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Monday, 22 November 2004 • Issue No. 792 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf

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 Alarify, 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 hopeful person in general, I do not feel

world, waged war See page 8 for more on against countries, hasn't been able to catch Usama Bin Laden, and hasn't not alone in thinking this way.

stabilized Iraq." Her declaration that "continual vio-

attempt, a U.S. Federal Bureau of

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



US-detained sheikh Mohammed Al-

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.

the supposed donor, who himself was

Continued on page 4

an FBI agent.





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

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Foreign minister Abu Bakr al-Oirbi 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 vear.

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 deminning program in Yemen cofinanced 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.



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





Local News



President grieves Abu Shawareb's death

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

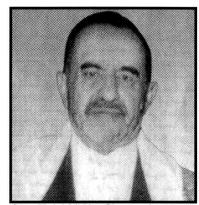
President Ali Abdullah Saleh has consoled all Yemenis on the death of Gen. Mujahid Bin Yahya Abu Shawareb in a car accident that occurred on Nov. 17 on the highway between Sana'a and Abs District, Hajah Province.

22 November, 2004

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 Hajah, 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, Sheik Abdullah Al-Ahmar and Askar Bin Yahya Abu Shawareb conveying his grief and appealing to Allah to have mercy on the deceased and wishing his family members patience.

Sheik 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

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

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	d qa	at	be
outlawe			
(See	page	8	for
Editoria	al)		
• Yes			U.
• No			
		. A	1

last edition's question: Do you think that Yemeni journalist Al-Khaiwani's beating in the Central Prison by another convict was earranged by the authorities? 85% Yes. it was No. it was not 15%

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

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 acci-

dents 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

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 Japanese project builds schools

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.

ties in Taiz to reinforce the educational development allowing the authorities to be more active.

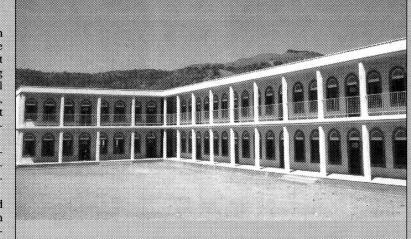
end of this year.

were presented to improve the educa-

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.

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.



tional process such as the improvement of the school environmen

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 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 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.'



JGAP supported the local authori-

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

There are other achievements that

the French oil tanker off the coast of

"The Yemeni government has made

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

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.

Translator to work in its Sana'a Office.

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- Must have a minimum of 5-10 years experience as a translator.
- Must have a strong work ethic with "can do" attitude.
- Must be able to type both Arabic and English.

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Community

Competition includes Chinese clothes

Women's clothing is varied in Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF TAIZ BUREAU

sewing and omen 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 aborad 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

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.

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

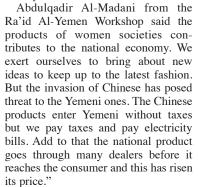


Imtac Yemen Gas Company Ltd. is the largest and most reputed supplier of Medical and industrial gases in the Republic of Yemen. It is a joint venture company between Griffin Ltd, Yemen and Imtac LLC, Oman.

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 work-

er, 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.'



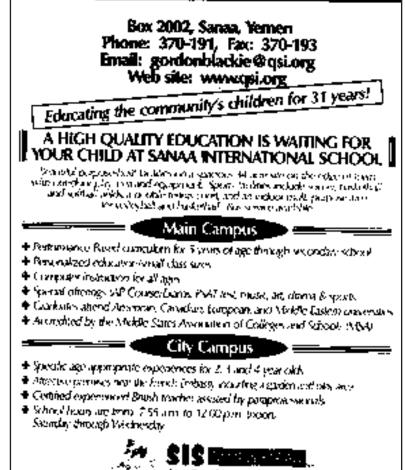
Wardah Al-Hamadi from the Women Sewing Center said that they produce clothes ordered by companies and factories, with special specifications.

Amirah Al-Mahdi from the Women Sewing Center explanied 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

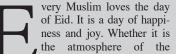


SANAA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



The true meaning of Eid

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



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.

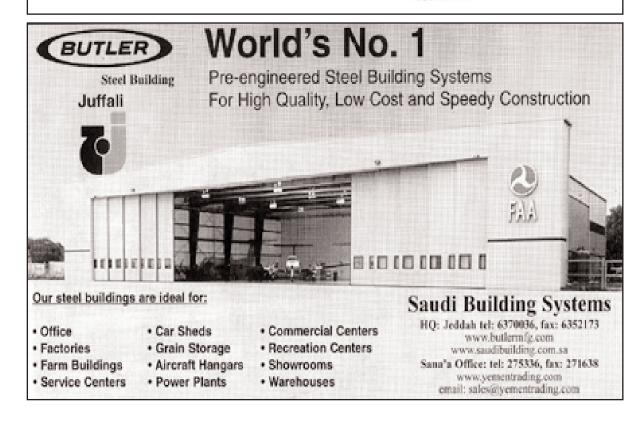
While you are free and happy with your children and family, spare a thought for the thousands of Muslims languishing under unspeakable conditions in prisons or battlefront all over the world. Spare a few quiet moments on this Eid Day to pray for our innocent brothers and sisters who are being tortured 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.

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A Griffin Company



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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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



By ISMAEL AL-GHABRI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

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

> > be blanked.

Oh Eid

omplaints to you

and I am sure you

my heart are run-

desires can be ful-

our hearts the

and pleasure.

ning fast.

Oh Eid

will answer me.

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

We expect to spray the drops of per fume 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 I offer my 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 The beatings of inside the deprived hearts, ..tone of optimism for the desperate,.. the eager for meeting between those who are separated for a long.

Since we are of Oh Eid

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

22 November, 2004

Community



<u>Government annual subsidies total YR 300 million</u> **ACCB** branch inaugurated in Crater, Aden

BY REDHWAN AL-SAQQAF ADEN BUREAU CHIEF

gricultural 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 Fakher 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, allot-

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.

O. 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

ments and all trade services the are ينك اتسليق اتم

Al-Mansoura and other 55 branches in required by the ACCB customers.

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 distribbank activities? uted and Visa Card will be used. ACCB

order to make speed dealings that are in

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

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.



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

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-Anssi 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-Anssi, 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 pervious interview, Al-Anssi 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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Arab

TEMEN

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.

Defence French 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".

US forces hit back BAGHDAD, Nov 20 (Reuters) -Guerrillas attacked Iraqi security Clerics Association said. forces in Baghdad in daylight on Saturday, hours after a top U.S. gener-

backbone of the insurgency.

Muslim minority.

raided a mosque revered by the Sunni

U.S. tanks and helicopters helped

beat off the insurgents after a three-

hour battle near the Abu Hanifa

mosque, where four worshippers were

Thick columns of black smoke rose

over the area. Apache helicopters

buzzed overhead. Tanks rolled through

the streets. An armoured convoy car-

ried away two wrecked U.S. vehicles.

The police compound was badly dam-

In the western Amriva district, gun-

men in cars opened fire on a National

Guard unit. A Guard at the scene said

seven of the assailants were killed and

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

Intended to quell a Sunni insurgency

before an election due in late January,

it has been accompanied by scattered

violence throughout the Sunni heart-

A senior U.S. general, backtracking

somewhat on confidence expressed by

other officers, acknowledged it was

"too early to say ... that the backbone

Lieutenant General Lance Smith,

deputy U.S. commander in the region

that includes Iraq, also said his com-

mand 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

The U.S. force numbers close to

of the insurgency is broken".

election security.

140,000 at the moment.

lands north and west of the capital.

aged and cratered by bullet holes.

seven passers-by wounded.

fighters.

killed and 17 arrested on Friday.

al conceded it was too early to say if a big Falluja offensive had broken the 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

Sectarian and ethnic tensions 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 blindfold, being shot in the back of the head by a masked man.

The U.S.-backed interim Iraqi gov-

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 praised for its loyalty and where he one vehicle, witnesses said. There was sought refuge after U.S. troops stormed 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)

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.

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.

near the southern town of Illizi but

Tourism Minister Mohamed Seghir

Kara ruled out the possibility of an

They disappeared on Thursday night

Daily newspaper El Khabar quoted and officials.

"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

Ship malfunction causes oil spill off Egypt coast

Five German

tourists reported

missing in Algeria

(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.

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, Nov 20 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

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 and wounding nine, the Sunni Muslim

Iraqi police attacked,

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.

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

REBUILDING FALLUJA?

ernment, headed by secular Shi'ite Iyad Allawi, has vowed to crush an insurgency it blames on Saddam loyal-





REUTERS

the blast.

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

In western Baghdad, a roadside

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.

bomb exploded as an Iraqi National Guard convoy drove past, destroying lina JOIN US At "LAYALINA CLUB & RESTAURANT" AND ENJOY THE GREAT NEW SHOW WITH THE "POLISH SUPER SONIC BAND" AND THE BRAZILIAN BELLY DANCER

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

He added the tanker Good Hope had not immediately available.

Further details about the tanker were

Annan says Darfur peace

deal possible by year-end

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

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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 south-

ern 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 53member 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 and 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

Darfur, mainly African villagers, have been left homeless by rampaging Arab militia and thousands have been killed. Khartoum has denied backing the Janjaweed militia, but has been slow to respond to the humanitarian crisis.

The U.N. Security Council has held back from threatening sanctions against Sudan over the issue for fear of provoking Khartoum and making matters worse.

This month Sudan bowed to international pressure and signed agreements on security and humanitarian issues with the rebels, and AU mediators say talks are due to resume about Dec. 10 in the Nigerian capital Abuja.

Annan said he expected Sudan's government to be motivated by hopes for a "peace dividend", noting the United Nations, the World Bank and others have promised to work on a reconstruction plan for the country probably worth hundreds of millions of dollars is peace is achieved.

Asia / Africa



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-yearold 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

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

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

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 zion'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 ournalists 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 journal-ists, 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 pas-

"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

"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 jour-nalists 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 without beards, to show "there are still Taliban around"

"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-

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

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

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 confidencebuilding 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.

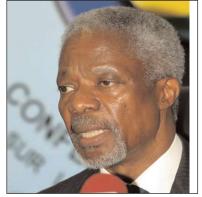
Obasanjo told the gathered heads of state he had been assured of "unflinching" support by the international community for the peace process, which he expected to be implemented by year-end.

"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 Tanzania The United Salaam, 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

"U.N. peacekeepers need to interrupt the arms flows, and Security Council members must pressure local leaders to stop fuelling ethnic hostilities."

Annan, in Dar es Salaam for the summit, was also put on the defensive on Friday when he was forced to acknowledge evidence of sexual abuse by U.N. peacekeepers in Congo, calling it a "shameful thing" for the world body.

He pledged to investigate about 30 cases of abuse, including the sexual abuse of minors, involving both military and U.N. civilian staff, which were reported earlier this year in the northeastern town of Bunia.

"I am afraid there is clear evidence that acts of gross misconduct have taken place," Annan said in a statement. "This is a shameful thing for the United Nations to have to say, and I am absolutely outraged by it."

Officials said the Great Lakes plan marked yet another step toward stability for Africa, following close on an agreement reached on Friday between Sudan's government and southern rebels aiming for a peace deal in that country by the end of year.

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 oad 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 admit ted killing his wife and attacking the bus passengers, but denied shooting any of he journalists and the charge of rape, however.

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.



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 REUTERS

World

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.

VEMEN IMES

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 Viktors.

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



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

ببالغ الأسى والحزن تلقينا بيان وفاة الفقيد المرحوم المناضل البطل **لعميد مجاهد يحي ابو شوارب** ونعزي کل 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 ابو شوارب الشيخ جبران مجاهد أبو شوارب وجميع إخوانه وكافة آل أبو شوارب تغمد الله الفقيد بواسع 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.

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

Saturday her captors had treated REUTERS her well.

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

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

BRUSSELS, Nov 20 (Reuters) - A 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.

8 22 November, 2004

Opinion



TENER Y

TIMES

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

OUR

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

OPINION Drugged nations don't progress

t is a common reality that a small minority of the country's population feels itself different, particularly during vacations such as the Eid holiday that has just past. This minority are those people who don't chew qat.

Being one of them, and as a fierce fighter against the habit of chewing qat, it upsets me to see millions of hours spent on chewing a plant that has no meaning whatsoever. Yet I end up different.

It is true that no one can deny the fact that qat is negative in all aspects, no matter which angle you look at it. Its hazards are related to heath, the economy and the society as a whole. But it is also at the same time, a decisive differentiator between chewers and non-chewers.

Almost every day, while working in the afternoons in my office, I look into the street from my window and find people lying on the side walk and chewing qat and wonder: How can they waste so much time doing nothing? Similarly, when I was in Aden a few days ago, I noticed homeless men chewing qat on the sidewalks, and at night, simply covering their weak bodies with a peace of thick paper and sleeping on the spot.

Then when I try to convey my frustration and anger, and in fact shock, to the level of carelessness that those people exhibit when facing their daily challenges in raising and educating children, or making ends meet at the end of the day, I receive the same old response, "Just chew a few leaves and you'll get over it!"

I believe that the majority of the population of Yemen is under the spell of this evil plant that continues to expand its territory on the expense of our natural water resources, our land, our time, and the future of our country.

On the other hand, one can also understand why the situation is not changing as those in the power centers are among the most addicted qat chewers, who may even have vast farms that generate millions of rials every day from crops.

But why should I and thousands of other Yemenis suffer as a result of the pleasure of the majority of the people? This is a legitimate question that is rarely raised.

When visitors come to my newspaper's premises and ask Where is your mafraj?' and I tell them that I don't have any such room, and in fact chewing qat is prohibited strictly in the compound, I see a look of surprise on their faces.

It is a fact that the Yemen Times is the only newspaper that doesn't have a room dedicated for qat chews, and some see this as a negative. While I see it as a mere correspondence to the vision of the newspaper and its founder Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who was a tough challenger to the wealthy qat farmers who have expressed dissatisfaction with his efforts to help curb this negative phenomenon.

Nevertheless, I believe that international and local civil society organizations should help us come to understand the implications of the continuation of growing and chewing qat. With such an increasing concern over the depleted under-

ground water, and the increasing crime and poverty rates throughout the country, and of course, the increasing level of unemployment, I believe that there will be a crossroads that we will arrive to.

It is a crossroads to either becoming a normal nation that builds and prospers and takes advantage of the most valuable thing on earth, i.e., time. Or become a nation that drifts into on my decision process. In your tragedy and chaos due to the uncontrollable drug that has become the resort of the majority of the population to forget their problems and miseries. elect Bush again. It remains to be seen where Yemen is heading to, because a drugged nation will never prosper! The Editor

East and West

By JAMIL ABDUL KARIM



Terrorism in the eyes of the commentator & A tribute to **General Mujahid**

he sudden passing of the late Yassir Arafat, which is still shrouded in suspicion and cloaked with a dose of mystery, was not expected to yield any commendable eulogies by any of the standard bearers of hate and prejudice that are found in the

Western press, particularly in the United States. People like Thomas Friedman, the indefatigable hate mongerer Barry Rubin and the misinforming expert Lee Smith continue to project their obvious disrespect for a bona fide accepted world leader, because it almost seems like their whole life depends on

It does not matter to these so called opinion makers, who are really opinion manipulators, that the man is dead and dearly missed by the very people that are really relevant - the brave Palestinians, who have endured more from Israeli terror than any one could care to describe now, but certainly a lot more suffering than any suffering that could unjustly be attributed to the brave Arafat by any of these phonies of the world of political commentary. They speak in general terms believing that now with Arafat out of the way, the prospects for peace are open wide and all the succeeding leadership has to do is sign on a blank check for Israel to keep all that it has illegitimately taken from the Palestinians for the past sixty years: land, life and any chance for the pursuit of happiness. One is almost at a loss to actually think that people can find sound judgment and prudent wisdom in any of the writings of these staunch Zionists, whose main objective in life is to misguide their readers not only about the situation in the Middle East, but also on the extent of their poor knowledge and awareness of that situation both from a current or historical perspective. Oh sure, they know a few names here and there and may have come to the region once or twice, but their broad generalizations and pre-ordained fixations on misrepresentations of the facts clearly reflect a persistent desire to play "expert", when in fact their expertise does not convince primary school graduates, even among the Israelis they purport to be backing, let alone Arabs and Europeans.

The man is dead and his people are grieved to the last man, yet they insist that all these grateful people to Yassir Arafat should be thankful for his passing. How horrific human sensitivities can be. But that is typical of all advocates of Zionism, because Zionism thrives on hatred, prejudice and a total disregard for any consideration for the sentiments of people, unless these people bow to the Zionist cause and wear yarmulkes on their heads to show sympathy for the Zionist ambitions.

While they throw the word "terrorist" all over the articles they write, they are not prepared to show how or where they get these preconceived notions from, nor do they care about where the cause that Yassir Arafat was actually rose from, namely all the Israeli terror that has been unleashed in the Holy Land since the British issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917. Yet, these very same commentators go to great pains to convince their readers that Ariel Sharon, a man condemned by his own fellow Israeli citizens, is a man of peace, with his "Gaza withdrawal initiative". Never mind that Ariel Sharon has taken part personally in ugly massacres and masterminded such horrific massacres as the Sabra and Shatila massacres in Lebanon. No, to these movers of opinion Ariel Sharon has the right remedy for peace in the Holy Land and the only way a respectable Palestinian leadership is to be recognized is if it bends to all the dictates of Ariel Sharon. The facts are that Yassir Arafat was a democratically elected leader of his people, who sacrificed all his life and fortune for the sake of bringing out the tragic plight

The wild-haired genius beat Bush in YT poll Einstein for Prez! liked to write o Eid is over and it's time to think. And what better poetry, knew great

ideas rarely come issue to reflect on than through the American politics? Yes, after one of the most diviestablishment. sive of US elections in memory,

George W. Bush is back for four more years. Yawn. Plenty of folks needed a Valium after a campaign that shook them with anger and fear. Not here. As you know, plenty of Middle Easterners were placid. Seems nobody believed John

Kerry would offer anything better for Iraq and Palestine. A local cab driver shrugged and asked me limply, "Booosh? Kerry?" Media agreed. One Syrian paper said they had "the same passion for Israel." A Lebanese paper noted "no difference" between the two. A Saudi paper based in London said Arab governments simply "waited for their next master.'

And my landlord here in Sana'a? Booosh is bad for the whole world because he's crazy." Regardless, he prefers him over Kerry.

A few issues ago, you likely noticed the front page headline in this newspaper, "Who Wins? Who Cares?" Then you may have noticed that in a pre-election poll the Times threw in

surprise candidate Albert Einstein. Incredibly, hundreds of readers voted for him. Yes, our Times internet poll results showed that Einstein got 34 per cent of votes, slightly less than Kerry, but more than Bush.

You have to admit, that's not bad for this demographic. Einstein is not only dead, but Jewish, once even courted to run for Israel's government. Sure some Times respondents used him as a protest vote. But to win in 2008, U.S Democrats could still learn from all this. While Bush may be no Einstein, apparently he did get some things right.

So, for the challengers, here are 10 tips for next time.

10. Have great hair. No joke. Bald is better than a poofy or matted look. This rule will help Hillary Clinton, but the candidate looking like they've stuck their finger in an electric socket, like Einstein, will be loved most. 9. Don't conform. Einstein, who

Pro-Bush, anti-abortion, and

anti-homosexuality

n response to Hassan Al-

8. Like Einstein, say something different. Kerry could have stuck to his early, anti-Iraqwar guns. The war has already cost America \$300 billion, three times its initial projection. No wonder Bin Laden and his hoods want to bankrupt the US, \$7 trillion in debt. Now think of innocent civilians killed. And U.S troops? If not dead,

7. Don't be afraid to share your spirituality. Some 18 million conservative Christians (a huge voting block that never questions anything Israel may do) gave Bush the White House because of his stance on domestic, moral issues. Einstein also brought God into his work. Like Newton and Galileo, he looked for the universe's secrets as if they're precious gems hidden by a Creator of beauty and order. Among his lasting quotes? "God doesn't play dice."

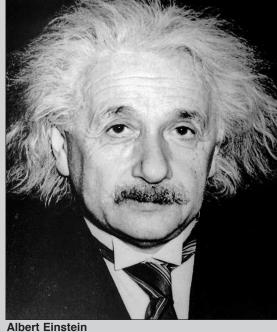
6. Tell the truth. Bush lied about Iraq. Americans cut him slack because Kerry was less believable. But have imagination. Every day in my office I see an Einstein poster with his quote, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Considering America needs to be a perpetual problemsolver, the Oval Office should have it.

5. Show humility. This is tricky because the Commander-in-Chief needs to exude unflinching confidence. But humility brings trust. Pacifist and humanitarian Einstein once said any peaceful co-operation between people is based on mutual trust first, societal institutions second. Kerry, who

Letters to the Editor

so they can take over and form another corrupt government that is loyal to them. Those elements are mere

imately same size inhabit this region of Somalia, of which the Isaak's, according to their now deceased self proclaimed pres-



own voice, didn't beat Bush on the humility / trust barometer.

4. Be warm. Bush beat Kerry here. The gentle, grandfatherly Einstein beats both.

3. *Be simple*. Bush (don't laugh) easily beat Kerry here. And Einstein made discoveries like nobody because he was able to see complex phenomena through the eyes of a child.

2. Have a sense of humour. Hey, Einstein chose that wild hairstyle. It was the outgrowth, maybe, of being Father of The Bomb. He once said, "If only I would have known, I would have been a watchmaker."

1. Understand the human heart. Einstein said the discovery of atomic power changed everything but our way of thinking. As it relates to this region, it's clear the Yemenis see nothing but suffering in Palestine and Iraq. Plenty of us see Washington ignoring the first and plundering the second. It's a timebomb. It's ticking. And unless it's diffused, it can lead to the type of big bang that could kill us all.

Jamil Abdul Karim is a Yemen Times editor. Email jamil@yementimes.com

appeared to enjoy the sound of his

imagine life in a wheelchair, never **Albert Einstein** knowing who your enemy really was.



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He would have had the opportunity to appoint Supreme Court justices who are prohomosexuality and pro-abortion. My beliefs coincide with the teaching of Islam. How could you expect me to vote against both my beliefs as a Christian and your beliefs as Muslims? You see, for me, God's will as documented in the Koran and the Bible controls my vote. We Americans believe in freedom for people around the world and the results in Afghanistan and Iraq are going to show that Democracy will thrive in the Middle East. The

days of the murdering dictators are coming to an end and this makes them very fearful. I am proud that America. in the face of so much global opposition, has forged ahead to help the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. We now know that the "global opposition" was a result of bribes paid by Saddam to the French and Russians to preserve his power and allow him to continue to murder the citi-

and is rapidly helping the sover-Haifi's latest opinions, and as a Republican who voted for eign governments to train Bush. I want to shed some light police and military forces of their own. In Iraq, you can see that the terrorist have changed article you seem to despair as to how the United States could tactics and are now killing their brother Arabs Why would they I am a Christian who do this? What is motivating believes that abortion is wrong them? It is plain to see that the and homosexuality is wrong. I cannot separate my belief in God from my voting actions. Kerry would have supported

zens of Iraq.

America has no desire to

stay in these countries at all

terrorists have an agenda which has nothing to do with Islam or a desire to protect their brother Muslims. They are homosexuality and abortion. thugs who just want power and money however the legitimate Islamic forces in Iraq and in Afghanistan will prevail Inshallah

Byron Allen ballen@novolink.net

About the Patriotic Act As an American, I would like to ask where is the 'Patriot Act' when you need it? Since vou are making a threat, where can you be located? There is always need to find the next ter-

rorist. Please, no more threats. It may make the people of America willing to take care of the Middle East forever.

Dary W. world@ev1.net

Give Americans a chance! Why don't you give Americans a chance? They rid you of a tyranny, and they have stated many times they will leave as soon as a government is elected in Iraq but the terrorists do not want a fairly elected government. They have their own agenda, which is to continue to cause chaos

extremists who will go anywhere to cause death and destruction. They are only using Americans because it suits their aims. If Americans leave, those terrorists would still continue implementing their plans for death and destruction because they do not know of any laws that regulate them and are not interested in any kind of law and order. They are gangsters and evil people that only have destruction on their minds

God help the Moslem people of Irag to stand up and defeat this evil in their society. Help them win this battle against them for the sake of all the God fearing honest Iragis out there. I believe that the US govern-

ment will not desert us because this would be the easy way out for Bush and the new Iragi government will end up being worse than Saddam's regime.

Walter Smeding walter.lei@bellnet.ca

About so-called Somaliland Following the outbreak of the civil war in the country, Somalia fragmented into small enclaves usually run by clan based warlords. Some of them, assisted by former and hopeful soon to be (Denmark)new colonial pow-

states Such one is, the Northern regions of Somalia, the so called Somaliland. Five Somali clans of approx-

ers, claim to be newly born

ident M.I. Egal and other scholars, descendants of the Hebrew Jews, and not Somalis at all, is seeking recognition as an independent state.

As there are colonial and neo colonial powerful media instigating the fragmentation and re-colonization of Africa and the Muslim world. Yemen Times should refrain in advancing and participating in any possible way to this anti Islam propaganda drive, advancing the balkanization of the Muslim world. Dr. A.F. Dualeh somdana@it.dk

Haifi is out of touch with the US

lith all due respect to Whaifi's recent opinions, I would like to say that the fact that you are shocked at the results of the American election shows how out of touch you and your newspaper are with respect to the American electorate. When you surround yourself with only those who agree with you (in your articles, in your constant conspiracy thinking, and yes, in the letters to the editor you choose to publish), your surprise should not be a surprise. I cannot fail to notice how you never print my letters, but I have seen letters to the editor, which agree with vour views about the big bad US of A published by the same individuals over and over again. Do these individuals really exist? M. Hane

of his people to the world and to saving what ever can still be kept out of way of the ever hungry destructive tractors that lay down the ground works for the Zionist stamp to cover the entire Holy Land area from the Euphrates to the Nile, killing any man, woman or child that stands in their way.

The cause that Yassir Arafat stood for was the end product of a scientific breed of terror created a century ago by Zionist demagogues, who earnestly believed that chauvinism and hatred are the sound stalwart backbones of Jewish nationbuilding, which even many Jewish theologians have come to reject.

Yassir Arafat did not give in to all that the Zionists insisted on for peace, because the limits of legitimate Palestinian national and religious dignity and pride, which are incidentally shared by a billion people throughout the region and the world, would simply not swallow such a submission to power and arrogance. But these writers have an appointed mission to fulfill: Convey the Zionist message in the most hate filled language possible and deceive the minds and hearts of their readers with their claims of familiarity with Arafat, while totally rejecting the tragic plight of his people by the terror of the very philosophy they advocate for: Zionism.

In Tribute to Sheikh Mujahid

Any one familiar with the modern history of Yemen, especially after the September 26 Revolution will undoubtedly be shocked and bewildered by the sudden and tragic death of the late General Mujahid Abu Shawarib last Thursday. Anyone who has met the man, even if it was many years back cannot feel to recall the face of a brave and gallant fighter for his people's freedom. He played a pivotal role in saving the Republic from annihilation by Royalist forces in the Seventy Days' Siege of Sana'a in the late 1960s and was always ready to give his whole hearted support in defense of the Republic, when other challenges followed that fateful historical period of Yemen's history. Yet with a strong record of patriotism, Mujahid never revealed any ambitions for power and glory and always just waited to be called into service. In the positions that he held he maintained a high degree of humility and chivalry, always respectful of all those who meet him and talk to him, preferring to be a listener rather than a talker and only stating what comes out with meaning and favor to the listening ear.

May his soul rest in peace as Yemen has lost another of its most patriotic leaders



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Op-Ed

Prayer helps us see deeper things **Reflections on Falluja** and other tragedies

By Shaik Ubaid Su204@aol.com

YEMEN IMES

s I write this, it is the 25th of Ramadan and it could be lavlatul-gadr. "Night of Power and Salvation. The night when God the Merciful started to reveal His Mercy, in the form of Quran the book of guidance to Prophet Muhammad, who was sent as a Mercy to all humanity. The night when Muslims believe that God will not reject any sincere prayers, so we try to "find" it during the holy month. It is not possible for us to mount a

month long night vigil during Ramadan praying and contemplating. Instead Muslims have evolved an easier path which is to limit our vigil to the last five odd nights of the holy month since it is also reported that lailatul qadr falls on one of these nights.

We gather to offer our nightly congregational prayers in a peaceful and affluent suburb of New York, protected by a police cruiser, a mercy bought from the county officials, prominently stationed at the entrance of our Mosque.

But we are all thinking of Falluja the "City of Mosques" because of the news reports that the much-anticipated invasion of Falluja has finally begun. I am thinking of the terrified mothers of Falluja and the worried military-moms all across the US. The "liberation" and "pacification" of Falluja is going to be as transient as that of Samarra was. So why all this bloodshed? I ask myself.

We stand up to pray, shoulder to shoulder irrespective of our social status, people of different races from distant lands and diverse cultures who speak different languages in their homes. Our prayer service is led by an "American-born " teenager who has memorized the entire Ouran.

As we glorify God rising, bowing down and prostrating in unison we find scarce if any mercy in the world around. When I prostrate, my head touches the feet of a cabdriver who is praying in front of me. His flimsy socks have holes in them and the autumn night is chilly. I am filled with guilt about my relative affluence.

As I think of the collateral damage in Falluja the guilt trip then takes me from the realm of wealth to the realm of security and safety. The Imam concludes this round of Quranic recitation with prayers for peace and justice to reign in the world, a reign that cannot start soon enough for me, for all of us.

Innocent civilians are beheaded in the name of religion and liberation struggle. Innocent citizens are pulverized to pieces with the most devastating weapons by armies that "soften up" entire cities from a safe distance. They are directed by politicians who dread having to deal with body counts of their soldiers but have no compunctions about the body count of the civilians living in the targeted cities.

No there is no mercy to be seen or experienced today nor truth and courage. The air we breathe is infested with lies, greed, fear, hatred, cowardice and a million other negative energies that have

benumbed our senses

We shed tears when a pet is run over by a gas guzzling SUV but we do not notice when a hundred children are blown to bits by suicide bombs and by air to surface missiles.

We do not care if we are misled into war nor when the dictator we support in Uzbekistan boil the dissidents alive. We help these tyrants come to power and stay in power because they serve the interests, just as we the consumers do, of our military-industrial establishment.

We do not want to know of the fate of hundreds of thousands who are killed and raped by these dictators and of the millions living who fare only slightly better. We choose to ignore the consequences of occupation that our allies have imposed on fellow humans. We do not think of long term effects of sustained persecution and despair on human psychology. We are rudely jolted into noticing these effects only when they start to manifest as suicide bombers.

But even these awakenings do not last long. We are lullabied back to our slumber by repeated hypnotic incantations that suicide bombers are born into and brought up by their religion. We do not care to use the same analytical prowess to examine the causes of terrorism that we use to predict our favorite team's or our most valuable stock's performance.

We do not ask ourselves what is the commonality between the biblical Sampson, the kamikazes from Japan, the Hindu suicide bombers from Sri Lanka and the Muslim suicide bombers of the



Middle East? If we do then we will certainly find out that it is neither religion nor economy. It is despair and anger and at times it is a tactical response in an asymmetrical war.

We are awaken from our stupor to take notice only if and when one of these selfaggrandizing dictators gets too carried away by his delusion of power and starts to defy our military industrial establishment.

We are kept awake only long enough for us to give our manufactured consent to send our young men and young women from the inner cities to "free" the long forgotten but now suddenly remembered masses in distant lands. In our twilight state of consciousness, between obtundation and sudden wakefulness, we are too confused to ask if it is really a noble mission that we are going to engage in then

why not send the cream of our society to win the laurels and fame?

The drowsy state of our minds robs us of the competence to analyze the effect of an asymmetrical war, fought from a safe distance and with overwhelming military superiority that creates more civilian casualties and more anger and hence more sui-

cide bombers and more butchers of human lambs. Similarly, the anguished cries of the victims of these angry hijackers of our

faith do not penetrate our consciousness that has gone into a state of permanent denial.

So while the Imam is praying for Peace and Justice, I will pray for pain. A deep, piercing and constant moral pain that we all must feel and that which cannot be

dulled by consumeristic anesthesia. That alone can awaken us sufficiently enough and long enough to strive to break the cycle of violence, hatred and more violence.

Only then can we redeem our religion from those who have hijacked it. Only then can we have the capacity to hold our governments accountable, a prerequisite of having a truly functional democracy. Only then can Justice and Peace begin to reign.

* Dr. Shaik Ubaid is a physician based in New York. He is the president of Indian Muslim Council-USA (http://www.imc-usa.org/) an advocacy organization working to safeguard pluralism in India and the US.



Now that Arafat is gone Is a two-state solution possible?

he American Democrats during their tenure were more enthusiastic with regard to finding a resolution to the Palestinian Israeli conflict and their fault was their excessive bias towards Israel due to the overwhelming Zionist, pressure because American capital and media is owned by the American Jews, not to mention the unconditional fanatic support of American Christian Zionists.

Jews in America one day shall reap the results of their misconduct in the USA, not paying respect to other

gain his subsistence as life was unbearable under the Imams at the time and thanks to his employment his family did not starve back home.

The Palestinians after knowing his story released him.

This story tells us that the British brought about this Middle Eastern crisis. They disarmed the Palestinians and provided the new swarms of European Jewish Immigrants firearms and advanced machineguns to subdue the indigenous Palestinian population. The British declared that they wanted two states living side by side and the United

The Arafat-succession scramble

BY DAOUD KUTTAB

understand what the Palestinian cause will look like without Yasir Arafat, consider the various titles that he currently holds. Arafat is Chairman of the PLO executive Committee, President of the Palestinian National Authority, Commander-in-chief of the Palestinian forces, and head of the Fatah movement.

The PLO embodies Palestinian national aspirations for independence and statehood. It is the highest political body for all Palestinians, both those living in Palestine and the refugees and other Palestinians in the diaspora. Arafat's successor will need to juggle between negotiations with Israel, which will require concession on refugees' "right of return" to Palestine, and the aspirations of more than three million Palestinians who wish to come back to the homes from which they were expelled in the wars of 1948 and 1967.

Arafat's successor as President of the Palestinian National Authority will be now is. The latter option would make Qurei an empowered prime minister, which is what many Palestinians and others want

The position of the commander of the Palestinian forces supposedly puts the various Palestinian military, security, and intelligence units under one leader, who is expected to ensure the rule of law. But these forces are now in disarray, with most uniformed Palestinian security agencies needing to be reorganized after four years of intensive effort by Israel to crush them.

The key factor in internal security is local paramilitary units. These units, most of which are not controlled by the PNA's central leadership, are more loyal to grassroots figures than to uniformed PNA officers. Local Fatah leaders like Marwan Barghouti have tremendous power over the nationalist armed units that are loosely organized under the title of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades.

Barghouti advocated and was trying to implement internal Fatah elections when

remain close to the local Fatah cadres. powerful one or merely symbolic, as it Whoever fills Arafat's shoes will need to make sure that these brigades are satisfied that their status, demands, and leaders are respected.

Indeed, the power struggle that will ensue in the post-Arafat era will ultimately center on Al Fatah, the backbone of the PLO. A worldwide assembly chooses Fatah's 100-member revolutionary council, which in turn elects a 20-member central committee, where most of the power struggle will take place. Many young street leaders will insist on an emergency meeting of the revolutionary council, or even holding the sixth general assembly (which would be the first since 1988). Events in recent months show that the Al Asga Martyrs' Brigades have forced even Arafat to take their demands into consideration.

While much of the power struggle will take place within the nationalist camp, one must not overlook the Islamist camp led by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Although the Islamists are unlikely to interfere in the post-Arafat power struggle, they will not sit idly by if the new leadership moves in what they consider the wrong direction. Of course, the new leadership will have to reach some agreement with the Islamists regarding the rules of the game, both domestically and vis-à-vis Israel. Without such an agree-

of destructions, characteristic only, of the

When we reached the voting booth, I

explained to her how I used the machine

to select John Kerry. My vote for Senator

John Kerry was not a vote for a less

secure America; on the contrary, I was

comfortable enough to realize that the

safety of our American society is non-

negotiable, and that Senator Kerry will

vehemently protect and preserve our

Having voted, I went home to watch

the election results and hoping for a

Kerry win. Twenty four hours later, I was

initially dismayed by the news of

President Bush's reelection for a 2nd

and I quickly began to look at the cup as

half full. It is difficult for me to predict

what the next four years will be like, and

what President Bush will do, but I have to

My disappointment did not take over,

security as much as anyone else.

The day after

term

ment, and if the new leadership cracks down hard on the Islamists, a violent civil war could erupt.

Most importantly, in order to consolidate his leadership, the next Palestinian leader must make some hard decisions and show some tangible results quickly. The experience of the first Palestinian prime minister, who resigned largely because of his inability to give improvements to his people - particularly personal and collective security, the rule of law, and an end to chaos in Palestinian areas remains fresh in the public's memory.

At the same time, a freeze on settlement activities, release of Palestinian political prisoners - including Marwan Barghouti - and the removal of the hundreds of checkpoints between Palestinian cities would revive a feeling of hope, without which no Palestinian leader can negotiate what the world wants: a peace settlement

The problem is that no Palestinian leader, no matter who he is, can deliver these changes. They represent a direct challenge to Israeli occupiers, neighboring Arab countries, and the international community, led by the United States.

bound by the Oslo Accords, which created an interim government, now headed by Prime Minister Ahmad Qurei, that is responsible for the day-to-day lives of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians will have to decide whether to make the position of PNA president a

the Israelis arrested him. As a street leader who was elected as the head of the Bir Zeit University student council, he gained legitimacy by being chosen by his peers. When the Oslo process began, he refused to accept any official position within the Palestinian Authority, choosing instead to

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My daughter, the Republican

Israeli army.

BY SHAKER LASHUEL YEMEN TIMES NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

s a father, I expected one day to engage my grown children in political dialogue. This day came much earlier than I had expected. Several days before the election, my daughter, Sarah, who is in second grade proved that she was ready for such a conversation.

In my naïve ways I thought it would be I who will pass my knowledge to her, but she proved to know enough for me to realize how people think. Sarah, who has heard a lot about the election, enquired about who I was going to vote for. I declared proudly that I was going to vote for Senator John Kerry. Sarah jumped out of her seat.

"Kerry?" she screamed in objection. In the conversation that followed, Sarah explained to me that I should vote for President Bush because "he will keep us safe." Sarah heard the message in one of the many political ads we were bombarded with over the past several weeks, but that small message resonated with her.

Sarah's thinking highlighted for me the logical basis for voting for President Bush. Her focus on security showed that this is the simplest, most basic need for humans. Both republicans and democrats who chose to vote for President Bush followed that logic.

A teacher, a registered independent who usually votes Democratic, told me that she will be voting for President Bush because he will "protect Americans." "He took us into Iraq and he's going to take us out," she added. For those obsessed with security concerns the other issues were not enough for them to make them consider Senator Kerry

On November 2nd, I took Sarah to the polling center on Cypress Avenue to practice my most basic right in this country, to vote and to educate her about the process. As we were walking, I wanted the walk to be longer, the road to be treacherous, the wait to be longer; it was a most enjoyable experience. I was feeling a distinct sense of pride, my spirit was high, and I was engulfed with optimism and hopefulness.

It is an experience that revisits me every time I walk to my local polling center. My conversation with Sarah was simple and I do not know how much she understood, but I wanted her to register that experience in her memory.

The past four years began to move in

on the fact this is a nation whose greatloopholes, the refusal to allow the imporness comes from a system that is inhertation of drugs, the loss of civil liberties, ently self correcting. the war on Iraq, the faces of the American As a citizen of this great nation, I am soldiers dying every day, and the images

hopeful for a better tomorrow, a safer tomorrow, a tomorrow where the elderly do not have to spend their social security checks on medication, a tomorrow where the departure of American jobs does not leave many jobless, a tomorrow where the U.S. regains its credibility and unquestionable leadership in the world, a tomorrow where I, as a Muslim American, live free of the suspicion and doubt that has been cast on me, a tomorrow where every human being is entitled to a fair due process.

The American people have spoken and President Bush is now my president. My expectations are high and President Bush has a lot of work ahead of him to improve the economy and deliver on his promises for a better, more accessible healthcare system. Hopefully, the change in the cabinet is the first sign of a positive change in attitude and outlook for the next administration. I may be naïve to be this optimistic, but for my Sarah's sake, I have to be. I have to continue to be positive and hopeful for a better America for all.

Americans ego and self esteem. Past American Presidents know better.

With the coming of the Neo-conservatives to the White House in such a clout, a new era in the American entity is signaled either towards prosperity or a spiraling demise. The administration's going about according to the theological tendencies shall unavoidably hit the first nail in the coffin of what once was USA.

So as I said Jews in America must check and rationalize their influence and must remember the physics theory which says that every effect has a counter-effect, equal in amount and contrary in direction. The time also has come to restrain Christian Zionists' influence because it is detrimental to America on the short and long run.

I still remember my grandfather telling me that his brother was working on a British Commercial Ship involved in the transportation of Jews from Marseilles following World War II. When his brother disembarked in Haifa (a main city in the then British Occupied Palestine and now is referred to as Jaffa by modern day's enforced manufactured Israelis), as soon as he left the seaport and entered the city wearing British clothing he was attacked by the indigenous Palestinians who as he recalled were armed with knives because the British colonialists did not permit Palestinians at the time to own guns or any kind of firearms.

He luckily saved himself by quickly shouting that he was an Arab from Yemen and that he was working on the British Commercial ship which was contracted to transport Jewish Europeans to Palestine; that he was obliged to remain on board in order to

Nations adopted the same British theo-

History tells us that instead of thanking the British, Israelis attacked and killed British soldiers and prefects. So that was the Israeli reward for the British goiym! Now, Britain simply cannot and should not wash its hands off the crime it committed in the 1940s, and their recurrent timid declarations are of no use.

Bush and Sharon declared during the past four years that they could not deal with Arafat because as they claimed he was not an appropriate peace partner.

Now that Arafat is gone, both guys' credibility is at stake. Are they going to cooperate with the near future's newly elected Palestinian leadership or shall they insist on their futile conditions: security first and so forth of the monotonous American and Israeli logorrhea?

The British design for a two-state solution, which was hurriedly accepted by the Israelis in 1948, is the only reasonable solution for this conflict. The sour truth is that the bridle is in Jewish hands and Bush and Blair merely droop.

Therefore, although the just and lasting peace cannot be attained without a two-viable states solution, neither Bush nor Rice are capable of mending the ongoing vice despite some dillydallying and futile impractical projects which would entice the Palestinians and leave the Israelis unaffected, simply because the Israelis know very well that peace is their chief enemy and that today's Israeli ethnic cocktail cannot remain united except in fear and constant belligerence.

In other words we need a miracle to convince Israelis that they can remain united without fear.

front of me as a newsreel. The unbelievbe hopeful. My hopefulness is also based able tax cuts for the rich, the corporate



Business & Economy



Selling

185.3100

343.9200

240.2800

49.4100

628.7200

50.4500

29.7200

491.5400

50.9100

261.3700

481.3200

157.3400

26.4400

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency

Sterling Pound

US Dollar

Saudi Rial

Kuwaiti Dinar

UAE Dirhem

Egyptian Pound

Bahraini Dinar

Jordanian Dina

Swedish Crown

Qatari Rial

Omani Rial

Swiss Franc

Euro

Buying

185.1100

343.5500

240.0200

49.3600

628.0500

50.4000

29.6900

491.0100

50.8500

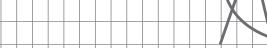
261.0900

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Business



Private sector invited to invest in cement industry Old oil technology to be replaced



By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF mkmaly@yahoo.com

echnical teams affiliated with Aden Oil Refinery have completed procedures for the beginning of a project to replace the old pipeline linking the Aden Refinery to Haswa Thermoelectricity Station and Aden Administration of Ship Supply.

A report issued by production marketing administration at the refinery said that the project, expected to be finished at the end of the next year, includes in its first phase the building of a pipeline for pumping refined oil products.

The line is composed of two pipelines; one is 16-inch diameter for pumping and carrying mazut from Aden Refinery and to Aden administration for the supply of ships. The second pipeline is 6-inch diameter for carrying and pumping diesel to the Hawa thermoelectricity station.

The report also mentions that the work in building the two pipelines would be at a speed of 50 meters per 48 hours, while the distance between the refinery and the thermoelectricity station is 7 km.

The project is one of the vital strategic projects the Aden refinery is executing under self-funding and the participation of a number of Arab experts under chairmanship of a Romanian expert.

He is director of a project for development of the refinery storages, whose capacity of storing local and external oil products has reached more than 135,000 cubic meters.

The pipelines that are going to be replaced were built when the refinery

was built in 1952.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni Establishment for Cement Industry and Marketing is seeking to increase its production through investment via selffinancing in modernization and development of the existing factories and calling on the private sector for investment in them.

Among plans are for capacity of Amran cement plant to reach 600,000 tons a year and the establishment of a new production line with a capacity of 1.2 million tons per year starting from the year 2006.

With this the factory's total production capacity would be increased to 1.6 million tons.

It's hoped with improvements, that the production capacity of Bajil cement factory will reach 1.1 million tons. It is also expected that the project could be imple-

mented by beginning of 2007.

An official report mentioned that there are now arrangements underway to resume a tender for the building of a power station at al-Barah factory generating 200 megawatts, as well as increasing the factory's production capacity from 500 thousand tons to 750 thousand tons.

The report indicated that the existing production lines at the three cement factories have surpassed their designed production capacity.

Presently the total production of the three factories affiliate of the cement establishment is 1.54 million tons. It is also expected that the public sector factories' production would be increased by the year 2007 in a manner to still cover local demand, while the other proportion would be helped by private sector factories and investments. Other cement factories are to be built such as Mukala factory with production capacity of 1.2 million tons a year, Batis Abyan cement factory project, implemented by the Yemeni-Saudi for cement company with a production capacity of one million tons in addition to the Lahj cement factory at a production capacity of 1.1 million tons a year.

According to the working plans and programs, the production capacity of the national cement industry would reach 6.7 million tons; three millions contribution by the public sector and 2.5 million tons by the private sector.

Investment sources affirm that investment in the cement sector is tempting for local and foreign capitalists, according to prospects of feasibility studies on building such factories due to the availability of raw material for the cement industry in Yemen.



BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

estructuring the public sector requires a clear-cut vision about what steps must be taken to benefit from similar experiments of countries that have had successes.

Countries that can catch up with advanced countries in their industries and technological advance, agricultural mechanization can attract huge investment opportunities.

The government's tendency towards reform of the public sector does express the people's interest. Such orientation aims essentially at people who must be trained and qualified in order to empower the sectors that can develop the national economy and expand its successes.

For that reason there is an urgent need for the reform of management to make bureaucracies into modern systems.

It is obvious that the public sector's inadequacy may be attributed to some conditions that do not allow means of planning, scientific research and study.

This situation does not resolve those institutional problems and improvement of materialist circumstances and training the cadre in the public sector. In addition there is the neglect in production and modernization. The problems that presently appear are those in the failure in some administrators of the electricity and water, agricultural and tourist sectors, and also by those parties in charge of investment and industrial production, plus those associated with offering services to the citizens, such as taxes, customs and passports.

The first propositions for modernization is the direct development of the human cadre and making conditions for a stable social environment.

That environment is meant for qualifying the human resources and also for leading the public sector towards competing in its services offered to citizens and in dealing with investors and partners in development.

The second proposal is making the public sector capable of competing with the private sector. This may be gained by reconsideration of specialties of leaderships managing this sector.

The third proposal is that the process of change should include people who can benefit in areas in harmony with the nature of their conditions. They have to be substituted by persons specialized and having the will of change and increasing production of the national product of the country.

This is true especially at a time when Yemen is conducting negotiations for gaining membership of the World Trade Organization. That consequently requires the presence of our products in the external markets and also efficiency in managing the national product and its quality.

The fourth proposal involves getting away from old ways in administration of public establishments. There are weak elements taking hold of performance and production, and in control of revenues, squandering budgets as they do not develop sources of national income.

<u>What did financial reforms in Yemen do?</u> Yemeni banking connected to strong communication systems

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI Yemen Times Staff



s STAFF Specialists are of the opinion that the banks law and the law of the central bank contained most modern terms stipulated in the most advanced baking

individuals related with one interest.



also helped self assets of those banks in confronting any future problems. The second axis was the central bank issuance of a periodic list containing names of those with floundering debts

Japanese Yen 1.7561 1.7580 Source: Central Bank of Yemen Fishing industry issues are discussed

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Governor of Hadramout governorate recently stated that the volume of investment circulation in the sector of fish in Hadramout has amounted to around \$1 billion.

Governor Abdulqader Hillal announced during a meeting with representatives of fish investment companies, fish exporters, canning factories and fish societies in both districts of Mukalla and Shahr that the following year would see the construction projects such as the Shahr Fish Port and the Yemen Fish Company Ltd.

Participants in the meeting had studied issues related to industrial fish investment and exportation and canning operations.

They also considered preparations for an international symposium on quality and protection of fish products that is scheduled to be held in Mukalla at the beginning of next year.

The symposium, under the auspices of the Fishing Ministry, would be organized by the Center of Marketing Information and Investment Services of Fish Products in the Arab region in association with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and contribution by the Fund for basic commodities. The meting had also discussed the

program of a visit by a delegation representing European countries importing Yemeni fish.

The visit is scheduled for Nov. 24-26.

in Yemen have been asked to strictly commit themselves to apply those criteria as beginning from 1999. In the years 2000 and 2001 the central bank exerted great efforts by holding negotiations and arrangements with a world company for the linking of Yemeni banking sector to banks and financial establishments working in various parts of the world the international network of Swift. That measure is considered of the achievements of the central bank as this network has big role in improving Yemen's banking external dealing and also to realize other benefits such as dropping coats of carrying out foreign dealings and also enable specialists to get quick contact and be sure about the speed of their financial messages arrival to other banks and receive responses of receipt. In pursuit of banking reform, the central bank has exerted intensive efforts for to re-structure and organize government banks and arrange their situations in the manner that would achieve raising the level of performance for keeping pace with developments in modern banking industry. Such efforts and measures included the liquidation of the Industrial Bank because of its suffering from financial restraints as a result of the hugeness of its floundering debts and its incapability of recovering big part of them. The efforts also included the coordination with international financial establishments for the restructure and rehabilitation of the Yemeni Bank for Construction and Development, The National Bank, the Bank of Agricultural Lending and the Bank of Lending for Housing. The Central Bank also succeeded in n its policy intended to activate the role of the private sector in economic activities and rationalize the banking credit directed to the government and the public sector.

economic and financial reforms in Yemen, there questions can be aroused about what Yemen has so far achieved in reforming the Yemeni banking system, and if it has managed to overstep great barriers created as a result of internal and external political events and changes and pursued a successful and stable monetary and banking policy.

It could be presumed in this regard that the Yemeni financial policy during the past ten years has achieved stability in currency exchange rate, an increase in growth of the gross domestic product and a surplus in the state's general budget. Yemeni financial policy has also achieved stability in the structure of the banking apparatus with the foundation of 18 banks, development in capitals and commercial banks' unified budget. Commercial banks have contributed strongly and effectively to supporting and financing investment and commercial projects and also in creating banking awareness throughout he whole country.

Specialists in banking say the more significant start from the beginning in the course of banking reforms, was the passing of new Banks Law that enabled banks to practice activities of a financier merchant within certain controls. The Central Bank set a condition that the banks established in Yemen should be as join-stock Corporation. The law also stipulated the limiting of the individual contribution share as not exceeding 10% of the bank's capital. The aim of that may be to avoid concentration of financial control over the bank in the hands of one person or a group of a few

laws in the world. One of those is the draft law concerning money laundering submitted to the parliament in 2002 and also the central bank at that time worked for the preparation of a draft law concerning electronic dealings, which is considered one of the law the this stage requires and would help fill a great legal vacuum and organize payments and electronic financial dealings that have begun to spread world-wide.

The central bank began during this time to request from banks a gradual rise of their capitals. So in this regard it was decided on 24 April 1985 that the licensed banks in Yemen should raise their capitals to YR 200 million at an utmost date the first of June 1985, another decision was in 1986 calling on banks to raise capitals of licensed banks up to YR 300 million with February 1987 as a deadline. In January 1997 mayor of the central bank issued a decision regarding banks capitals defining the minimum amount of paid capital at YR 500 million and in January there was the central decision determining the minimum capital of licensed banks to be at YR 750 million and in January 1999 here was a central bank's decision demanding banks to raise the minimum level of their capital to one billion riyals, obliging licensed banks to carry that decision out on 31 December 1999 as deadline date. The central bank decided in the year 2000 that licensed banks in Yemen should raise their capital one billion and 250 million rivals.

As for banks to be newly established the central bank obliged them that capitals' level at their opening should not be less than YR two billion.

Central bank of Yemen, Sana'a

According to officials at the central bank, most of Yemeni banks have been able to fulfill the requested proportions and some of them realized average of sufficiency in their capitals that much exceeded the proportions as defined by Basel Committee. Generally the rate of capital sufficiency with all Yemeni banks amounted to 13%, while the proportion defined by the said committee was 12%.

The central bank has also implemented steps and serious measures aimed at knowing the actual volume of the problem of floundering debts of each bank and at the banking sector in general and to study that problem and trace back their possible impact on the banking sector in particular and the Yemeni economy in general. The bank would then define necessary methods for tackling and control the problem through application of many rules and technical bases for evaluation of loans and credit facilities according to the degree of risks for each group and the methods of calculating and forming necessary allotments for facing floundering debts. The central bank was also keen on obliging banks to apply strictly those rules. In the same context, the bank devoted its efforts for helping banks to tackle their floundering debts following three parallel axes. The first axis is the serious follow-up of the banks to study and evaluate assets meant for loans and facilities granted to their clients according to bases of evaluation issued by the central bank and also to take necessary measures for establishment of enough allotments in the face of not regular debts. Banks commitments to those instructions resulted in good outcomes represented by protection of those banks and strengthening their financial positions and preservation of contributors and depositors rights. They

and those and those manipulating with banks properties and to press all banks I the country not to grant those any new loans or facilities, that list has been known as the blacklist. The third among the axes was the orientation a policy the central bank has followed for encouraging banks towards negotiating with their clients with floundering debt for the purpose of adopting cordial settlements regarding those debts. In fact those efforts and stipulations in those three axes left good impact in response by some clients to repay part of their debts or to agree on rescheduling them. The Yemeni banks have achieved some accomplishments after the central bank has taken several measures aimed at protection of banks against shock and fluctuations of prices of exchange and to keep them away from brokerage in prices in the local and international market.

The mayor of the central bank Ahmed al-Samawi says the central bank has issued instructions for the banks working in Yemen forcing them to achieve a degree of balance in their possession of various foreign currencies and the assets and deductions. Within this frame the central bank has placed a margin for fluctuation in the degree of balance no more than 15% of the capital of each bank and its reserves and also regarding each foreign currency separately, and a proportion of 25% for the total amount of foreign currency. And in order to develop the banking structure and strengthen its connection to the developments on the international arena, the central bank has designed accounting rules and criteria for the banks compatible with international accounting criteria. The banks working



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 prescreening 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.

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 fiftyfive 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 investiga-

Similarly, Haj Khalid Rasul al-Am, the director of the cemetery department of Baghdad governorate, directed Human Rights Watch to a graveyard in a walledoff 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. ÉI 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 Watchs 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 2,000bodies, 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`th 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-Birgisia 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, strewing 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 or 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 nongovernmental 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



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 tors 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 ÔIdo took Human Rights Watch researchers to the site on February 24, 2004, where they found toys, childrens 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

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 وإنا إلية راجعون

ۍ زون:

محافظ محافظة لحج مدير الأمن السياسي _ م / لحج مدير عام الإستثمار _م / لحج رئيس الغرفة التجارية _ م / لحج رجل أعمال و مستثمر رجل أعمال ومستثمر رجل أعمال ومستثمر رجل أعمال ومستثمر

العميد/ منصور عبدالجليل العميد / عبد القادر الشامي -أ / سليمان محمد الهبوب أ / حسين عبدالحافظ الوردي مطلوب عاطف الشرفي جمال الهمداني ناجي الفقيسيه هاشم السيواري

Report



<u>Some is fun, some is not</u>

Yemenis and Internet chat

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF TAIZ BUREAU

he 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 moneywasting 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,

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 60year 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 lighthumored 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

as she said, a young man from Asyout 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

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

or those who enjoy fine European cinema, the 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.

- 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 intro-

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

with diplomatic representations in Yemen will be taking part in this unique opportunity to enjoy a total of 10

MATTHIJS VAN

- 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 Daughterî 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).

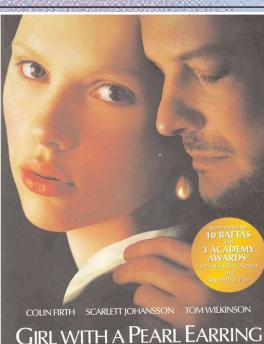
The films to be shown in the EU Film Festival include various stories with different themes:

- 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;

duction of the film to be presented.

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



BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL

P

Directed by peter webber Set in 17th century Holland, Girl With A Pearl Earring tells the imagined and highly suspenseful story behind one of Vermee-r's greatest and most enigmatic paintings. Griet, a tilemaker's daughter, is forced by tragedy to become a maid for the master painter. As she becomes part of his work, their growing inti-macy spreads disruption within his ordered household.

and for sure culturally enhancing.



Good bye lenin !

12

Directed by wolfgang becker

Shortly prior to the fall of the Berlin wall, Alex' mother falls into a coma after a heart attack. Always having been a self- assured citizen of the GDR and partly identifying with socialist ideas, she now oversleeps the victory of capitalism and wakes up after some eight months in a completely different country. But Alex'mother is not to know about all this, her frail heart does not al-low any form of excitement with regard to a shattered socialist world. In order to rescue his mother who is tied to her bed, Alex now has to do all that he can to reanimate GDR.







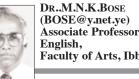


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105	Magic of the moment (2)		29 Oct. 01
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107	Planning a strategy (1)		12 Nov. 01
108	Planning a strategy (2)		19 Nov. 01
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A letter to English teachers: 67 Writing for the empowerment of students



Associate Professor of Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

n 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.

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

ASST BRAND MANAGER MAM INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION Sanaá – Yemen roja.lakshmi@ny.com

P K

By Ms. Lakshmi Devi

mployee 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. 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

- · Interesting work
- · Good working conditions
- Tactful discipline

Understanding employee motivation

- · 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

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.

Lesson 101 to 117 are in dialogue form

Evolution of the medical science

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

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 doctorpriests. Some of the medicines of early times were very strange. The Egyptians, for instance, believed that ground-uemeralds were helpful in certain diseases. Poor people who could not afford emeralds 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 leechings 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.

In this tradition, English classes are

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 producto 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

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

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.

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Name	Dates	Discovery
Hippocrates Greeke	460-377 BC	Hippocrates, 'the father of medicine', described many diseases and cures. Doctors are still guided by the Hippocrates oath.
Galen, Claudius Greece and Rome	130-200	Galen wrote 500 books that were con- sidered for many centuries to contain all there was to know about medicine.
Rhazes, Arabia	850-923	Rhazes wrote an encyclopedia of med- icine, and was the first to prove that small pox is different disease from measles.
Avicena, Arabia	980-1037	Avicenna's canon of medicine listed methods of treatment that were taught for the next 650 years.
Vesalius, Andreas, Belgium	1514-1564	Vesalius discovered much about the structure of the human body. He is called 'the modern father of anatomy.'
Pare, Ambroise France	1510-1590	Pare was a great surgeon. He taught men to seal wounds by sewing instead of burning them with a hot iron.
Harvey, William, England	1578-1657	Harvey learned the true way in which blood circulates. His discovery was one of the greatest in the history of medi- cine.
Leeuwnhoek, Anton Van, Holland	1632-1723	Leeuwenhoek was the first man to draw and describe bacteria. He was an early experimenter with microscopes.
Hunter, John, Scotland	1728-1793	Hunter's discoveries of how the body is built helped make surgery an important branch of medicine.
Jener, Edward, England	1749-1823	Jenner made the important discovery of vaccination. He successfully vaccinat- ed an 8-year-old boy against smallpox
Beaumont, William, United States	1785-1853	Beaumont discovered the function of the stomach in digesting food, and the part played by the gastric juice.
Orton, William T., United States	1819-1868	Morton showed that ether could be used as an anesthetic. This discovery made painless surgery possible.



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2004 UNICEF report Is hope possible for the world's children?

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

he 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 moth-

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 longterm 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 abovementioned cost, which is \$US 9.1 billion is easily affordable compared to that of military operations.



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Adds. Space Adds. Space International Contraction Internation Internation	فكرة المسابقة. - بالتأكيد لكل ما ذكرياته التي يحتفظ بها غالبا في البوم صور يعود إليه بين الحين والأخر - مادفك حدث مهم تعتقد أنه ثن يتكرر فالتقطت له صورة مازئت تحتفظ بها. - كنت في رحلة وأبهرك منظرا طبيعيا لدوج خضراء أو أحجار نادرة وشكاها غريب ومبيز فجمعتها في نقطة فوتوغرافية. - إن كان لديك لقطة فوتوغرافية أو سورة مبيزة تحتفظ بها فقد حان الوقت بيرى الألاف صورتك و ستعود عليك الصورة بجوائز مغرية.	مزايا المسابقة: - ترتبط مورتك باللاف والخارج عبر شبكة الإنترنت. - ستشارك المور في الموض الدولي (مهرجان أجمل مورة) والذي سينظم بعد الإنتهاء من مرحلة استقبال المور الشاركة. - المور الفاذرة ستحصل على جوائز مغرية وتتشر على شبكة الإنترنت و مجلة الأسرة والتنبية ومحيفة يبن تاييز ووسائل إعلامية أخرى.	كيفية اختيار الفائزين : - سيتم اختيار الفائزين بالجوائز من بين الصور الشاركة عبر تجنة تحكيم يمنية وعربية من ذوي الخبرة في مجال التصوير. - سيتم نشر الصور الغتارة من قبل اللجنة في الجلة والصحيفة و على شبكة الإنترنت وبعض الوسائل الإعلامية الأخرى وسيقوم الجمهور بالتصويت. عليها لإختيار الصور الفائزة بالجائزة الكبرى.	ما يميز هذه المسابقة عن غيرها من المسابقات: إن هذه المسابقة الدوئية والتي تعد الأكبر من نوعها في تاريخ اليمنية وعلى مستوى الوطن العربي بأكمله تعتبر نقلة نوعية في أسوب المسابقات في اليمن والمُطقة برمتها . حيت تعتمد هذة المسابقة على فن التصوير هذا الفن ألهني أصبح مهدلا بالرغم من عراقته و أصالته و مستواه الرفيع بين بقية الفنون الأخرى ونعن في هذة المسابقة نسعى لتنبيه الناس بأهمية إحياء هذا الفن والاهتمام به و الحفاظ عليه كي لا يذشر هذا الفن الجميل في زحمة هذا الزمني . وهذه المسابقة أيضا فرصة كبيرة لن قاموا بإلتقاط صور قديثا أو حديثا و يفخرون بها و يودون أن يشاهدها غيرهم ويستمتع بها وبما تعتويد هذه الصور من مبيزات و جماليات.	ا لموض الدولي للصور ، مهرجان أجمل صورة) : وهو الرحلة الثانية من مسابقة أجمل صورة والذي سيقام بعد الإتهاء من الدحلة الأولى (مرحلة جمع الصور الشاركة في السابقة) وهذا الموض سيكون بمثابة مهرجان حقيقي للصور وكل ما تعمله الكلمة من معاني بل سيكون أكبر وأروع معرض من نوعه حيث سيقسم هذا الموض إلى عدة اقسام كل قسم يعرض ففنة أو نوعية محددة من الصور ففناك على سبيل الثال قسم نصور الأطفال، قسم للصور النادرة. قسم الصور الطريفة ، قسم صور الحيوانات، قسم يعرض ففة أو نوعية محددة من الصو وذلك لكي يستمتع وواد هذا المحرف بيشاهدة هذا الكم المون الحين المور الطبيعية ، قسم صور الحيوانات، قسم لصور المائم الأثرية والثاريخية الخ وبالطبع فإن كافة الصور التي سيقم قدولها ستعرض في هذا المون الطبيعية ، قسم صور الحيوانات، قسم لصور المائم الأثرية والثاريخية الخ وبالطبع فإن كافة الصور التي سيتم قبولها ستعرض في هذا المون المثلمون الطبيعية ، قسم صور الحيوانات، قسم تصور المائح التي أشتركتم بها جزءا من هذا الموض الدولي وبالطبع فإن كافة الصور التي سيتم قبولها ستعرض في هذا المون الضور الطبيعية ، قسم صور العيان من مشاهدتها مرات ومرات والحل سيتم ورالا عن بمشاهدة هذا المرض بدون المثلاء فاحول على الأشواك في هذه المابقة تنصبح صوركم التي أشتركم بها جزءا من هذا الموض الدولى وبالطبع فإن كافة الصور التي سيتم قبولها ستعرض في هذا المرض بدون استثناء فاحوموا على الأشتراك في هذه المابقة تنصبح صوركم التي أشتركم بها جزءا من هذا الموض والذي سيعض في ذاكرة الناس.	لإستفسار حول المسابقة الاتسال عن هاتف مؤسسة يمن تايمز: ١/١٢٨٨ الاستفسار حول المسابقة الاتشار عن هاتف مؤسسة يمن تايمزيا /١٢٨٨ (فصري) ولمزيد من التفاسيل تابعوا أعداد صعيفة يمن تايمز القادمة أو زوروا موقعنا على الأنتريت : www.yemenimes.com/bestphoto
		العنوان ext Photo Contest اللاينة : اللولة :	بياثات الصور المُشاركة البند مكان التصوير تاريخ الصورة (تفاصيل الصورة) رقم الصورة (يم تعبنة هذا البند من فبل الجهة النظمة) مورة مضمكة المسلمة ال المسلمة المسلمة ال	aucie direction aucie	ولاحظات وشروط المسابقة - لا يبكن لنفس الشخص الشاركة بأكثر من صورة للبند الواحد ولكن يمكنه المشاركة بأكثر من بند من البنود أعلاه. - تبقى ملكية الصورة المقدمة للمشارك الذي قدمها ويحق له استردادها بعد فترة السابقة إن رغب بذلك. - تعتفظ المُوسة بحق نشر الصور من عدم نشرها في الصحيفة او في أي وسيلة إعلامية أو بأي شكل آخر تراه مناسبا. - لن تقتبل الصور غير الأصلية رأي التي تم أخذها من طرف آخر أو تم تعديلها أو تم إنشاءها بواسطة برامج الجرافكس أو بأي شكل) - يعب أن تكون الصور ذات معنى وواضعة إلى حدم وإلا لن يتم قبولها في المسابقة.	 - لا تتحمل أي جهة مرتبطة بتنظيم أو رعاية أو مشاركة في السابقة أي مسؤولية قانونية أو قضائية أو شكلية أو غيرها من نشر الصور أو استخدامها ويعتبر المرس للصورة هو السؤول في هذا الجانب. - لن يتم قبول الشاركات التي ينقصها هذا الكوبون أو التي لا تكتمل فيه الملومات الخاصة بالشاركة أو الصور الواردة أو التي لم يوقع فيها الشارك على قبوله بسروط السابقة المذكرة هذاك. - إرسال الكوبون إلى عناوين مؤسسة يمن تاييز في صنفاء، تعز، عدن أو الحديدة. - الم الشارك والمندكور أسمي أعلاه على جميع شروط مسابقة أجمل صورة. - الم المشارك والمندكور أسمي أعلاه على جميع شروط مسابقة أجمل صورة. - التوقيع أن المشارك منافي أعلاه على جميع شروط مسابقة أجمل صورة.

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