Singh travels to the region's largest state, Assam, which is grappling with tribal and separatist revolts.

Analysts expect the prime minister to make an open offer to rebel groups in tea- and oil-rich Assam, including the biggest, the United Liberation Front of Asom, fighting New Delhi's rule since 1979.

Many locals and insurgent groups accuse New Delhi of exploiting the region's resources while doing little to develop the area. They also accuse the seven state governments of the region and New Delhi of flooding the region with outsiders.

Does Uganda's LRA want peace?

KAMPALA, Nov 20 (Reuters) - Uganda's notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels have met the government's top negotiator and told her they are committed to finding a peaceful end to their 18-year-old insurgency.

Former minister Betty Bigombe was appointed by President Yoweri Museveni to lead diplomatic efforts to end the war in northern Uganda, where at least 1.6 million people have been forced from their homes by the fighting. "I have personally met Bigombe," LRA spokesman Sam Kolo said in a telephone call to a local radio station late on Friday.

He said the meeting took place on Wednesday in Gulu district, 300 km (185 miles) north of the capital Kampala and epicentre of the cult-like group's rebellion.

Kolo said he was sent by the LRA's self-proclaimed prophet leader, Joseph Kony, who is believed to be hiding somewhere in north after the Ugandan army flushed him out of bases in lawless neighbouring southern Sudan in September.

"I delivered to her a message from our chairman regarding LRA's willingness to talk peace," Kolo said, adding that Kony had also ordered his rebels not to attack soldiers or civilians.

A top local official in Gulu confirmed

the meeting took place, but there was no immediate reaction from the government.

Museveni, responding to an LRA offer of talks, declared a limited ceasefire on Sunday to allow the LRA to meet government representatives and declare their wish to come out of the bush.

Previous attempts to end the conflict through dialogue have stalled over allegations of bad faith on both sides, but government officials and Western diplomats believe the current efforts may be best chance yet to end a war that has sparked one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Kolo said Kony also wanted to meet local tribal elders, and had requested the meeting take place in southern Sudan.

The LRA is infamous for its brutality, routinely targeting civilians, slicing off the lips and ears of its victims and kidnapping tens of thousands of children who are forced to serve as fighters, porters and sex slaves.

But many people in northern Uganda say they would welcome Kony and his deputies if they came out of the bush and asked for forgiveness, and Museveni last week said he would intervene to end an International Criminal Court probe into atrocities in the north if the rebels renounced violence for good.

Afghan given death sentence

KABUL, Nov 20 (Reuters) - An Afghan man accused of killing four journalists in 2001, including two from Reuters, was found guilty on Saturday and sentenced to death after saying his gang was acting on the orders of a top Taliban commander.

Reza Khan, 29, was also found guilty of by the National Security Court of raping an Italian woman among the journalists, and sentenced to 15 years in prison on that charge.

Khan was convicted in the same session on separate charges of killing his wife and of holding up a bus and cutting off the ears and noses of four male passengers.

"The crimes are proven and there is no doubt about it," trial judge Abdul Baset Bakhtari told the court.

Khan stood impassively as the sentences were read out.

The four journalists, including Australian television cameraman Harry Burton and Afghan photographer Azizullah Haidari of Reuters, were killed on Nov. 19, 2001, at Tangi Abrishum, about 90 km (55 miles) east of Kabul. They were both 33.

Spaniard Julio Fuentes of El Mundo and Italian Maria Grazia Cutuli of Corriere della Sera were the other two victims.

The journalists were stopped on the road from Pakistan by a gang of about 12 gunmen while trying to reach Kabul days after the defeated Taliban had withdrawn from the city.

Speaking in the judge's chambers before the hearing, Khan said he had shot "the Afghan" among the journalists on the orders of local Taliban commander Mohammad Agha and insisted he would have been killed had he disobeyed. "I fired two bullets from my gun and I killed the Afghan," he said.

In court before sentencing, he admitted killing his wife and attacking the bus passengers, but denied shooting any of the journalists and the charge of rape, however.

"Really sorry"

"I was forced to go there and I am really sorry for this action against the foreigners and locals," he said. "I am seeking mercy because I was forced to go there by Mohammad Agha."

Khan told the court that after the journalists were captured, Mohammad Agha had spoken by satellite telephone to a top Taliban commander, Mullah Brother, one of two top military aides to fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, gave the order to kill them. Khan said Mohammad Agha shot the woman first, about an hour after they were first stopped, and then the others.

"He (Agha) said: 'we are going to do a jihad (holy war) and opened fire,'" Khan said, adding that Haidari had appealed to Agha not to shoot as he was just a journalist, and also an Afghan.

He said one of the gang, named Rohullah, who had taken part in the shooting, was also in custody. Court officials confirmed that but said there was no evidence against him.

Explaining the separate mutilation of the bus passengers, Khan said Agha had ordered this treatment of men found without beards, to show "there are still Taliban around".

While in power, the Taliban ordered all men to grow beards, in line with their interpretation of Islamic practice.

Capital punishment in Afghanistan is carried out by hanging, but the judge said Khan would be allowed to appeal.

A court official said that in a previous hearing to which there was no public access, Khan admitted to killing three of the journalists, but not the woman, and retracted an earlier confession to the rape. In a confession broadcast on state television in August, Khan admitted killing one journalist and identified the leader of his gang as Mahmood Zar Jan.

Officials said that last year, a man named Mamoor was jailed for 16 years for being part of the gang, but was not among the killers. Mahmood Zar Jan, Mohammad Agha and other gang members remain at large.

African leaders sign Great Lakes peace pact

DAR ES SALAAM, Nov 20 (Reuters) - Eleven African countries signed a U.N.-backed peace deal for the Great Lakes region on Saturday, pledging to end genocide, war, hunger and disease that killed 3 million over more than a decade.

Thirteen heads of state signed the peace framework — the first step toward stability in an area encompassing Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) — on Saturday at the close of a two-day summit in Dar es Salaam.

"No one has got everything they wanted from this process, but everyone has got what they need — a real chance for peace, stability, democracy and development in a vast region," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said at a signing ceremony.

The Dar es Salaam Declaration pledges regional leaders to confidence-building measures, including efforts to disarm rebel groups, stop arms flows and cooperate on resolving the plight of millions of refugees.

Officials call the pledge an important move toward stability for one of Africa's

most chaotic regions, but it contains few details on implementation. The next steps are to be considered at a Nairobi summit scheduled for November 2005.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, chairman of the 53-member African Union, hailed the Great Lakes peace framework as an example of Africa's new willingness to craft solutions to its own problems.

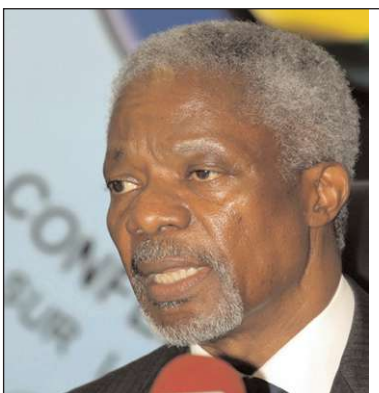
Obasanjo told the gathered heads of state he had been assured of "unflinching" support by the international community for the peace process, which he expected to be implemented by year-end.

"While the first step is always very important in any journey, sustained effort is always necessary... we must nurture and sustain this momentum," he said.

But even as the leaders met, international watchdog Human Rights Watch issued a report accusing local government officials in the eastern DRC of supplying guns to civilians despite a United Nations embargo, raising the risk of new ethnic violence.

"Guns and ethnic hatred make for a catastrophic mix," Alison Des Forges,

senior advisor to Human Rights Watch's Africa Division, said in a statement.



U.N.-backed summit in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania The United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan addresses a two-day U.N.-backed summit in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, November 20, 2004 that has been 10 years in the making and aims to approve a peace framework for the volatile area that includes Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). **REUTERS**



Afghan Reza Khan speaks at a National Security court in Kabul November 20. Khan, who was accused of killing four journalists including two from Reuters three years ago, was found guilty on Saturday and sentenced to death. **REUTERS**

Ukraine enters presidential vote amid threats

KIEV, Nov 20 (Reuters) - Ukraine prepared on Saturday for a knife-edge presidential election amid threats by the opposition contender to launch street protests if he is denied the leadership by cheating.

Sunday's run-off ballot presents the ex-Soviet state with the choice between an establishment candidate who seeks closer ties with the old imperial master Russia, and an opponent who favours gradual integration into the European mainstream.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who has the backing of Russia's Vladimir Putin, was narrowly edged into second place in the Oct. 31 first round by liberal challenger Viktor Yushchenko.

But he has since put up a strong performance in a television face-off with Yushchenko. Few analysts are ready to predict the outcome of the battle of the two Viktor.

Commentators see the race as one of the most critical of the post-Soviet period in terms of Russian influence in the region. Yushchenko, an economist who was himself prime minister for 15 months in 2000-2001, upped the stakes on Friday by predicting widespread attempts at electoral fraud by the Yanukovich camp.

He has argued he was cheated out of an outright win in the first round

and pledged on Friday to bring his supporters into the streets if robbed of the presidency.

As the winter's first snow fell on Kiev, outgoing President Leonid Kuchma, who has endorsed Yanukovich as his successor, scheduled a final television appearance and was certain to urge voters to reject calls for protests.

Counting was to begin immediately after polls closed at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT) on Sunday.

But Yushchenko's threats and the 10 days it took an official result to be announced in the first round suggested the prospect of a confused, even chaotic, picture well into next week.

Both contenders scored about 40 percent in the first round, but two hopefuls knocked then have backed Yushchenko.

First-round voting underlined the division between the nationalist western and the central regions backing Yushchenko and the Russian-speaking, industrial east behind Yanukovich.

An early trend could be difficult to see as counting tends to start in big eastern cities, where Yanukovich holds sway.

The country of 47 million sits at the crux of the old East-West divide in Europe, sharing borders with three

new European Union members as well as Russia and three other states.

Putin's intervention on behalf of the premier reflects Moscow's desire to retain strategic influence in the region after the election last year of a pro-Western leader in Georgia.

Western countries have said they are concerned about foul play and the EU has urged Kuchma to ensure a clean contest.

Both Russia and the United States have sent high-ranking officials to monitor the election.

Although voters are polarised by the candidates' different strategic priorities, higher incomes and greater spending power also matter. Ukrainians live far below the standards of mainstream Europe, with average monthly salaries of \$60.

In clear vote-catching tactics, Yanukovich, 54, raised pensions and public sector wages ahead of the contest.

Yushchenko left his sharpest attacks on his opponent until Friday, when campaigning ended. In an interview with Reuters, he said Yanukovich's criminal convictions for robbery and assault when he was a youth would embarrass Ukraine if he were elected.

Yanukovich acknowledges the convictions. His aides say the charges were later struck from the record.



A Ukrainian woman passes by partially removed campaign posters of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, in central Kiev, Nov. 20. Campaigning is prohibited on the eve of Ukraine's presidential run-off vote, seen as a choice between it tilting towards the West or Moscow. REUTERS

Freed hostage is back in Warsaw

WARSAW, Nov 20 (Reuters) - A Polish woman held hostage in Iraq by a militant group since October has been freed and said on Saturday her captors had treated her well.

Teresa Borcz Khalifa appeared at a news conference called by Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka to announce her release.

"It was a very happy moment when I was freed... I think I will stay in Poland for the time being. I was held in good conditions and treated well and that gave me hope that I'd be freed," Borcz Khalifa said.

She arrived smiling and calm minutes after the start of the conference and was greeted with applause.

Asked how she was released, Borcz said:

"I don't know how it happened because I was blindfolded all the time and was dressed in Muslim attire."

Belka said Borcz had been brought to Poland on Friday evening, and that her release had been orchestrated by Polish government agencies in cooperation with other countries. He gave no further details.

Borcz is married to an Iraqi, has lived in the Iraq since the 1970s and also holds Iraqi citizenship. She was kidnapped on Oct. 27 in Baghdad by a little-known group that demanded Poland withdraw its troops from Iraq, a call rejected by Warsaw.

Poland, one of U.S. allies in the Iraqi



Teresa Borcz Khalifa, a Polish woman held hostage in Iraq by a militant group since October speaks to the media during a news conference in Warsaw Nov. 20. Khalifa, who had been brought to Poland on Friday evening, said on Saturday her captors had treated her well. REUTERS

conflict, has 2,500 soldiers in the south-central Iraq and commands a multinational division of 8,000 troops.

Public opinion in Poland heavily opposes the presence of Polish troops in Iraq. Warsaw plans to start scaling back its forces after Iraqi elections scheduled for January, but has said it would do it in a way that would not jeopardise the country.

Belgium fears racial tension

BRUSSELS, Nov 20 (Reuters) - A Belgian top security official tried to ease fears on Saturday that racial tension in the Netherlands was spilling over into Belgium after several politicians received threats.

"There exists at this moment still no imminent threat like the one we're witnessing in the Netherlands," Koen Dassen, the head of Belgium's State Security Service told Kanaal Z business channel in an interview.

The Belgian federal public prosecutor's office disclosed on Thursday socialist Justice Minister Laurette Onkelinx had received a letter threatening her and two other politicians.

It was not clear why they were targeted and police gave no further details.

And Belgian police on Thursday

arrested a Belgian Muslim convert whom they said had confessed to making death threats against a Belgian senator critical of radical Islam and who had received police protection.

The heightened tension in Belgium follows the murder in Amsterdam in early November of outspoken filmmaker Theo van Gogh, who made a film criticising Islam's treatment of women.

His killing triggered a wave of attacks on Muslims schools and mosques and on churches in the Netherlands.

"The atmosphere in Belgium — even though there is a certain form of radicalisation — has certainly not yet reached the point we're seeing in the Netherlands, but that doesn't mean that that couldn't change from one day to the next," Dassen said.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَشِيرَ النَّصْبِ الدَّارِكَ إِصْبَا مُصْلِبِ لَوْلَا اللَّهُ وَإِنَّا لَإِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

ببالغ الأسى والحزن تلقينا بيان وفاة الفقيه المرحوم المناضل البطل

العميد مجاهد يحي أبو شوارب

ونعزي كل من:

فخامة الأخ على عبد الله صالح، رئيس الجمهورية القائد العام للقوات المسلحة

الشيخ عبد الله بن حسين الأحمر، رئيس مجلس النواب

الشيخ عسكر يحي أبو شوارب

الشيخ جبران مجاهد أبو شوارب وجميع إخوانه وكافة آل أبو شوارب

تغمد الله الفقيد بوسع رحمته وأدخله فسيح جناته وألهم أهله وذويه بالصبر والسلوان.

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله.

الأسيفون: وليد عبد العزيز السقاف، رئيس مجلس الإدارة في مؤسسة يمن تايمز

حسن محمد الحيفي، عضو مجلس الإدارة المنتدب وكافة أعضاء مجلس الإدارة

قائد الردفاني، المدير العام

وجميع الموظفين والعاملين.

A special series (Part 4)

Uncovering Saddam's reign of terror

CPA officials closely involved with the preparation of documentary evidence said in February 2004 that despite a series of setbacks further attempts to negotiate access with NGOs and political parties to the state archives in their possession would continue, and that if we come up with an understanding that they will make the documents available to us then that will be an achievement.

They also confirmed that accessing funds from the Supplemental Budget approved by the U.S. Congress for their projects had contributed to slowing down progress, and that most of the work done up to February 2004 had been funded by USAID. A USAID representative told Human Rights Watch that since September 2003, funds had been provided for the building of a secure facility for the housing of state archives and the hiring of relevant staff. The appropriation from the supplemental funding had enabled a documentation pilot project to begin, involving the setting up of a basic database, and the hiring by January 2004 of an evidence custodian with prior experience working on documentation in the context of both the ICTY and ICTR.

Peter Boyles, the evidence custodian, told Human Rights Watch in mid-February 2004 that his aim was to enable the scanning of one million pages of documents per month, and that the state archives would be approached selectively, giving priority to those documents most pertinent to the forthcoming trials. He underscored the importance of the Iraqi Special Tribunal having access to remaining original documents as the earliest possible opportunity, given concerns about issues relating to authenticity and chain of custody.

By late March 2004, however, U.S. Justice Department officials were still saying that decisions had yet to be made as to how to approach the processing of Iraqi state documents. In other words, whether to adopt the ICTY approach of going through all documentation available, or whether a more strategic approach involving heavier reliance on identifying and prioritizing documents that might prove pertinent for prosecutors in building cases against the defendants:

We need to go out and assess the documents with translators, the official said. We need to be very strategic about new documentation and what we use. Additionally, information that other governments may possess, such as satellite imagery, still needed to be sought. The officials expressed optimism that the newly created Regime Crimes Liaison Office (RCLO see below) would begin making real progress on the preparation of documentary and other evidence for trials before the Iraqi Special Tribunal. By mid-June 2004, the document processing site in Baghdad had been set up and a consultant hired by the RCLO to identify various software packages that could be used for the scanning, indexing and case tracking of documents. The labeling of key documents had also begun, and RCLO officials were hopeful that the processing of state documents would begin in earnest by mid-July.

Human Rights Watch understood that the RCLO planned to carry out pre-screening of documents before taking them in its custody, but at that point no language assistants had been hired for either the pre-screening or screening stages. In late July 2004, RCLO Adviser Greg Kehoe told Human Rights Watch that the document scanning process had begun, with a team of some fifteen persons going through the many documents on a daily basis. The biggest challenge, he said, remained that of identifying which entities possessed state archives. He said that efforts were being made to meet with the various groups with archives in their possession in an effort to have the documents placed under one roof.

The Forensic Evidence

Lessons learned from the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and other countries which have experienced large-scale atrocities suggest that mass graves investigations can be fraught with tremendous logistical, scientific, humanitarian, and legal challenges. Any nationwide program to exhume mass graves in Iraq must

satisfy the evidentiary needs of criminal trials and the humanitarian needs of the families of the missing.

This is why it is crucial that the Interim Iraqi Government establish a joint Iraqi-International Commission for Missing Persons to supervise and coordinate the tracing of missing persons as well as the exhumation of mass graves throughout Iraq. A joint Iraqi-International Commission will be able to attract the necessary funding, scientific expertise, and training needed to carry out this highly complex task. It should also develop a comprehensive strategy aimed at producing court-admissible evidence while responding to the desires of communities that wish to have the remains of their loved ones returned for proper burial.

During the past thirty years, the government of Saddam Hussein engaged in three wars and numerous campaigns to repress the Kurdish, Shi'a, and Marsh Arab populations, resulting in the disappearance and, most certainly, the deaths—of between 250,000 and 290,000 people. By February 2004, the Combined Forensic Team of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) had collected information on 259 mass graves in Iraq. Of these, U.S. military criminal investigation teams had conducted preliminary assessments of fifty-five sites by February 2004.

Mass grave sites in Iraq have been located as far north as Mosul and as far south as Basra, and some sites are believed to contain thousands of victims of extrajudicial executions. Burial sites of individual victims have been located in cemeteries near prisons or on the grounds of security headquarters throughout Iraq. Most of the graves uncovered so far have contained Iraqi victims, but other graves may also hold the remains of Iranian and Kuwaiti soldiers who were executed while in Iraqi custody. For example, in December 1991, a forensic team with Human Rights Watch and Physicians for Human Rights uncovered the graves of nineteen Iranian soldiers on the grounds of the Sardaw military base near Sulaimaniyya. After examining the remains, the forensic experts found several skulls with evidence of single gunshot wounds.

Secrecy and Witnesses

The secrecy under which the Iraqi military and police conducted burials in Iraq means it will be impossible for investigators to locate all the graves. When graves are located, it will be difficult in many instances to determine the identity of the victims because Iraqi military and police abducted people in one part of the country and often transferred them to other areas, sometimes up to hundreds of kilometers away, for interrogation and execution. The passage of time and burial conditions have also caused remains to deteriorate and, in some cases, to disintegrate. This situation is further compounded by the fact that documents belonging to the police and security forces were destroyed during the war and subsequent looting (see above). Some of these documents may have contained valuable information about the circumstances surrounding mass burial sites.

What little is known today about the mass graves in Iraq has come from individual Iraqis who miraculously survived mass executions, witnessed killings, or came across freshly dug graves in the course of their daily activities. In September 2003, a shepherd led Aid Rashid Ido, a lieutenant in the Iraqi Civil Defense Corp (ICDC), to two mass graves located in the al-Jazeera desert west of Mosul. The witness was unsure of the exact month, but he recalled discovering the graves sometime in 1988, shortly after he observed Iraqi military and civilian vehicles transporting what appeared to be Kurdish women and children on the road that passes his village. Lt. Rashid Ido took Human Rights Watch researchers to the site on February 24, 2004, where they found toys, children's clothing, and remnants of clothing traditionally worn by Kurdish women. Several skulls retrieved from the grave revealed single, gunshot wounds to the head. The witness said he believed one of the graves may contain as many as 3,000

victims.

Similarly, Haj Khalid Rasul al-Am, the director of the cemetery department of Baghdad governorate, directed Human Rights Watch to a graveyard in a walled-off section of the al-Karkh cemetery, located close to the notorious Abu Ghraib prison compound near Baghdad. According to Khalid Rasul, the burial site contains approximately 1,000 numbered graves of execution victims. He told Human Rights Watch how he secretly began to document cases of execution victims to assist future identification:

I started work on January 1, 1987. At the beginning, I was surprised when [the security organizations] brought a group of hanged prisoners from Abu Ghraib [prison]. They buried them in a bad way, without tradition, just throwing them in a grave. I felt guilty because we were burying those people without the knowledge of the families. I started taking the ribbons off their arms and numbering the graves, and put the [grave] numbers on their death certificates. I was hoping that one day the families would come asking for their bodies and I could give them the death certificate with the grave numbers.

Between 1987 and 2003, the cemetery director registered 993 execution victims buried at al-Karkh. He estimated that the vast majority of the deceased were victims of political persecution. One of the bodies located in the graveyard was that of a brother of Human Rights Watch translator. The brother had been a military officer and was executed for his alleged involvement in a coup attempt against the government.

In May 2003, Iraqis began exhuming graves that they believed to hold the bodies of those who had disappeared during the rule of Saddam Hussein. This chaotic process took place in over a dozen communities throughout Iraq, and was often observed by U.S. and U.K. forces that chose not to intervene to halt the diggings because they feared it would cause disturbances. We didn't want U.S. soldiers stopping grieving mothers from getting access to the graves of their children, CPA senior human rights adviser Sandy Hodgkinson told Human Rights Watch. It would not have been a good image of U.S. occupiers or for the healing process.

In fact, very few Iraqis found the graves of their children, in significant part because of the failure of the U.S.-led coalition to secure the sites and provide assistance with exhumations. At two sites located near the al-Mahawil military base just north of the southern city of al-Hilla, U.S. soldiers watched for several days in May 2003 as villagers used a backhoe to dig up the remains of more than 2,000 bodies, gouging and commingling countless skeletons in the process, while some families used their hands to dig for bones and shards of clothing and carted them away in wheelbarrows and buckets. The unprofessional manner in which the graves were unearthed made it impossible for many relatives of the missing to identify many of the remains, or even to keep the remains intact and separate. At the end of the process, more than one thousand remains were again reburied without being identified. In the absence of forensic experts, crucial evidence necessary for future trials was never collected, and may have been irreparably destroyed.

A similar incident took place on May 7, 2003, when a twenty-year-old shepherd took local residents to an open clearing known as al-Birjisiyya, thirty miles south of Basra, where he said Ba'ath Party members had executed dozens of men during the al-Sadr uprising of 1999. Using a backhoe, residents unearthed thirty-four bodies from the site and took them to the al-Jumhuriyya mosque.

When Human Rights Watch researchers visited the mosque on May 13, some of the remains were commingled and incomplete. Relatives claimed to have identified twenty-nine sets of remains based on identification cards found in the grave or by relying on clothing, jewelry, or a favorite brand of cigarettes. Forensic scientists refer to this type of identification as presumptive identification. Because such items as clothing and jewelry can be exchanged or misplaced by those taken into custody, this mode of identification is given less

Forensic scientists can help prosecutors determine if a series of mass killings constitutes a crime against humanity, which encompasses a wide range of acts such as murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, rape, torture committed against civilians on a large scale

credence than scientific methods that search for unique biological characteristics on the skeleton that can be compared to and individuals medical and dental records or subjected to DNA analysis. It is likely that some families may have misidentified remains because they were convinced their relatives were buried at the al-Birjisiyya site.

In some instances, Iraqis have called on the Iraqi Red Crescent to exhume graves. In April and May 2003, the Iraqi Red Crescent in Kirkuk exhumed two mass graves allegedly containing the victims from the 1991 Kurdish uprising. In all, the Red Crescent workers recovered eighty-one bags of remains from the two sites and transported them to the morgue at the Azadi hospital in Kirkuk. Morgue officials told Human Rights Watch that thirty-six individuals had been identified by families based on identification cards and clothing found in the graves. On February 2004, Human Rights Watch researchers examined the unclaimed bags of remains in a back room of the morgue. Many of the bags contained the remains of one or more skeletons and several had fallen on their side, strewn bones across the concrete floor.

Experience in Iraq has shown that when families of the missing, and even

whole communities, are informed that a more professional and orderly manner of exhuming graves will result in a higher number of positive identifications, they generally have been willing to stop their own exhumations and wait for outside forensic assistance.

Residents of al-Najaf stopped exhuming a mass grave in June 2003 after a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited the site with a group of religious leaders. Three weeks later, the ICRC sent the religious authorities a report containing a list of steps the community could take to preserve the over 200 remains already exhumed. It also pledged to supply the community with materials and equipment to complete the exhumation process. However, after the bombing of ICRC headquarters in Baghdad on October 27, 2003, the organization pulled its international staff out of the country and suspended its initiative to support community capacity building to exhume mass graves in Iraq.

In Kurdish areas of northern Iraq, officials with local government committees dedicated to mass graves investigations told Human Rights Watch in February 2004 that, as a matter of policy, they have restrained bereaved relatives from dig-

ging up suspected graves of the missing. However, they also added that they had grown impatient with the CPA and non-governmental organizations for having not fulfilled their promises made soon after the end of the war to provide forensic assistance and long-term training. If assistance was not forthcoming, the officials said, they would proceed with their own exhumations.

Forensic Investigations

Why exhume the mass graves in Iraq? First, forensic exhumations can assist prosecutors in bringing those responsible for these crimes to justice. Second, as disappearances are an ongoing crime, the government has an obligation to investigate and inform families of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared. Finally, from a humanitarian perspective, at least some of the families will know the fate of their loved ones and be able to give them a proper burial. Forensic exhumations can help reconfirm the dignity of the victims and the value of human life, which in turn can help the families and their communities restore a sense of personal and social well-being. Third, the process of investigation and documentation can help create a historical record of past crimes.

To be concluded next issue

وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ
مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

بقلوب يملئونها الحزن والأسى مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تلقينا نبأ وفاة
المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى فقيد اليمن

الشيخ / مجاهد أبو شوارب

رحمه الله

و بهذا المصاب الجلل نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى
أسرة و آل الفقيد، وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني سائلين المولى
عز وجل بأن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته و أن يسكنه فسيح جناته
وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر و السلوان
و إنا لله و إنا إليه راجعون

المحزون:

العמיד / منصور عبدالجليل
العמיד / عبد القادر الشامي
أ / سليمان محمد الهبوب
أ / حسين عبدالحافظ الوردى
مطلوب عاطف الشرفي
جمال الهمداني
ناجي الفقيه
هاشم السواري

محافظة لحج
مدير الأمن السياسي - م / لحج
مدير عام الإستثمار - م / لحج
رئيس الفرقة التجارية - م / لحج
رجل أعمال و مستثمر
رجل أعمال و مستثمر
رجل أعمال و مستثمر
رجل أعمال و مستثمر

Some is fun, some is not

Yemenis and Internet chat

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF
TAIZ BUREAU

The Internet is full of electronic websites that offer the chat service or the dialogue between two or more via the Internet.

Famous and big websites offer the free email service in addition to the messenger or the chat such as Yahoo, Hotmail and Maktoob websites.

Many websites and clubs require only user name or a nickname and a password for joining the chat room. Then, it is the user's role to swim in the vast and bottomless swamp perturbed by waves.

Nowadays, the user can chat with others by sound and picture having the facilities of a video and microphone. During our field survey at some cafes in the city of Taiz, we could get out with results showing that most Internet users are looking for chat and especially romantic chat.

Chat can be categorized into different types such as intellectual, cultural, relational, etc. Some chatters just want to pass time and find entertainment, others make friends marry, others travel or search for a job.

Hi...Can we get to know each other?

Halloooooo...Who is thissss? Where are you from...How old r u?

This is how a chat conversation usually starts. Chat as we said, is a term meaning dialogue, speech between two persons or more in public and private chat rooms. The dialogue often occurs between a boy and a girl or young people irrespective of their sex or culture and religion.

Just introduce yourself and then feel free. Be very frank or half frank with those you chat with. There remains the aim of the chat, which is the most important thing, and the topic of inquiry.

Chat Yemeni style

Yemenis are among early risers for chat and talking. Everyday, as the sun rises, the Yemeni asks his neighbor or friend about where they will spend the afternoon qat session. "We want 2 chew qat...sit and talk..i mean 2 chat," he would say. In these money-wasting sessions, qat is consumed and chatting chewers plunge into an endless debate in the style of the electronic chat rooms, though there is a difference in means, ways, place, and time.

A stage for those without stage?

The electronic cells of this amazing network contain the database of more than 200 countries - the number of countries subscribing to the UN. Through this network, the Muslim talks with the Christian, the believer with the infidel and the Buddhist with the Hindu. Everyone tries to display his culture, doctrine, and thought the way they like for in the cyberspace there is no government's censorship, or intelligence agents.

Say what you like. Talk to whom you want and the way you want. Write. Read whatever you like. It is a stage for the marginalized men and women in the Arab World. It is a stage for those without a stage.

It is the supporter of the suppressors and the suppressed. On the Internet, the terrorists find an opportunity to disseminate their ideas, read their statements, and threats to those who go against them. There they declare their responsibility for criminal acts.

Bye Abu Yemen

In the Arab rooms of chat, the dwellers exchange insults, slang expressions, and profane talk. Most of the insults fall on the Arab leaders. Everyone directs charges towards this or that Arab leader, accusing him of being the Pandora Box and the cause

of the series of setbacks of the Arab Nation. Examining the words used in these conversations, one can see that the Egyptian, for example, wants his words to fly him abroad, or get a job. The Gulf people takes chat as an opportunity to have sex, find pleasure, or marry. Female Moroccans just rummage for husbands, hoping they will find him on the Internet. There remain the Yemeni and the Sudanese. They respect each other and make a clear bosom to each other.

Generally the Arab visitor to the Yemeni chat room will find that he is facing the culture of qat which has been transferred by Yemenis to the Internet. The words used in chat by Yemenis are derived from the qat atmosphere such as "Where will you chew qat today, Sami? Why are you daydreaming today, Bashir, it seems you chewed sawti qat." Another would say: "Is it possible, lads, that you chew at my home tomorrow?" therefore, it is no surprise that the Yemeni feels left out, receiving just the phrase: "Bye Abu Yemen, you qat chewer."

Stories and miseries

There is a number of stories and miseries caused by chat, some of which are to be mentioned here.

Samra'a is an Egyptian girl aged 30. She is a widow living in the US with one child. She would frequently visit a chat room for entertainment. She got to know an Egyptian young man from Cairo. Day by day, their relationship grew into a love passion which made her agree to visit him in Cairo and meet him. In Cairo, the human wolf was waiting for her, showing his fangs, which were hidden for several months. He escorted her into his home, raped her and, when she decided to return to America, killed her.

Yasmin, 23, another Egyptian girl with delicate feelings and tender emotions, from Alexandria, came to know,

as she said, a young man from Asyout province through chat. During five months, he was an example of the righteous man who poured on her a stream of advice and the Prophet's sayings. He talked to her on the issues of politics, literature, culture and history as though he were a university professor.

She was amazed at his knowledge though he was young as he said. He then proposed for her hand and she immediately agreed and so did her family. They thought he was a rich and highbrow young man, as she perceived in his chat. They both agreed to meet at a public place after both of them described their appearances to each other for recognition. She was accompanied by her brother to see him for the first time.

At the designated place, she was waiting and noted that a man was looking at her from a distance. She did not care, but she was shocked when he approached her calling her by name. She was then sure that the person who was chatting with her for months lavishing on her the words and phrase of praise and romance was actually a 60-year man. Since then, Yasmin said, she has decided never to come back to chat.

Yemenis at the gate

Salah Dhafer, 21, is a student. He says: "I surf the Internet on a daily basis for one to two hours. Chat has not become an addiction up until now. I like chat websites especially light-humored chat in which we play tricks on friends."

"Indeed, I have befriended people from many countries including the western part of the Arab World, and Sudan. They people of these countries welcome Yemenis in contrast to the snobbish Gulf people who look just for girls and entertainment. I chat with my fellow citizens, both males and

females. Sometimes, the chat develops into meetings. I think chatting with females is better."

Marwan Abdu Mansour, 20, is a computer student who says that he likes chat websites but not to the extent of addiction. "I rarely get into chat and I do not like to dive into it because they are many. Yet, chat websites have their own advantages and disadvantages. The clever man should use them to learn the language and other things such as travel opportunities. I have known some of my friends who chatted with foreigners who gave them visas. Doing chat for entertainment is useless."

Abdulwahab Al-Majidi, 30, is a laborer who says that the Internet is a deep bottomless sea. "Chat has pros and cons. Personally, I use the chat facility to get in touch with my colleagues abroad because contact via the Internet is much cheaper. I spend one hour daily surfing the Internet in order to know more about the cultures of peoples around the world. I like most of the clubs such as Alshamilah and Yemen Youth Forum."

Mujib Al-Rabou'y, 20, is a student who speaks out the usefulness of the Internet. "It is better than wasting time in the qat sessions. One can spend wonderful time roaming the world for just YR 100. Everyday, there is something new and exciting news. The Internet is like any other technological facility can be a double-edged sword. For me, I prefer the foreign chat websites like Pal Talk, Yahoo, and Hotmail. I use the chat to improve my English."

Saif is a 26-year-old teacher who considers the Internet a friend and a pet technology. "I spend my day surfing this amazing net. Once on the net, I do not feel that there is a world outside the cyberspace. I use chat daily, and I come to discover new friends from everywhere. I have to pretend

that I am an Egyptian, Tunisian, Moroccan, etc. because some Arabs do not want to come in touch with Yemenis for they have a bad image about us and the reason is qat."

Then 22-year-old Samar tells us that she surfs the net every now and then. "I chat to get entertainment and make friends. I now have friends from Morocco and Algeria. I prefer to chat with males because girls do not like to converse with each other. But it is dangerous when chat reaches the point of addiction."

Concerning society's view of female internet-goers, she says that the society sees them as normal people and she thinks that it is no problem.

Gihan Mohammed, 21, is an officer. She says that she gets attracted to child and family websites as well as news. "I like the website of Amro Khaled," she says.

"I chat but not always. I have befriended people from Saudi Arabia, Morocco and others. What was unnatural is the Arab youth's disbelief that a Yemeni girl surfs the Internet and starts a dialogue. They have a misconception about the country in general. They think it is a country living in the Middle Ages in which women are oppressed and mistreated and that she is house-bound and does not leave home only when she marries or dies."

Gihan says that they ask her whether her face is veiled or just has a scarf. "I tell them that I have only a scarf and they do not believe because they see Yemeni women on the TV are veiled."

She narrates a story about a Saudi national of Yemeni origin who chatted with her over six months. "He was giving me his personal information, which later I happened to know that he was actually a real person. Once I was channel surfing the Saudi TV, I saw him. He is working as a consultant there. For me, that was a shock."

In Both Sana'a and Aden:

A free European Film Festival with 10 films

For those who enjoy fine European cinema, the European Embassies and Cultural Centres are sponsoring the European Film Festival for the eighth time in Sana'a (from November 23 to November 29) and the first time in Aden (from December 7 to December 14 this year). The significance of this year's European Film Festival is manifested by the fact that all eight European countries with diplomatic representations in Yemen will be taking part in this unique opportunity to enjoy a total of 10

films. These include the current holder of the EU presidency, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Poland, and France. While the EU politicians are still considering Turkey's application for membership in the EU, Turkey's participation in the festival gives weight to the already strong cultural and artistic links that bind Turkey to Europe.

The places to go for this wonderful free opportunity to view European cinema of distinctive thematic content and artistic finesse is:

- in Sana'a: the Yemeni Cultural Center
- in Aden: the German Consulate (with the cooperation of the French Cultural Centre)

The schedule of film showings is as follows:

- Father and Daughter and "Young Kees" (Netherlands), Sana'a 23/11 - 8 pm, Aden 7/12 - 8 pm
- "The Rebels" (Czech Republic), Sana'a 24/11 - 8 pm, Aden 8/12 - 8 pm
- "To remember the beautiful things" (France), Sana'a 25/11 - 8 pm, Aden 9/12 - 8 pm
- "Good bye, Lenin!" (Germany), Sana'a 26/11 - 4 pm (!), Aden 10/12 - 8 pm
- "Touching the void" (Great Britain), Sana'a 26/11 - 8 pm
- "The girl with the pearl earring" (Great Britain), Aden 11/12 - 8 pm
- "Pane e Tulipani" (Italy), Sana'a 27/11 - 8 pm, Aden 12/12 - 8 pm
- "Onwards and backwards" (Poland), Sana'a 28/11 - 8 pm, Aden 13/12 - 8 pm
- "Dar alada kisa paslasmalar" (Turkey), Sana'a 29/11 - 8 pm, Aden 14/12 - 8 pm

The films will be subtitled in Arabic (French and German contributions) or English (all other films). All presentations will begin at 8 PM of their scheduled date of showing, except for one showing, which will be presented at 4 PM on Friday, November 26, 2004 (in Sana'a).

The films to be shown in the EU Film Festival include various stories with different themes:

- a Polish film highlighting the turmoil and torment of totalitarian Communist rule;
- a Czech musical with choreographic skits;
- a French drama;
- an Italian story with love and humor and beautiful scenes of Venice and Venetian life;
- A British adventure and survival story;

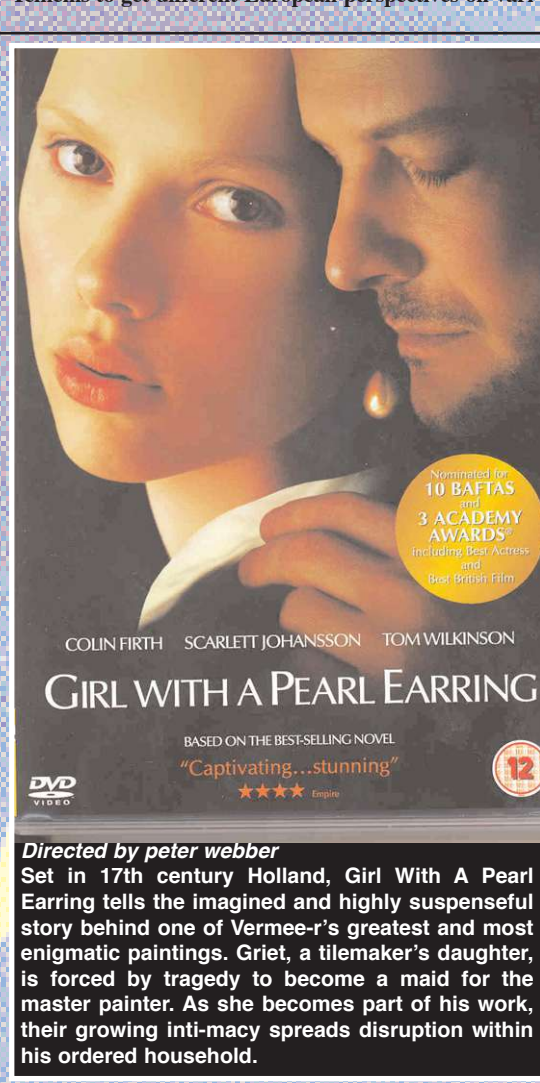
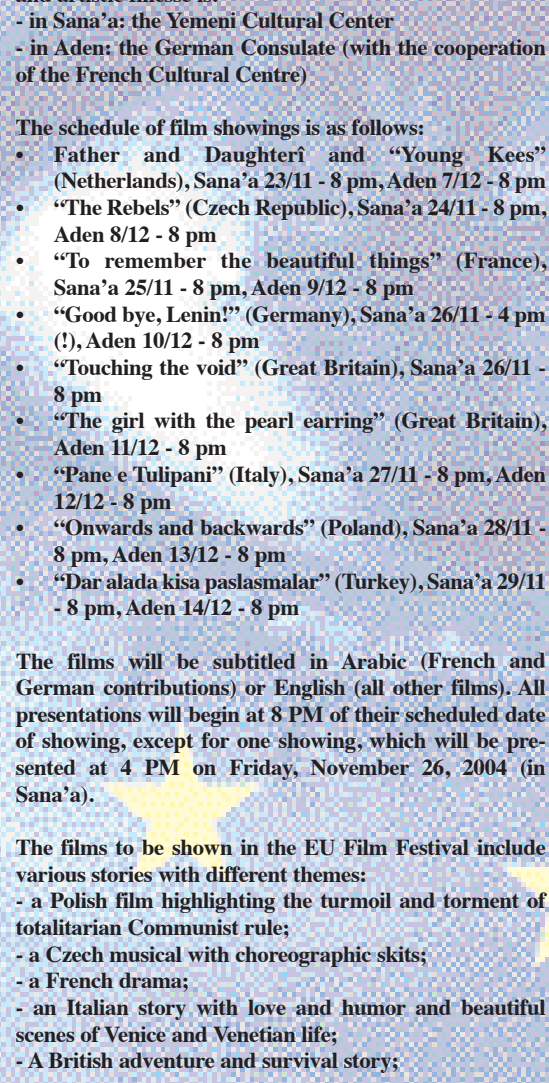
- A British story on art history;
- A German drama on the reunification;
- A Dutch film on the generation gap;
- A Dutch story on growth and responsibility; and
- A Turkish story on sports and community participation, with the motto of the film being "life is but a game".

Each presentation will be inaugurated by a short introduction of the film to be presented.

The film festival provides a unique opportunity for Yemenis to get different European perspectives on vari-

ous aspects of European life now and in the near and distant past. These films are bound to reflect how European film makers artistically interpret various aspects of European society to produce an altogether fine assortment of modern European Cinema.

Remember, entry is free (but do go early as seats are limited), and the EU Film Festival is definitely worthwhile and for sure culturally enhancing.



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Index of lessons (Nos. 101 to 200)

Table with 6 columns: Theme, Situation No., Date, Lesson No., Theme, Situation No., Date. Lists lessons 101 through 200 with their corresponding themes and dates.

Lesson 101 to 117 are in dialogue form

Understanding employee motivation

BY MS. LAKSHMI DEVI P K ASST BRAND MANAGER MAM INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION SANAA - YEMEN roja.lakshmi@ny.com

tion of goods and services. What perhaps changed this way of thinking about employees was research. This study found that employees are not motivated solely by money and employee behavior is linked to their attitudes. In human relations approach to management, the needs and motivation of employees become the primary focus of managers.

Employee Motivation has been defined as: the psychological process that gives behavior purpose and direction; a predisposition to behave in a purposive manner to achieve specific, unmet needs; an internal drive to satisfy an unsatisfied need; and the will to achieve. Motivation is operationally defined as the inner force that drives individuals to accomplish personal and organizational goals.

Why do we need motivated employees?

The answer is survival. Motivated employees are needed in our rapidly changing workplaces. Motivated employees help organizations survive. Motivated employees are more productive. To be effective, managers need to understand what motivates employees within the context of the roles they perform. Of all the functions a manager performs, motivating employees is arguably the most complex. This is due, in part, to the fact that what motivates employee's changes constantly. For example, research suggests that as employees' income increases, money becomes less of a motivator. Also, as employees get older, interesting work becomes more of a motivator.

At one time, employees were considered just another input into the produc-

tion of goods and services. What perhaps changed this way of thinking about employees was research. This study found that employees are not motivated solely by money and employee behavior is linked to their attitudes. In human relations approach to management, the needs and motivation of employees become the primary focus of managers. Employees have five levels of needs: physiological, safety, social, ego, and self-actualizing. Motivator or intrinsic factors, such as achievement and recognition, produce job satisfaction. Hygiene or extrinsic factors, such as pay and job security, produce job dissatisfaction. The employee effort will lead to performance and performance will lead to rewards. Rewards may be either positive or negative. The more positive the reward the more likely the employee will be highly motivated and vice versa. The employees strive for equity between themselves and other workers. Equity is achieved when the ratio of employee outcomes over inputs is equal to other employee outcomes over inputs. Those employees' behaviors that lead to positive outcomes will be repeated and behaviors that lead to negative outcomes will not be repeated. Managers should positively reinforce employee behaviors that lead to positive outcomes. Managers should negatively reinforce employee behavior that leads to negative outcomes.

The factors in motivating employees are the following:

- Job security
- Sympathetic help with personal problems
- Personal loyalty to employees

- Interesting work
- Good working conditions
- Tactful discipline
- Good wages
- Promotions and growth in the organization
- Feeling of being in the know of things
- Full appreciation of the work done.

Interesting work and employee pay appear to be important links to higher motivation of employees. External stipends, monetary, and non-monetary compensation options such as job enlargement, job enrichment, promotions, should also be considered. Job enlargement can be used (by managers) to make work more interesting (for employees) by increasing the number and variety of activities performed. Job enrichment can be used to make work more interesting and pay can be enhanced in exchange for higher-level responsibilities to a job.

The effectiveness of extension is dependent upon the motivation of its employees. Knowing what motivates employees and incorporating this knowledge into the reward system will help identify, recruit, employ, train, and retain a productive workforce. Motivating employees requires both managers and employees working together. Employees must be willing to let managers know what motivates them, and managers must be willing to design reward systems that motivate employees.

An appeal to all managers in Yemen

Determine what motivates your

employees. Please do not lose your best employees by your stubborn decisions! Employees are not SLAVES; they are the real assets of the company. Please respect them.

Evolution of the medical science

BY TAMMAM ALI AL-BARAMAKI, SCHOOL-LEAVER "SCIENCE"

A mother finds that her baby has a high fever. The baby is so uncomfortable that he cries all the time. But soon the doctor comes. After a few minutes he knows what is wrong. He gives the baby some medicine. Before long the fever goes down. In a day or so the baby is well. Happenings of this kind are very common. Doctors play an important part in the lives of almost everyone. When we are ill, doctors find out what is wrong with us. They know how to help us get well. Doctors do even more than help us get well if we are sick. They do much to keep us from getting sick. Doctoring of this kind is achieved by preventive medicine. Many doctors today are specialists. They treat only certain kinds of diseases or only certain parts of the body. There are, for instance, eye specialists, heart specialists, and specialists in kidney diseases. There are doctors who are experts in diagnosis in finding out what is wrong. There are surgeons - doctors who operate. In the United States and in most other countries,

too, doctors must pass examinations before they are allowed to practice. A doctor who is not very trained could potentially and actually do a great deal of harm. People will have accidents and diseases, as long as there will be people. Doctors will be needed. So, understandably, from very, very early times there have been doctors. We can get some idea of what the earliest doctoring must have been like from doctoring practices in some of the primitive tribes of today. In these tribes medicine men work on the idea that evil spirits in the sick person's body are causing the sickness. They try, partly with noise and dancing, to drive the evil spirit away. In ancient Egypt and Babylonia, medicine and religion were closely tied together. The healers were both doctors and priests. They were druggists, too. Ancient Babylonian clay tablets have been found which tell the symptoms of various diseases and the drugs to use. The course of treatment constitutes tablets and prayers to the gods. A famous Egyptian collection of 800 prescriptions has been written by doctor-priests. Some of the medicines of early times were very strange. The Egyptians, for instance, believed that ground-emeralds were helpful in certain diseases. Poor people who could not afford emer-

alds had to be satisfied with green porcelain. Even though the science of medicine began more than 2000 years ago, strange ideas of treating diseases lasted down through the Middle Ages. For a long time using leeches or leeches to draw blood from a sick person was so common that doctors were often called leeches. Nastytasting brews were concocted; one idea was that the best medicines were those that tasted worst. For a time surgery was given over to barbers. To treat sick people intelligently, a doctor must know a great deal about the human body. But people were slow to find out much about how our bodies are built. Scientists knew how the distant planets travel around the sun as soon as they knew how our blood circulates. The science of medicine began with the Greek Hippocrates. He earned for himself the name of father of medicine. Hippocrates taught that every disease has a natural cause - that it is not due to evil spirits. He separated medicine and religion. His students swore to do all that they could do to help the sick, to keep in confidence what their patients told them, and not to intentionally harm anyone. Doctors still follow the 'Oath of Hippocrates'. Many hundreds of doctors have made medicine what it is today. The chart on below names just a few of them.

A letter to English teachers: 67

Writing for the empowerment of students



Dr. M.N.K. BOSE (BOSE@y.net.ye) Associate Professor of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

In the last few letters (too many, I suppose!), I have been discussing the development of writing skills in your learners. The reason why I am spending so much time and space on writing is simply this: in my confirmed opinion, this is the most important skill for the Yemeni learners of English, next only to reading. This, I have stated in many of my letters.

Writing, unlike speaking or reading, reduces the nervousness and anxiety of the students while attempting to use English, as they are free to use or misuse English as they like. It is more a personal activity and their errors come to light only when their writings are read or corrected by the teacher. They are, therefore, at ease when they write in English. If we pay attention to the development of this skill in a systematic way, I am sure, they will be benefited much and this will create motivation in them to learn more English.

In this letter, I am going to argue that good writing skills not only enable our learners but also empower them to express their views boldly. Most of our classes are known for making our learners silent and passive listeners, the teachers dominating in the classes because of their superiority in terms of knowledge and scholarship. In the oriental societies like ours, the learners are supposed to listen to the master and learn obediently and any questions from them, even the ones asked for clarification, will be treated as an act of disobedience.

In this tradition, English classes are

worse than other classes, as they create a fear in the learners because of the newness of the language. Most of us cash in on this and make our English classes occasions for our monologues, behaving like 'unquestioned monarchs' in our classrooms. There is hardly any room for our learners' voices to be heard and respected. They only voice what the teacher asks them to repeat in the classes. This is not a healthy climate for an English class (not for any class); because we teach human beings (not benches and desks) and each human being has a mind of his/her own and he/she is bound to have his/her individual opinion. Why don't we give them an opportunity to voice their opinion, positive or negative? The immediate response from some of you will be 'Can they? Can they voice their opinion in English?' My rejoinder will be 'Yes, they can, provided you encourage them to do so.' Writing enables them in this regard; what they cannot do orally, they can in writing, of course with mistakes.

In writing classes, think of topics that interest them and those which provoke them. Discuss the topics with them and ask them to write about them. The discussion should only be a prompt or lead and they should be allowed to write whatever they want. This should be made clear to them before they write. Do encourage them to write on their own without worrying much about errors. The result will be encouraging. Topics like 'why do students try to cheat in the examinations?' can create a lot of discussion. This may not be possible in lower classes but can be attempted in secondary and university classes. Try to invent some such topics for your students. Good luck.

Yours fraternally, Dr.M.N.K.Bose

WONDERWORD by DAVID OUELLET

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

- CLUES
- Barley
 - Basil
 - Bean
 - Beef
 - Bland
 - Bone
 - Bowl
 - Broth
 - Calories
 - Carrots
 - Celery
 - Cheese
 - Chicken
 - Chives
 - Chowder
 - Clams
 - Cold
 - Cook
 - Corn
 - Cost
 - Cucumber
 - Cupboard
 - Curd
 - Delicious
 - Diet
 - Dish
 - Drink
 - Eggs
 - Fast
 - Fluid
 - Foamy
 - Frozen
 - Glass
 - Heated
 - Herb
 - Italian
 - Ladle
 - Leek
 - Leftovers
 - Legume
 - Liquid
 - Matzo
 - Meat
 - Microwave
 - Mild
 - Minestrone
 - Mushroom
 - Noodles
 - Onion
 - Oregano
 - Package
 - Parsley
 - Peas
 - Plate
 - Pots
 - Preservatives
 - Protein
 - Pubs
 - Quick
 - Rack
 - Recipe
 - Restaurant
 - Rice
 - Rich
 - Rotini
 - Salt
 - Sauce
 - Sausage
 - Scald
 - Serve
 - Simmer
 - Snack
 - Special
 - Spinach
 - Spoon
 - Stews
 - Stirred
 - Stock
 - Stove
 - Temperature
 - Thick
 - Thyme
 - Tomato
 - Twist
 - Warm
 - Water
 - Wheat

CONDENSED SOUPS Solution: 6 letters

Grid for the condensed soups puzzle. Solution: 6 letters. Letters are arranged in a grid and some are circled to form the words from the clues.

15 Classifieds

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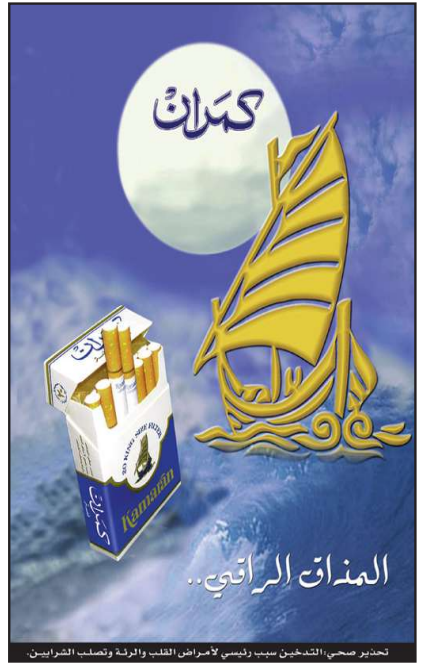
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2004 UNICEF report

Is hope possible for the world's children?

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The tragic situation of children worldwide is going from bad to worse. An estimated 121 million children across the world do not have adequate education, while millions more have no education at all.

UNICEF, in its 2004 report, concentrates much more on education, health care, equality and providing the protection means for suffering children.

Education for both sexes of children tops the agenda of UNICEF to be executed in the coming period.

The report covered has chapters. The first dealt with the primary and secondary education for children. Education is one of urgent objectives. It focuses on the equivalence between sexes in terms of primary and secondary education and is expected to be achieved before attaining other goals.

Such an objective is thought of as a test for the world's commitment to exterminate poverty. Failure in achieving this objective will hinder other objectives.

The second chapter of the report concentrated on the educated young girls as being the unique power; they can make up a positive development. The chapter further released that numerous long-term benefits of girls' education help enhance the economic growth and bring about sound generations and healthy families. Of the ben-



efits of girls' education is bringing down the mortality rate among mothers.

The report indicated that around 135 million children at the age of 18 could not have access to any kind of education and there are more than 60 percent of girls who are deprived of education.

Educating girls is the goal that should be given more priority than others. The campaign of "Yes for Children" ascertained that more polls have gone in the favor of educating children and that this matter received around 95 million votes.

Chapter 3 of the report holds the

title "Girls are neglected". Since countries do not care about that, the report called for equality between both the sexes of children in the area of primary and secondary education.

However, this is perceived as a long-term goal. The chapter stated there are horrible figures of girls who are not enrolled in schools and that a large number of girls who did not complete even the primary education is witnessed in some of the developing countries.

Although numerous countries worldwide attempted to bring down the percentage of children who did not join

schools, it has been to no avail. Four million children in Africa are not enrolled in school, the majority of who are females.

The chapter also says the World Bank (WB) has adopted the "Fast Track Initiative" that can help in providing the education for all. However commitments and promises are not always fulfilled.

As the current world is engaged with security factors, some commitments could not be fulfilled. It is often realized that scant international assistance is responsible for girls' dropping out their schools.

Chapter 4 concentrated on the negative impacts of girl's education and human development. It considers education as vital matter in emergency cases.

Over the last years, many governments suffered heavy costs for not turning attention towards girls' education so they spent large sums of money in health care. If they focused on educating girls, they would bring up a generation protecting itself from diseases.

The UNICEF report holds the view that education is next in importance to the family, for it creates a healthy environment for children especially girls. It helps them learn the skills and collect information useful for their protection.

Human development, as a result of education, has shown positive outcomes in encountering Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). One of the studies conducted in 17 African countries and four South American countries revealed that educated girls have fewer tendencies towards pre-marital or extra-marital sexual intercourse than others.

If they are sexually active, they demand those who need to have sex with them to use condoms. According to the report, the most efficient protection against AIDS starts in school.

The fifth chapter of the report dealt with teenagers and emphasized that intensive research carried out by the American Development Agency revealed that male and female teenagers share the same problem as

the restriction of schooling, degraded level of the quality of education and the lack of schools closer to their residences as well as the lack of support.

Children's hatred for school and their poor academic achievement is the source of concern in the majority of industrial countries. The report confirmed that only fewer countries in which we can find out the number female children enrolled in schools is closer to that of the males.

A modern study conducted by UNICEF on families in 55 countries came to a conclusion that in some countries the percentage of girls attending school is less than that of males, while in others, male children are found to have no access to education. It added that the poor acquisition among males in the industrial countries is a growing problem. In the linguistic and human areas of learning, more often females to males score higher and reasons behind this are various.

The concluding chapter of UNICEF's report covered what should be done to limit the problems encountered by children. It reveals that an additional cost of \$9.1 billion is demanded to meet the millennium goals in regard of generalizing primary education by 2015.

It is clear the generalization of education is not a barrier that's difficult for the world to overcome. The above-mentioned cost, which is \$US 9.1 billion is easily affordable compared to that of military operations.

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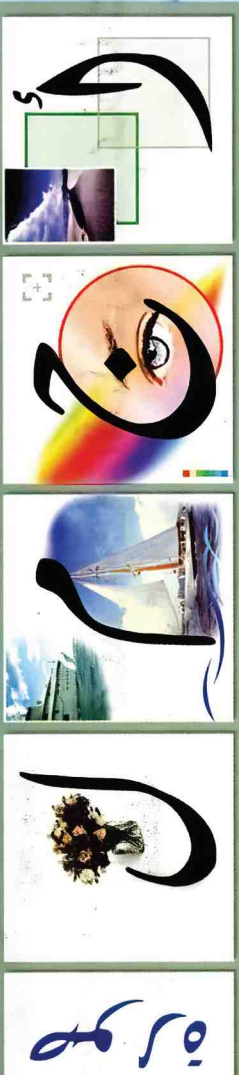


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أكبر مسابقة من نوعها في تاريخ الجمهورية اليمنية وعلى مستوى الوطن العربي

الجانزة الأولى
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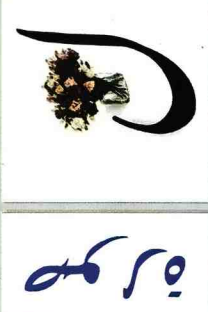
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أجمل صور مسابقة



كوبون المسابقة

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رقم الهوية:

الهاتف:

العنوان:

المدينة:

الدولة:

بيانات الصور المشاركة

البيانات	مكان التصوير	تاريخ الصورة	التعليق (تفاصيل الصورة)	رقم الصورة	رقم الصورة (يتم تعبئة هذا الحقل من الجهة المنظمة)
صورة طبيعية					
صورة منسقة					
صورة فادرة					
صورة طبيعية					
صورة عامة					
فئة أخرى					

ملاحظات وشروط المسابقة

- لا يمكن لنفس الشخص المشاركة بأكثر من صورة للفئة الواحدة ولكن يمكنه المشاركة بأكثر من فئة من الفئات أعلاه.
- تبقى ملكية الصورة المقدمة للمشاركة الذي قدمها ويحق له استردادها بعد فترة المسابقة إن رغب بذلك.
- تحتفظ المؤسسة بحق نشر الصور من عدم نشرها في الصحيفة أو في أي وسيلة إعلامية أو بأي شكل آخر تراه مناسباً.
- لن تقبل الصور غير الأصلية (أي التي تم أخذها من طرف آخر أو تم تعديلها أو تم إنشاؤها بواسطة برامج الجرافيكس أو بأي شكل) وقد يتم منع المشارك الذي يقدم هذه الصور من المشاركة مرة أخرى طول فترة المسابقة أو في المسابقات القادمة.
- يجب أن تكون الصور ذات معنى وواضحة إلى حد ما ولا يتم قبولها في المسابقة.
- لا تتعمل أي جهة مرتبطة بتنظيم أو رعاية أو مشاركة في المسابقة أي مسؤولية قانونية أو قضائية أو شكلية أو غيرها من نشر الصور أو استخدامها وبموجب المرسل للمسؤول هو المسؤول في هذا الجانب.
- لن يتم قبول المشاركات التي ينتقصها هذا الكوبون أو التي لا تكتمل فيه المعلومات الخاصة بالمشاركة أو الصور الواردة أو التي لم يوقع فيها المشارك على قبوله بشروط المسابقة المذكورة هناك.
- إرسال الكوبون إلى عناوين مؤسسة يمن تايمز في صنعاء، تعن عدن أو العديدة.

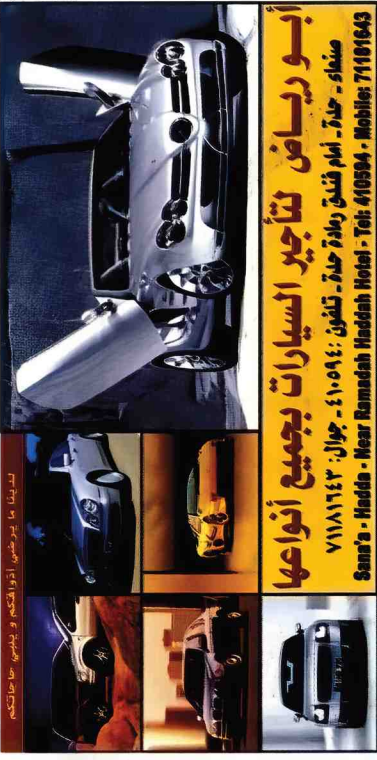
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فكرة المسابقة:

- بالتأكيد لكل منا ذكرياته التي يحتفظ بها غالباً في اليوم صور يعود إليه بين الحين والآخر
- صادق حدث مهم تمتعت أنه لن يتكرر فانتقمت له صورة ما زلت تحتفظ بها.
- كنت في رحلة وأهرك منظرًا طبيعيًا لرجح خضراء أو شلالات أو أجار فادرة وشكلها غريب ومميز فجمعتها في نقطة فوتوغرافية.
- إن كان لديك نقطة فوتوغرافية أو صورة مميزة تحتفظ بها فقد جان الوقت ليرى الآلاف من الناس صورتك و ستعود عليك الصورة بعوارض مغرية.

مزايا المسابقة:

- ترتبط صورتك بالآلاف القراء في الداخل والخارج عبر شبكة الإنترنت.
- مشاركتك الصور في المعرض الدولي (مهرجان أجمل صورة) والذي سينظم بعد الإنتهاء من مرحلة استقبال الصور المشاركة.
- الصور الفائزة ستحصل على جوائز مغرية وتنتشر على شبكة الإنترنت ومجلة الأسرة والتنمية وصحيفة يمن تايمز ووسائل إعلامية أخرى.

كيفية اختيار الفائزين:

- سيتم اختيار الفائزين بالجوائز من بين الصور المشاركة عبر لجنة تحكيم يمنية وعربية من ذوي الخبرة في مجال التصوير.
- سيتم نشر الصور المختارة من قبل اللجنة في المجلة والصحيفة وعلى شبكة الإنترنت وبعض الوسائل الإعلامية الأخرى وسيتم الجمهور بالتصويت.
- عليها لإختيار الصور الفائزة بالجائزة الكبرى.

ما يميز هذه المسابقة عن غيرها من المسابقات:

إن هذه المسابقة الدولية والتي تعد الأكبر من نوعها في تاريخ الجمهورية اليمنية وعلى مستوى الوطن العربي بأكمله تعتبر نقلة نوعية في اسلوب المسابقات في اليمن والمنطقة برمتها. حيث تعتمد هذه المسابقة على فن التصوير هذا الفن الذي أصبح مهلاً بالرغم من عراقة وأصالته و مستواه الرفيع بين بقية الفنون الأخرى ونحن في هذه المسابقة نسمى تشبيه الناس بأهلية إحياء هذا الفن والاهتمام به و الحفاظ عليه كي لا ينشأ هذا الفن الجميل في رجمة هذا الزمن ...

وهذه المسابقة أيضا فرصة كبيرة لن قاموا بانتقاط صور قديما أو حديثا ويفخرون بها ويودون أن يشاهدوا غيرهم ويستمتع بها ويما فتويده هذه الصور من مميزات وجماليات.

المعرض الدولي للصور (مهرجان أجمل صورة):

وهو المرحلة الثانية من مسابقة أجمل صورة والذي سيتم بعد الإنتهاء من المرحلة الأولى (مرحلة جمع الصور المشاركة في المسابقة) وهذا المعرض سيكون بمثابة مهرجان حقيقي للصور بكل ما تضمنه الكلمة من معاني بل سيكون أكبر وأروع معرض من نوعه حيث سيتم هذا المعرض إلى عدة أقسام كل قسم يعرض فئة أو نوعية محددة من الصور فهناك على سبيل المثال قسم لصور الأطفال، قسم لصور النادرة، قسم لصور الطبيعة، قسم الصور الطبيعية، قسم صور الحيوانات، قسم لصور العالم الأثرية والتاريخية الخ. وذلك لكي يستمتع رواد هذا المعرض بمشاهدة هذا الكم الهائل من الصور المختلفة والتنوع والتي لن تمل العين من مشاهدتها مرات ومرات. وبالطبع فإن كافة الصور التي سيتم قبولها ستعرض في هذا المعرض بدون استثناء فاحرصوا على الاشتراك في هذه المسابقة لتصبح صورتكم التي اشتريتم بها جزءا من هذا المعرض الدولي والذي سيختر في ذاكرة الناس.

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