

Yemen receives first batch of gunboats

By Ridwan al-Saqqaf
Yemen Times
Aden Bureau Chief

Yemeni Coast Guard Authority in Aden on Monday received seven American gunboats offered to Yemen for security purposes off the Yemeni coast and the Gulf of Aden.

Forces of the Yemeni Coast Guard have conducted a sea survey of the areas where the boats are to be deployed in southern areas of the Red Sea, Miyoun Island, the Bab el Mandab Strait and the Gulf of Aden to secure those coasts and to watch shipping in the Bab el Mandab Strait as part of the security plan for fighting terror.

Yemen Times has learned that the United States will deliver to Yemen a second batch of interceptor gunboats under a plan to supply the Yemeni Coast Guard with such boats to protect its ports and territorial waters.

Military training operations are scheduled for the next few days, focusing on the use of the Coast



The US-donated gunboats will be used to monitor Yemen's coasts and stop any infiltrations. (YT photo)

Guard gunboats against possible acts of terrorism.

The Coast Guard Authority trained a number of officers and soldiers in the United States in late 2003.

The Commander of the American forces in the Horn of Africa last month attended the graduation ceremony of a group of Coast Guard personnel and witnessed anti-terrorism

military maneuvers by Yemeni Special Forces and some American experts, in addition to forces of the Yemeni Coast Guard.

President Saleh in Saudi Arabia for discussions:

Militant infiltration debated

RIYADH, Feb 17 (Reuters) - The leaders of Saudi Arabia and Yemen met on Tuesday in a bid to resolve tensions over a barrier being built by Saudi Arabia on their common border aimed at curbing a flow of weapons fuelling militant violence.

More than 50 people were killed in suicide bombings of residential compounds in Riyadh last year blamed on Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's militant Islamist al Qaeda network. Much of the militant arsenal is believed to have been spirited across the Yemeni border.

The official Saudi Press Agency said Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh met King Fahd and de facto ruler Crown Prince Abdullah in Riyadh for discussions.

It gave no details but sources close to the talks said they focused on efforts to overcome tension over the barrier which conservative Saudi Arabia says must stem an influx of weapons.

Diplomats say Yemen claims the barrier violates a 2000 border accord which set up a 20 km (13 mile) demilitarised zone on either side of the border.

der reserved for livestock grazing.

Ministers, defence and security officials from both sides were continuing discussions late into the night. "So far the talks are going well," a source from one delegation said, without giving details.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen, who finally agreed the exact line of their border less than four years ago after decades of dispute, have played down the latest discord.

"Cooperation between the two countries will be reinforced in all spheres including security," Saleh said

in a statement on arrival in Riyadh.

The head of Saudi Arabia's border guard Talal Anqawi said last week the barrier, a raised, concrete-filled pipeline which he called a security "screen", was being built on Saudi soil but did not specify exactly where.

He also dismissed comparisons in some Yemeni opposition newspapers between the Saudi barrier and Israel's barrier through the West Bank, which Arab states have condemned.

"What is being constructed inside our borders with Yemen is a sort of screen...which aims to prevent infiltration and smuggling," he said. "It does not resemble a wall in any way." Yemeni sources have said the barrier extends for around 75 km along the 1,300 km border.

No end in sight to Ethiopian protest

Week 2 for sit-in

By PETER WILLEMS AND
MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A sit-in by Ethiopian refugees in

front of the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) headquarters in Sana'a is into its second week with no end in sight.

About 200 Ethiopians have been camped out in front of the UN building since Feb. 12, and say they won't move into a "tangible solution" is found to their concerns.

"We are planning to spend every day and night here at the headquarters until UNHCR finds a solution for our refugee problem here in Yemen," said protester Adane Balachaw. "UNHCR has yet to give us any solution."

The Ethiopians, who have been long-term residents of Yemen, but who are still formally classified as refugees, have set up a make-shift kitchen as part of their protest.

They say during their first week, they received no help from NGOs concerning food, shelter or medical assistance during their sit-in except one short visit from Red Crescent.

They represent, at least in part, Ethiopians who were once part of the Ethiopian Navy but defected from their country in May 1991.

Continued on page 5

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للمشاركة إقرأ التفاصيل:
على الراغبين في المشاركة في المسابقة تعبئة الكوبون المرفق وكتابة الإجابات الصحيحة للأسئلة المنشورة في كوبون الأسئلة للعدد الماضي ومن ثم قص الكوبون وإرفاقه مع كوبون الأسئلة وإرسالها إلى مقر الصحيفة في صنعاء (شارع حده - خلف السفارة الفلسطينية) أو إلى مكاتب الصحيفة في عدن أو الحديدة. كما يمكن للمشاركين إرسالها إلى بريد الصحيفة في صنعاء على عنوان (ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩، صنعاء). لن يتم قبول المشاركات التي ينقصها أي من الكوبونين أو التي تحوي معلومات شخصية ناقصة أو إجابات خاطئة لأي من الأسئلة المنشورة.
ستستمر المسابقة حتى مارس ٢٠٠٤ ويمكن للمشاركة أن يشارك أكثر من مرة، وستعلن أسماء الفائزين في الصحيفة في وقت سيحدد لاحقا، كما سيتم توزيع الجوائز في خلال أيام من إعلان النتائج. للاستفسار يمكن للمشاركين الاتصال بالصحيفة على (٠١) ٢١٨٦٦١ في أوقات الدوام. حظا موفقا للجميع....
المصدرة هي شعارنا، وثقتكم هي غايتنا، شاركوا فربما أسماءكم من بين الفائزين.....

Tens of thousands in Yemen

Refugees to be protected from deportation

BY MOHAMMED BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The government of Yemen recently approved a draft law regarding asylum to Yemen.

According to figures published by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Yemen has 57,000 refugees, of whom are Somalis.

The law pertains to deportation of refugees. Sabe News says registered refugees would be only expelled in case the government sees it as necessary for the national security.

And in case refugees are to be deported, they would be notified on the decision and possibly have the right choose the country they are sent to.

Amnesty International said in its 2003 report that Yemen was deporting people under pretext their residency permits were expired,

The refugees, according to that policy, had no right to challenge the compulsory deportation decision.

Yemen's Human Rights Minister Amat al-Aleem al-Souswa had said that Yemen was among the few countries in the region that have seriously pondered a national law on refugees, pointing out that a special committee set up by the council of ministers has been preparing the draft law.

The minister said in a statement to Saba News that Yemen was seeking to regulate the phenomenon of asylum by more commitment to international agreements on the issue of refugees.

She pointed out that the idea of passing a law regarding refugees was an old one and that there were many projects and some committee had been formed for that purpose. But they had not finish their work for various reasons, adding that it was high time for

issuing this law.

The minister also said that the aggravation of problems resulting from the flow of refugees into Yemen urged the government to think about the importance legislation regulating them.

According to the new legislation, there would be some conditions in the light of which such persons could be given the status of refugees in addition to other relevant considerations.

The minister said "Yemen currently hosts tens of thousands of refugees from the Horn of Africa for humanitarian reasons, and there are military refugees from Ethiopia and others escaping from the death penalty."

There are other refugees for economic reasons and others related to wars and famines hitting their countries. All of them are in need of humanitarian and legal help.

Amidst large-scale controversy on the law and competition for the chairman

Beginning of Journalists conference next Saturday

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Preparations are going on for the holding the third general conference of Yemeni journalists scheduled to be held in Sana'a next Saturday amidst possibilities of its postponement despite of the formation of committees entrusted with preparations. In case of failure in holding the conference in its due time, some parties hold the present council of the journalists syndicate responsible for that failure.

The parliament had in its session last Saturday approved to return the

draft law of the Journalists Syndicate to the government under its request in order to conduct more study of it, especially after the journalists had demanded its withdrawal. A heated discussion on the journalists law had taken place at the parliament between representative of Islah Dr Mansour al-Zindani and Sultan al-Burkani, representative of the GPC bloc at the parliament.

Preparations for the conference come amidst criticisms against the syndicate's council by the journalist because the council did not distribute text of the draft law to be studied by

journalists and to give suggestions about it and also for amending some articles in the present rules of procedure of the syndicate. According to statistics the general assembly of the syndicate consists of 986 members, the majority of whom are affiliated to official establishments and are estimated to form two thirds of the assembly, while many members representing non-governmental media were prevented from entering the hall where the general assembly was gathering for fear from any troubles that might, especially that many foreigners attend such activities.

The Embassy of the United States of America announces for an immediate job opening within its organization.

"Voucher Examiner"

The position is located in the Financial Management Section, American Embassy, under the general supervision of the Financial Management Officer. Employee will examine moderately difficult and complex invoices for the Embassy, e.g. electricity, cell phone, water, telephone and airline bills and request payment of goods and services. Prepare and/or audit vouchers relating to above invoices. Maintain and develop spreadsheet, databases plus reports for utility payments or other payments. Alternate pay liaison to interact with FSC (Financial Service Centers) and Post. As alternate timekeeper of the Embassy, maintain and report consolidated time and attendance, leave allowance, US and Locally Engaged Staff (LES) compensation issues. Assist US and LES on the computerized related matters, financial transactions, e.g. Advice of Pay, Allotment of Pay, W-4, Thrifts Saving Plan, Bonds, and payroll discrepancies and complaints.

Desired Qualifications:

Education: Completion of secondary school is required. College or technical study in accounting, budgeting, analysis and management is highly desired.

Prior work experience: From 3 to 4 years of progressively responsible experience in accounting and budget work is required.

Language proficiency: Level IV fluent in English and Arabic required.

Skills and abilities: Excellent Microsoft Excel and Access is a MUST. Be able to develop and maintain spreadsheets and database reports for utilities and other data reports.

Grade/Salary: *EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-9 (to be confirmed by Washington)

* Ordinarily Resident: FSN-5 (trainee level) (SFN-6 is the full level).

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 303-155, no later than the February 29, 2004.

Note: All ordinarily resident applicants must be residing in country and have the required work and residency permits to be eligible for consideration.

President issues directives to send Political Security prisoners to justice

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sheikh al-Ahmed, Member of Parliament, revealed that President Ali Abdullah Saleh had lately directed the Head of the Central Apparatus of Political Security to refer all detainees at the prisons of the Central Apparatus Political Security to the judiciary, after their issue was raised in Parliament last Saturday.

Information received by Yemen Times indicates that the Central Apparatus of Political Security is at the present time preparing names of persons detained on terror charges, who number over 190 detainees.

The president last year gave orders for the release of 34 detainees arrested on charges of links to al-Qaeda after they renounced their extremist ideas. In addition, directives were issued in mid November for the release of about 197 prisoners, although the final number released is unclear. There is infor-

mation that some detainees refused the conditions for their release, the renunciation of their extremist ideas, stipulated by the dialogue committee headed by Judge al-Hittar.

Some information indicates the possibility of postponing the referral of some detainees to the judiciary, especially those on terrorist charges including elements like Mohammed Hamdi al-Ahdal, known as Abu A'sem, and those detained on charges of involvement in the attack on the American destroyer USS Cole in October 2000 in Aden.

No security information has been released on the fate of al-Banna, who was recently arrested and is considered one of the important suspects wanted by the United States. Some information was leaked on the possibility of an exchange between Yemen and America in which the latter would hand over Sheikh al-Mouayad in return for al-Banna, a Yemeni holding the American nationality.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS EDITION'S QUESTION:

Who do you think is to blame for the suffering of the Ethiopian refugees in Yemen?

- The Yemeni government
- The UNHCR
- Ethiopians themselves
- Other factors or parties

Who is most at fault for the poverty in Yemen?

- The Yemeni government. 38%
- The Yemeni people. 25%
- A combination of 1 and 2. 21%
- The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. 6%
- It's nobody's "fault" per se. 6%
- None of the above. The WB and IMF are helping Yemen. 4%

Go to our website and vote at:
yementimes.com/poll

New Kuwaiti ambassador to Yemen

The new Kuwaiti ambassador to Yemen, Mr Abdulrahman Hamoud, last Saturday presented his credentials as plenipotentiary ambassador of Kuwait to Yemen.

Mr Abdulrahman Hamoud succeeds Ambassador Yousuf al-Unizi, who was the first Kuwaiti ambassador to Yemen after the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2000.

Workshop on ozone layer depleting material in Mukalla

ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI

A workshop will start on Thursday 18 February in the city of Mukalla in Hadramout on the regulations concerning the import and use of material that causes depletion of the vital ozone layer.

The workshop is part of a series of activities launched by the General Authority to Protect the Environment, which has already held similar activities in most of the Republic's governorates. The activities are being done in cooperation with the chamber of commerce of Mukalla along with a number of NGOs in Hadramout.

Mr. Faisal Ahmed Nasser, the head of the ozone unit of the Authority told Yemen Times that the regulations being discussed are of great importance as they will contribute in setting conditions to provide licenses and to monitor any violations that could damage the environment.

"These regulations are of major importance as they would control the import of materials that cause the depletion of the ozone layer, and would be instrumental in regulating the use of such material within Yemeni territory," he said.

Arabic/English Translator required

A full-time or part-time translator is required to do translation work from Arabic to English. Working conditions will be flexible and work from home is possible for three days a week.

Requirements:

- Fluency in English and Arabic.
- Ability to use computers and MS Word.
- Ability to stick by deadlines and be committed.
- Experience and relative BS degree preferable but not necessary.

To apply, please send your resume along with your contact information to:

P.O Box 2579 Sanaa.

Vacancy

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WB representatives visit projects in Taiz

YT TAIZ BUREAU

A delegation representing the World Bank (WB) has recently paid a visit to the governorate of Taiz to have a look at WB-financed projects and how they are carried out. The delegation is headed by Steven Karam, who visited the historical Cairo fortress and observed work in the relief projects for victims of floods in the Saile al-Qamt, where a number dams are being reconstructed.

The delegation evaluated the progress of the second phase of the projects financed by the WB, with a total value exceeding YR50 million.

The WB representatives met with the governorate's government Qadhi Ahmed Al-Hajri along with the general secretary of Taiz local council Mohamed Al-Haj, Engineer Ali Saheed Khamees of the WB in Sanaa, head of the Planning and Development Committee of the local council Mr. Shawqi Ahmed Hayel, and manager of the Municipality Development Project Engineer Ibrahim Hassan.

The governor expressed gratitude to the WB for its role in supporting the governorate and the country in general, and particularly thanked Mr. Karam for his role in this respect.

The WB team had earlier visited the Amirya dam and stressed on the importance of repairing it following the damage caused by floods and other factors. He also pointed to the need to clear of all waste to make it a clean-water reservoir that could support underground water wells and provide a lasting supply.

The team also visited the coastal city of Mocha to touch base with developments in the projects in the district financed by the bank. The bank's representatives also went to Hodeidah governorate where they toured the ongoing projects financed by the organization.

The Netherlands contributes to Yemen Mine Action Program

A UNDP press release on Monday mentioned that following its support to the first phase of the UNDP - supported National Mine Action programme, the Netherlands government provides a contribution of US \$ 300,000 to the second phase of the programme through a UNDP Trust Fund modality. Building on the excellent results achieved under the program's first phase, the second phase, which started in October 2003 under national execution, will focus on the following key results.

- Further strengthen and develop the management and technical capacity of the Yemen Mine Action Programme
- Improve the safety of the mine affected communities by reducing the

land mine threat through the implementation of an integrated mine action programme

- Contribute to the Yemeni economy by safely returning additional mined land to the Yemeni communities for a productive use

- Meet the needs of the mine victims and develop strategies for their socio-economic reintegration

- Further improve the Mine Risk Education (MRE) programme to reduce accidents and casualties among Yemeni citizens through massive awareness raising campaigns.

This contribution will be added to the initial amount of \$ 1.1 million for this phase of the programme that has been secured from UNDP (\$450,000), DFID/UK (\$ 250,000) and the govern-

ment of Yemen (\$ 400,000). These contributions are in addition to the \$ 13.1 million already provided to the first phase of the UNDP Mine Action support Project by the governments of the United States, Japan, Netherlands, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and Saudi Arabia, the UNDP release added. On Monday 16 February 2004, at 11:00, a ceremony on this occasion was held at the office of H.E. Kassim Ahmed Al-Agam, the Minister of State, Member of the Cabinet, and Chairman of the National Mine Action Committee, and was attended by H.E. B. J. Ronhaar, the Netherlands Ambassador, and Mr. James W. Rawley, the UNDP Resident Representative in Yemen.

French & German troupes sing in Sana'a

In continuation of activities to celebrating Sana'a capital of Arab culture 2004, a French art troupe and Yemeni artists gave an evening party last Saturday on the stage of the French cultural center in Sana'a, attended by a large audience.

Another art activity was performed

on Sunday evening by the visiting German musical band accompanied by singing party at an open-air stage. These activities are performed by European musical and singing troupes as part of activities on declaring Sana'a capital of Arab culture 2004.

Those troupes' performances were

very distinguished and were received with much applaud by audience despite the heavy presence of security men outside the building of the French cultural center and the strict measures taken to check identities of the invited people attending the parties.



Yemeni traditional band singing in the activity organized on Sunday by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the French Embassy in Sanaa



The German Orchestra training at Taj Sheba Hotel

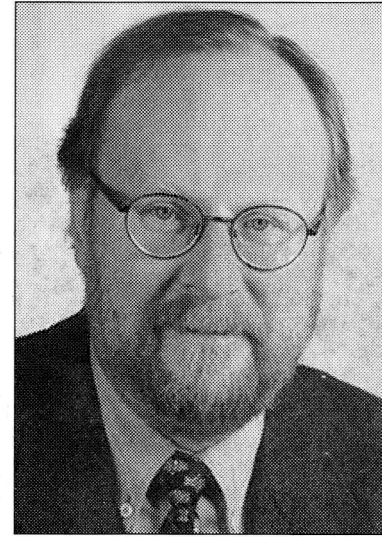
President of German Parliament calls for greater role for civil society in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In an open discussion session held last Monday by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the President of the German Parliament (Bundestag), H.E. Mr. Wolfgang Thierse, called for strengthening civil society in Yemen and the world and emphasized the important role it should play in consolidating democracy.

The session was also attended by Mr. Hans-Reimar von Mutius, the regional representative of FES, the three German Members of Parliament, Mr. Gunter Glosier, Ms. Marianne Tritz, and Mr. Hans Raidel along with dozens of representatives of civil society in Yemen and the German Ambassador to Yemen H.E. Frank Mann.

Mr. Thierse said that Germany and the West have struggled for more than four hundred years to achieve the level of democracy they enjoy today, and urged civil society members available in the discussion to push for change and participation in the democratic and developmental process in Yemen.



H.E. Mr. Wolfgang Thierse

During the discussion, Mr. Thierse emphasized that in order to achieve real democracy, civil society has an influential role to play and this cannot be achieved unless the government accepts this fact and works to promote

relations and cooperation with civil society and if civil society itself is strong and insistent in carrying out its role.

The Yemeni participants asked questions about the German experience of civil society and also reflected the Yemeni experience in this regard, including the difficulties civil society faces and the role of Yemeni women.

The discussion was lively and straightforward and provided an excellent opportunity for participants to get an insight into the personality of the prominent German politician and share ideas and thoughts.

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Thierse expressed his satisfaction at meeting with members of the Yemeni civil society and said that he hoped that he would have been able to stay longer to share more ideas and more depth with the participants.

Mr. Hans-Reimar von Mutius of FES also expressed his delight for the turnout to the discussion and promised to work closely with the Yemeni civil society towards developing Yemen's democracy and freedom.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces for an immediate job opening within its organization.

“Senior Health Advisor”

The position is located in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), American Embassy/Sana'a, under the supervision of the USAID Representative. The employee serves as the Senior Health Advisor for the USAID health portfolio in Yemen with a focus on reproductive, maternal, and child health services in targeted governorates (Marib, al-Jawf, Shabwa, Amran and Sa'ada). The employee provides leadership and technical direction for the design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the USAID health portfolio in Yemen. The employee conducts related discussions with officials from the Yemeni Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and donors. The Senior Health and Population supervises the USAID/Yemen Health Specialist.

Applicants will be evaluated on the following qualifications. The percentages noted indicate the relative weight of the qualification criteria:

Education (20%): At least a Master degree in Public Health, Nursing, Health Planning and Management, or related Social Sciences field is required. Preference will be given to candidates with a relevant MD or Ph.D. degree.

Prior Work Experience (25%): Six (6) to eight (8) years work experience in medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Health Planning and Management, or related Social Sciences field is required. Demonstrated increasing responsibility for designing, analyzing, and managing significant complex health and population development development/donor organization in the health sector is required. Up to two years of graduate work after the master Degree level in a field related to the position may be substituted for the required work experience.

Language Proficiency (20%): Incumbent must have excellent communication and writing skills to conduct clear and effective discussions and to draft clear and accurate documents. Demonstrated Level IV (fluent), strong oral and written proficiency in both English and Arabic is required.

Knowledge (15%): Thorough knowledge and understanding of the current Yemen health system, public health and population sector, constraints to delivering high-quality services and innovative ways to overcome these constraints, and the impact of health development and population growth on the sector and Yemen's development is required. Knowledge of government and non-government entities working in the health field. Understanding of complex demographic, economic, social, medical and public health data in order to identify the health sector program needs, design programs and allocate resources.

Understanding of program planning and budgeting and ability to prepare annual budgets and make funding allocations for contractors.

Abilities (20%): Demonstrated ability to plan, organize, manage and evaluate complex development projects is required. Demonstrated managerial and budgeting skills to effectively manage assigned activities. Excellent skills to deal effectively with officials at the most senior levels of the Yemen government, US Embassy and USAID Mission, as well as donors and non-governmental organizations. Ability to obtain, analyze, and evaluate a variety of data and to organize and present it in a clear manner to senior USAID and US Embassy personnel. Excellent communication and writing skills to conduct clear and effective discussions and to draft clear and accurate documents. Good analytical and presentation skills to assemble, analyze, evaluate and present health sector data. Ability to use word processing, and spreadsheet software; numerical skills to review contractors' budgets; ability to work with, and/or direct, GIS applications for planning and implementation.

Grade/Salary: FSN-12

How to apply: Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 303-155, no later than March 03, 2004.

Note: All ordinarily resident applicants must be residing in country and have the required work and residency permits to be eligible for consideration.

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Jakarta Hilton International	Jakarta / Indonesia	\$695	\$930	Category *****

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Donors briefed on civil service reform program



YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A meeting between the Yemeni government and the donor countries and agencies was held last Sunday to review Yemen's program for administrative reform and evaluate what has been achieved so far.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of the Civil Service and insurance premises. Mr. Hamoud Khaled al-Sufi, Civil Service Minister briefed the donors on the various steps of the administrative reform package which Yemen started in 1995 as a part of an overall economic and administrative reform program sponsored by the WB and IMF.

He briefed the donors' representatives in Yemen about what has been done so far, including the approval of the single employee identity card system to be implemented soon which would put an end to the dual and phantom job holders problem in the civil, military and security sectors.

He told them that the Government

was able to overcome the economic and fiscal problems that existed prior to 1995.

He also said that his Ministry was able to implement a national salary and wage strategy, operating the civil service fund to which 11,000 representing surplus labor will be referred.

"Despite all this, the Civil Service Ministry lacks competent and skilled people that would enable these measures to be implemented," he said.

He also complained that Yemen is facing a lot of problems due to its war on terror. "Yemen is carrying out both human and political responsibilities beyond its capabilities", he said, adding that this is done at the expense of development.

On his part, the Dutch ambassador, Mr. Bert Ronhaar, who co-organized the meeting highlighted the significant role of a good civil service. He said that civil service reform has to reengineer all resources and that poverty reduction and sustainable development cannot be achieved without efficient

civil service reform.

Meanwhile Mr. Robert Hundle, WB Country Manager, said that civil service reform is very hard and that the difficulty does not only come out of the political side but also the social one. "People in Yemen still think of civil service as social insurance.

The real challenge is to change this attitude," he said. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the government to do this reform, which will not succeed unless there is a political commitment for that.

The attendants were briefed also on the civil service management project which is meant to improve the performance of the public sector, create a modern public administration, improve the climate for private sector business activity and improve public services effectively and efficiently.

The minister replied to the various inquiries of the ambassadors and they all emphasized the need for holding such meetings regularly to see what is being done.

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*A touching story from reality:***Family Reunion after 50 years in Isolation**BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Some might think it is an imaginary story. But it is very real. Come with me and I will narrate to you the story of a family that was living in isolation for over 50 years. The reunion took place only last week.

Mr. Attick al-Selwi from Taiz left Yemen for Britain in 1933. He left from Aden and joined the British Navy. He married a woman there and had a bay named Ali. After three years, Attick left his family behind and moved to another

place where he married another woman. She gave birth to another male baby named Ali too. But after some years, they were divorced. The younger Ali moved with his mother to live in Liverpool and used to visit his father every summer vacation. When he reached the age of ten, the younger Ali went to see his father at the Navy. Unfortunately, he did not find him. He was told his father had left and nobody knows his whereabouts. Ali, the elder, was told by his mother that he had a brother, and the same story was told to Ali, the younger, by his mother.

The elder Ali started to look for his brother who believed that his elder brother might have left for Yemen. The elder Ali used to go and ask at the Yemeni community

about the al-Selwi family but met with no success.

When he went three years ago to renew one of his documents at the Yemeni community office, Mohammed al-Sayyad, head of the community, told him that he has got good news for him this time and that somebody from Ibb told him he knew someone in Liverpool called Ali al-Selwi.

He went there immediately and met someone from Rada'a, al-Baida governorate who guided him to the shop of the wife of Ali al-Selwi. Unfortunately, neither his brother nor his wife were there, but were attending a funeral. He found their son taking care of the flower shop. He asked him several questions and told him that he was his uncle. When the younger Ali was late, he left and gave his phone number to his nephew.

When the elder Ali, who is now retired, was about to go to bed the same day, the phone ran and it was the voice of his brother which he had not heard for over 50 years. They started to weep when they narrated this episode. They met the other day and made sure of their family connection through the information they have about their father, including his photos, and thought they should start tracing their roots in Yemen.

Tracing roots in Yemen

The elder Ali (55 years old) is now an oil engineering expert, a quality insurance inspector as well as a member of Cambridge Welding institute. He took the initiative to assist the people of Muslim community, mainly



The Minister of Expatriates Affairs, Abdu Ali Kubati, in a meeting with the three brothers and journalists, paid thanks to those people who made the reunion possible.

Yemenis. Once he had a student from Yemen called Walid. While chatting and talking about Yemen and their families, he told him he knew somebody called Fuad al-Selwi. The younger Ali met Fuad and gave all the details of his father. Fuad came to Yemen before last Ramadhan; he started looking for the Attick al-Selwi family in Taiz. He found that there is another son of Attick called Aref. Aref (40 years old) had been searching for his brothers since 1988. As his father died when he was still one and a half years old, his mother told him that he had two brothers in Britain and that she thought one was called Ali. Aref looked into his father's docu-

ments and tried to send letters to the addresses in Britain that were with his father. But no way. He also sought the help of the British embassy in 1994 but they asked him for information that he did not have. He did not stop and tried with the help of his friend Mohammed Bajash Ismail, who was also missing some of his relatives in Britain. When Ismail knew that Fuad was looking for the family of Attick, he informed Aref and went with him to meet Fuad, who realized after scrutinizing the documents he was given that this was what the guys in Britain are looking for. He called the younger Ali in London and told him that he found his brother in

Yemen. When he was back in Britain, he spoke to the two Alis about their brother in Yemen. They phoned Aref and his mother and asked for characteristic features of Attick. They then made sure they found their family in Yemen. They arrived in Yemen this week. "I was lifted when I arrived at Sana'a airport and met my brother. You do not know what this means to us. We have suffered a lot before this reunion has taken place," the younger Ali said with happiness and joy. He said he is very happy to be in his homeland with his brothers, adding that he would be very happy to extend some of his experience in oil engineering to Yemen.



Aref appealed to the Yemeni authorities to enable his two brothers get Yemeni citizenship as well as facilitate his travel to Britain to visit the families of his brothers there.

Continued from page 1:

Week 2 for sit-in

According to one refugee, Assefa Tamer, Ethiopian officers and sailors handed over several warships to the Yemeni government after they fled their country.

This means the Ethiopians feel they can't go back to Ethiopia, for fear of repercussions from the Ethiopian government.

Tamer also said that it is unfair that over 600 Ethiopians living as refugees in Yemen for over a decade, have not been given any solution to their plight as refugees.

The refugees want to be granted citizenship in Yemen so that they are allowed to integrate fully into Yemeni society.

Full integration would offer them benefits such as legal identification, travel outside the country, and, potentially better access to jobs.

Some of the protesters say, if they can't have Yemeni status, they'd like assistance to resettle outside of Yemen, particularly in developed countries such as the United States, Canada or European countries.

Others say the bigger issues is not just wanting to get to the rich west, but it's more to get better treatment while in Yemen.

And their sit-in shows they're looking more than ever to the UNHCR.

"UNHCR didn't give us any solution for our problems in the last 13 years," said Tamer.

But the UNHCR has rejected the claims that they have not fulfilled their duties to help the Ethiopians, because, according to international conventions, the UNHCR role is simply to assist and monitor the host country.

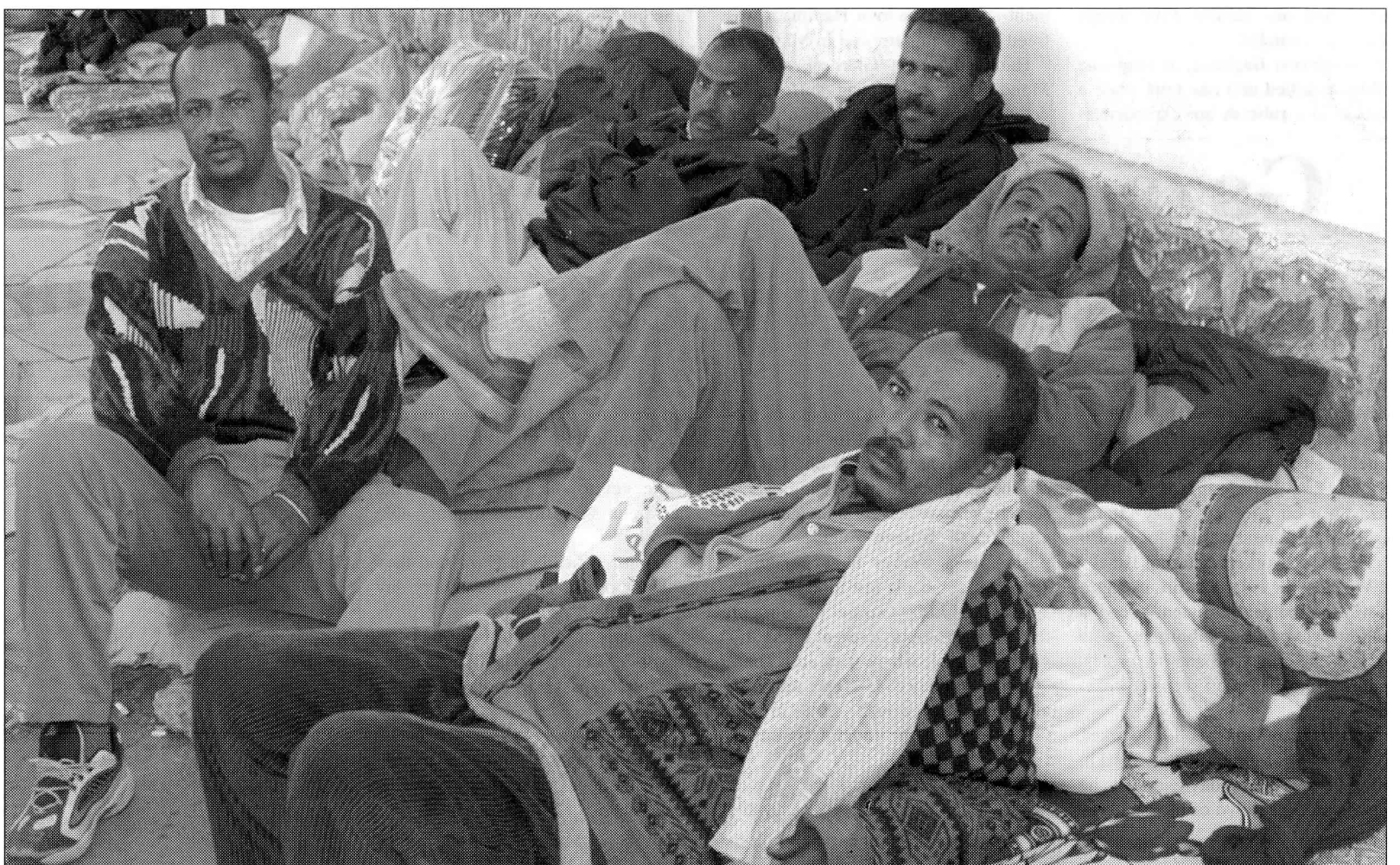
"It's the responsibility of Yemen's government, not ours," said Saad Al-Attar representative for the UNHCR.

And he said that Yemen's government may simply not be able to provide for its refugees very well.

"Yemen, as a country with limited financial means and infrastructural means, has done its best. It is also clear that there are other obligations which Yemen stopped meeting, since it's a Third World country," he said.

The UNHCR also notes that resettling refugees in developed countries is difficult and takes time, especially refugees who were once affiliated with political or military movements.

Officials at the UNHCR have promised to deliver a complete legal response to the complaints of the protesters.



Some of the approximately 200 Ethiopians who are camped out in front of the UNHCR in Sana'a. The group is entering its second week of protest. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

IWA art exhibition held at the Taj

The International Women's Association (IWA) in Sana'a organized a highly successful charity art show featuring noted Yemeni artists at the Taj Sheba Hotel on Feb. 12.

The show, which was co-sponsored by The Taj Sheba Hotel and United Engineering and Automobile Co Ltd (General Distributor of Daimler Chrysler AG), was a day-long affair and inaugurated by the general managers of the sponsoring firms.

The charity art show had around 270 visitors including ambassadors, intellectuals, officials, diplomats, and other prominent personalities, and nearly all the paintings were sold.

The income from selling the paintings would be used for charity purposes.



US soldier dies, five held in Iraq council killing

BAGHDAD, Feb 17 (Reuters) - A roadside bomb killed a U.S. soldier in northern Iraq, the U.S. military said on Tuesday, the third such killing in less than 24 hours.

Iraq's Interior Ministry said late on Monday that police had last week arrested five suspects in the assassination of Akila al-Hashemi, a member of the U.S.-backed Iraqi Governing Council.

"They were paid money from a Baathist. They carried out the assassination," an Interior Ministry official said, referring to Saddam Hussein's Baath party.

Gunmen fired on a car carrying Hashemi, a career diplomat from a prominent Shi'ite family, near her home in a Baghdad suburb on September 20. She died five days later.

The U.S. soldier who died on Monday evening near the city of Tall Afar, 400 km (250 miles) northwest of Baghdad, was the third killed in separate roadside explosions across Iraq throughout the day.

The bomb exploded as the soldier's convoy passed by. He died while being airlifted to a nearby hospital, the military said. Another soldier was wounded.

The death brought to around 376 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion last March which deposed Saddam.

Two earlier attacks on U.S. convoys, one in Baghdad and the other in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) to the north, each killed one soldier. Five troops were also wounded.

In northwest Baghdad, at least one child was killed and one hurt when a grenade in a rubbish bin exploded as

they played near Al Jiwadain school, Iraqi police said. A U.S. military spokesman said two people were killed and three wounded.

HANDOVER DEBATE

In Baghdad on Tuesday, Iraq's U.S.-installed Governing Council was to continue its debate on the issue of how to hand over power from U.S. occupation forces to Iraqis.

With a presidential election looming in November and the U.S. death toll climbing, U.S. President George W. Bush is holding fast to his June 30 deadline for returning sovereignty to Iraqis.

The possibility of elections before the handover, which have been demanded by Iraq's majority Shi'ites, has all but been ruled out. The U.S. has said there is not enough time to organise polls before that date.

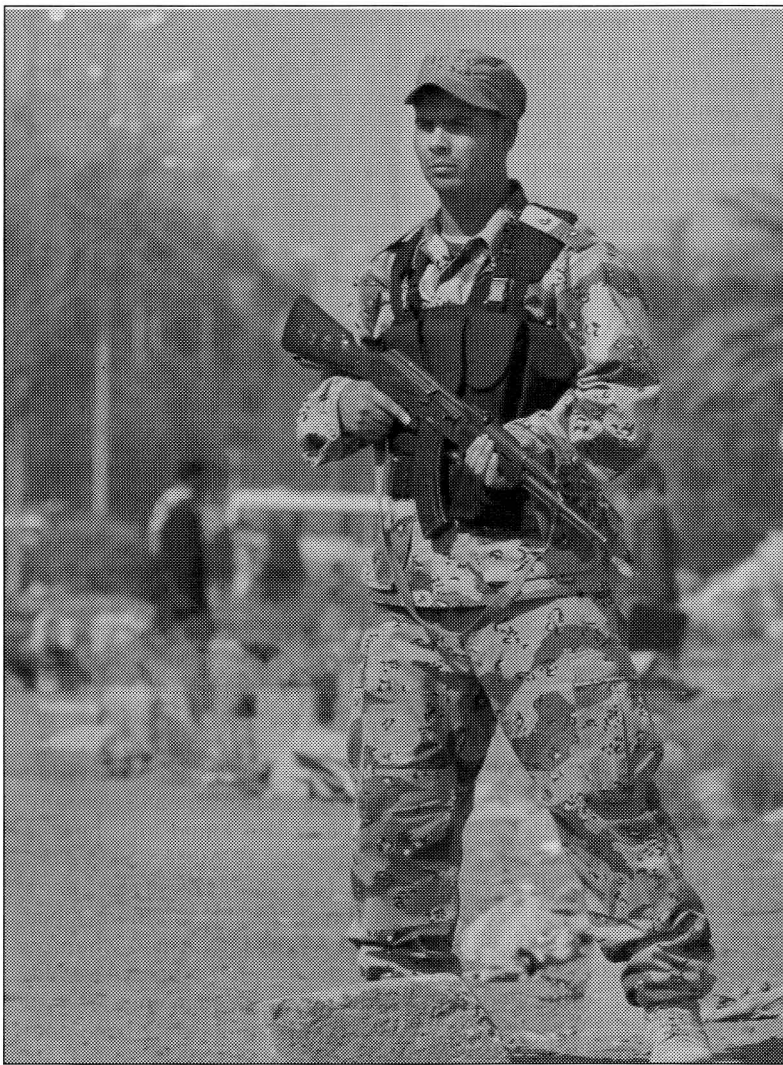
"We want an agreement on how we will create the leadership that will be handed sovereignty," Council member Mahmoud Othman said. Members said the options centre on expanding the council or holding a national conference to include all the Iraqi political powers.

They hope they will have a proposal by the end of the month.

The United Nations, which sent a mission to Iraq last week, is trying to resolve a dispute between the Shi'ites and Washington. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will announce his position later this week.

At the weekend, former Iraqi parliament speaker Saadoun Hammadi was freed after being arrested in May.

Hammadi's son, Ghassan, said on Monday his father had suffered in detention, but had apparently not been



Iraqi soldier guards a street as US troops and Iraqi members of ICDC (Iraqi Civil Defence Corps) patrol the streets of Baghdad February 17, 2004. A roadside bomb killed a U.S. soldier in northern Iraq, the U.S. military said Tuesday, the third such killing in less than 24 hours. REUTERS

mistreated or faced any sort of formal charge.

Hammadi, who worked under

Saddam for nearly four decades, was not on the U.S. "most wanted" list of 55 former Baath officials.

Arab league head says U.S. initiative misses point

CAIRO, Feb 17 (Reuters) - Arab League chief Amr Moussa, responding to the U.S. campaign for democracy in the Middle East, said on Tuesday the priority should be an even-handed U.S. policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"If there is a need for democracy and development, there is also a need to deal with the greater danger related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the blank cheque given to Israel to do what it likes with the Palestinians," he said.

"The Arab world wants to see some honesty in dealing with the Palestinian issue so that it can believe that any initiatives proposed do not spring from blind bias towards Israel," Moussa told reporters.

The administration of U.S. President George W. Bush has made democracy in the Arab world the centrepiece of its Middle East policy, while withdrawing from Washington's traditional role as mediator between Israelis and Palestinians.

Arab diplomats say they believe the U.S. campaign is largely an attempt by Bush to justify the invasion of Iraq last year, now that U.S. forces have failed to find the weapons of mass destruction on which the invasion was originally based.

Moussa, an outspoken critic of

U.S. policy, said Arabs did not reject calls for democracy and human rights.

"How can we talk about an initiative for the greater, smaller or medium-sized Middle East without dealing frankly with the Israeli occupation of Arab land in Palestine and Syria?" the secretary-general added.

The United States has prepared a working paper on its Greater Middle East Initiative for presentation to a Group of Eight summit in the U.S. state of Georgia in June.

According to a draft of the paper, published by the London-based Arabic newspaper al-Hayat last week, the initiative says nothing about the Arab-Israeli conflict or the occupation of Iraq by U.S. and other foreign forces.

The paper proposes that the rich industrialised countries support change in the Middle East by financing projects to promote free elections, independent media, civil society organisations, and modern education systems.

The paper bases its analysis of conditions in the region on two controversial U.N. Arab Human Development Reports, which share with the Bush administration the view that the Arab world's problems are mainly internal.

Gaza workers protest Israeli security measures

GAZA, Feb 17 (Reuters) - Thousands of Palestinian labourers held a sit-in protest at the main border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, a day after a man died in a queue waiting for security checks for workers entering Israel.

"We have the right to work in dignity without being humiliated," read a banner waved by labourers who blocked the Erez Crossing to protest against stringent Israeli security procedures.

A Palestinian construction worker, 41-year-old Mohammad al-Sheikh, collapsed and died a day earlier as he waited among a crowd of thousands of

Palestinians in the early hours of the morning to enter Israel for work.

The Israeli army said al-Sheikh died of a heart attack at the crossing, where security measures were tightened after a Palestinian woman suicide bomber posing as a worker blew herself up, killing three people last month.

Around 17,000 Gazans file through the Erez Crossing every morning for work in Israel, where they earn about 200 shekels a day (\$45), three times the amount they would earn in the Gaza Strip where unemployment is rife.

"(We) wait here until the soldiers begin receiving workers at 2 a.m. and

then we come out after inspection at 8 a.m.," said one worker, Ahmed Abu Maher.

"We get to the other side of the checkpoint very tired and hardly able to work."

Hospital officials in Gaza said they treated about seven workers every day for breathing problems and bruises suffered while standing in pressing crowds in a narrow passage for hours waiting to pass through the checkpoint.

The Israeli army says security measures are needed at the border to prevent suicide bombers from crossing into the Jewish state.



An Israeli soldier (L) punches a Palestinian youth trying to pass from the West Bank to Jerusalem near the Kubah checkpoint February 17, 2004. The Palestinian was detained for a few hours after the incident and then released. REUTERS

Banned Iranian lawmakers challenge supreme leader



An Iranian street musician plays music as he walks past campaign posters pasted on a wall in Tehran February 17, 2004. President Mohammad Khatami urged Iranians to use their votes in parliamentary elections this week to prevent hard-liners from seizing control of the assembly through a low turnout. REUTERS

TEHRAN, Feb 17 (Reuters) - Reformist lawmakers banned from contesting this week's Iranian parliamentary election challenged Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Tuesday to say whether he was behind their exclusion by a panel of hardline clerics.

"Do the members of the Guardian Council dare to resist your orders? Or is it that, as rumours say, despite your public statements, they were permitted by you to disqualify these people illegally and widely?" the deputies asked in an unusually blunt six-page open letter to Khamenei.

Some 80 sitting lawmakers were barred from seeking re-election on vague Islamic grounds. About 30 of

them held a protest meeting in the parliament building three days before Friday's vote, and distributed the letter to journalists.

In it, they told Khamenei that the Guardian Council had been plotting to disqualify them for two years, using "intelligence activities by unofficial parallel organisations". They also disputed his suggestion that Iran's enemies had infiltrated the reformists' ranks.

"You repeatedly have talked about infiltrators, but there still has not been any evidence of that. What kind of infiltrators are they that our huge intelligence and security organisations cannot detect them?" they wrote.

"We are very worried about a future

in which our system will come to regret losing the people's support and then be forced to surrender to the foreigners' hidden and open attacks."

Iranian officials routinely refer to the United States and Israel as enemies plotting against the Islamic republic.

Behzad Nabavi, outgoing deputy speaker of parliament, told Reuters: "We wanted to inform the Iranian nation and the world and for these facts to be registered in history."

The blacklisted lawmakers staged a three-week sit-in in an unsuccessful bid to win reinstatement. Their protest met with widespread public apathy because of disenchantment with their inability to enact more far-reaching reforms.

India, Pakistan agree broadly on talks framework

ISLAMABAD, Feb 17 (Reuters) - Nuclear rivals India and Pakistan reached a "broad understanding" on a framework for peace talks on Tuesday, 18 months after they almost went to war.

The agreement came after middle-ranking foreign ministry officials held the first formal talks between the old foes for more than two and a half years, with the dispute over the Himalayan region of Kashmir and nuclear security the top issues.

"A broad understanding was reached on the modalities and timeframe for commencing the composite dialogue," Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The negotiators met for two days in Islamabad and will submit their recommendations to their foreign secretaries, who will meet in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The agreement is expected to revive a "composite dialogue" over eight areas of dispute, a process that ran aground in 1998 and collapsed at a summit in the Indian city of Agra in mid-2001.

State-owned Pakistan Television said the teams had also considered proposals to add two new items to the agenda, without giving details.

"Broadly, we'll carry forward what was agreed in 1998," an Indian official in Islamabad told Reuters.

Under the formula agreed then, foreign secretaries would discuss the Kashmir dispute and "peace and security" — code for a range of confidence-building measures meant to reduce the risk of nuclear and conventional war.

Other officials would tackle a range of issues, including trade and economic

links, people-to-people contacts and disputes over water sharing, maritime boundaries and the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield.

EU External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten, who is due in Islamabad on Wednesday, told Reuters in Kabul he was delighted the talks had started, but added:

"I think if we're sensible, we won't get too excited and won't start expecting early or substantial breakthroughs. I think this is going to be a long process, the negotiators are dealing with some terribly difficult issues."

Pakistan has also pushed for higher level involvement in talks on Kashmir, to maintain the momentum generated by a landmark meeting between Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee last month.

As the two delegations talked, suspected Muslim rebels shot dead a ruling party activist in Indian Kashmir, the second they have killed in two days, underlining the risks to the peace process from hardliners on all sides.

"LET'S NOT DELAY"

Pakistan would like to move as fast as possible, especially on Kashmir. In the past it has accused India of dragging its feet and using talks as a way to sideline the issue. India is likely to move cautiously, at least until elections expected in April.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri said the talks should produce a breakthrough before Musharraf stops being army chief by the end of 2004.



Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Riaz Khokhar (L) and Indian Joint Secretary of External Affairs Arun Singh laugh during a meeting at Foreign Ministry in Islamabad on Feb. 17. Nuclear-rivals India and Pakistan entered a second day of talks on Tuesday to hammer out an agenda for what is likely to be a long-drawn-out peace process, with Kashmir and nuclear security top issues. REUTERS

"Common sense suggests that these (talks) should not be delayed, particularly in view of our experience from the past when dialogue began and was disrupted because of some reason or the other," he told the Indian newspaper, The Asian Age.

The two sides agreed at a 1999 sum-

mit in Lahore, Pakistan, to inform each other about pending missile tests, but there is still much work to be done on improving communications and understanding each other's command and control systems.

Pakistan would also like agreement on maintaining a minimum nuclear

capability for deterrence, whereas India says it has other security concerns, including China.

Diplomats and commentators see signs that both sides genuinely want to make a fresh bid for peace and to avoid the pitfalls that have undermined previous peace efforts.

Pakistan arrests Pearl murder suspect, colleague

KARACHI, Feb 17 (Reuters) - Pakistani police have arrested two Islamic militants, including one suspected of involvement in the kidnap and killing of U.S. reporter Daniel Pearl, an officer said on Tuesday.

The two men, Sajid Jabbar and Mohammad Athar, were arrested in an overnight raid in the port city of Karachi and belong to the outlawed Lashkar-e-Jhangvi group. Fayyaz Leghari, chief of the investigation branch of Karachi police, told Reuters.

Another senior officer, who did not want to be identified, said Jabbar was suspected of involvement in the kidnapping and murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Pearl in 2002 as well as several other militant attacks.

"He carries a reward of 500,000 rupees (\$8,700) on his head," the officer said.

He said Jabbar was a close associate of Asif Ramzi, another suspect in the murder of Pearl, who blew himself up while making bombs in Karachi in December 2002.

Leghari said Jabbar and Athar were suspected of planning fresh attacks in Karachi. "We have seized a huge amount of weapons and explosives from their possession," he said.

Athar was the chief of the Sindh provincial wing of the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and wanted for at least 10 separate terror attacks, including sending parcel bombs to senior police officers.

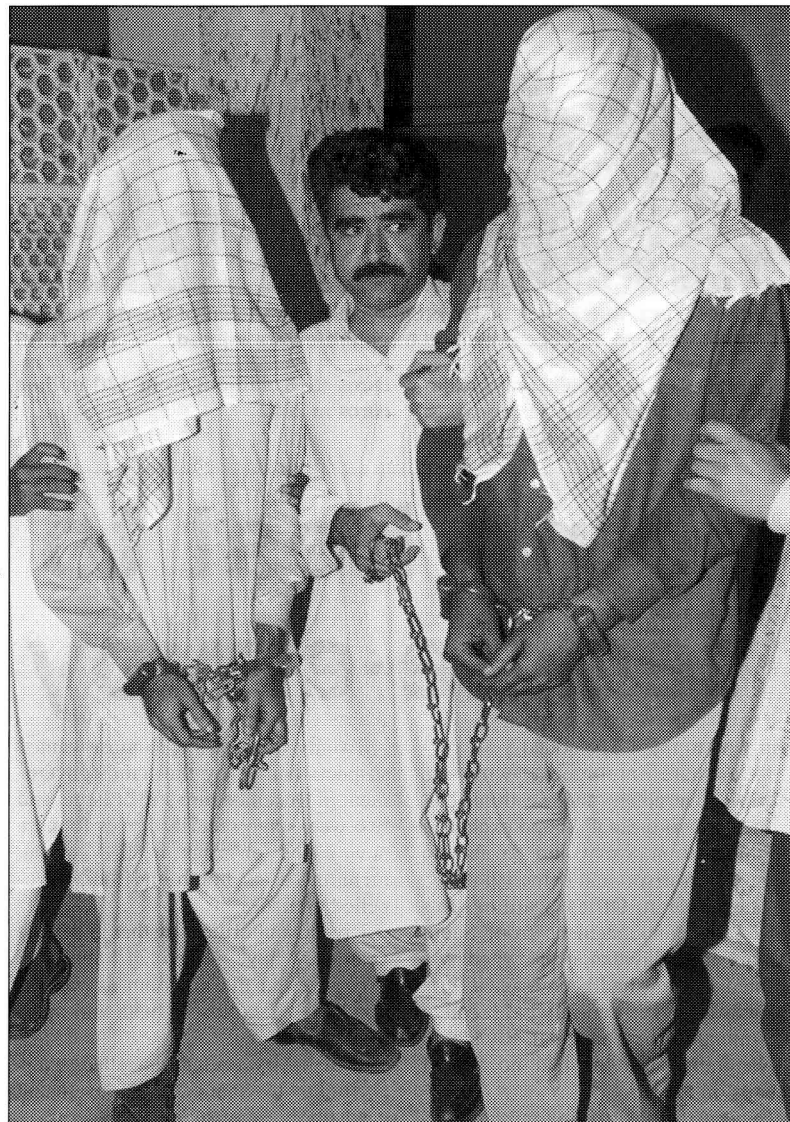
"Their arrest is a big success for the police and a blow to the terrorists," Leghari said.

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which has ties with the Taliban regime which formerly ruled Afghanistan and the al Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden, is also blamed for a May 2002 suicide bombing in Karachi in which 11 French technicians and three Pakistanis were killed.

Pearl was kidnapped and murdered in Karachi in early 2002 while researching a story on Islamic militants against a backdrop of the September 11 attacks on the United States.

A British-born militant, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, better known as Sheikh Omar, was sentenced to death in July

2002 for masterminding his murder. Omar has denied the charge and lodged an appeal.



Pakistani police escort suspected Islamic militants (heads covered) in Karachi Feb. 17. Police arrested two key Islamic militants belonging to the outlawed Lashkar-e-Jhangvi group who are suspected of planning a series of terrorist attacks in Pakistan's restive port city of Karachi, officials said on Tuesday. REUTERS

Mozambique's Chissano accepts PM's resignation

MAPUTO, Feb 17 (Reuters) - Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano on Tuesday accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi, who announced last month he would step down ahead of elections later this year.

Analysts said it had been clear Pascoal Mocumbi would leave the government after he was overlooked last year by the ruling Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo) when it picked businessman Armando Guebuza as its presidential candidate.

Mocumbi, a 63-year-old doctor, has held the largely ceremonial prime minister's post in the southern African country for 10 years.

His successor is expected to be appointed on an interim basis ahead of the elections, when either Guebuza or

his key opponent — Afonso Dhlakama of the main opposition Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) — will appoint a government.

A date for the parliamentary and presidential polls has not been set but is widely expected in the second half of the year.

Chissano will this year step down after 18 years in office and a wide circle of some of his closest aides are expected to depart at the same time, senior government officials said.

He has ruled the impoverished country of 18 million people since the 1986 assassination of founding president Samora Machel at the height of a ruinous 16-year civil war that pitted Renamo against the Frelimo-led government.

Burundi rebels dismiss sanctions threat

BUJUMBURA, Feb 17 (Reuters) - The last group of rebels still refusing to join efforts to end Burundi's decade-old civil war dismissed as meaningless on Tuesday a threat by regional leaders to impose sanctions against them.

The Forces for National Liberation (FNL), an extremist Hutu rebel movement fighting the Tutsi-dominated government and army, were given a three-month ultimatum in November to enter peace negotiations.

Top officials from Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and South Africa gave the ultimatum at a ceasefire signing in Tanzania between the government and the main Hutu rebel group, the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD).

The deadline expired on Monday, but an FNL spokesman dismissed the threat.

"For us, sanctions are meaningless. The FNL is fighting inside Burundi not outside and it does not have support from any regional country," Pasteur Habimana said.

"We don't have (bank) accounts in Africa or in European countries, so I do not see any effect of sanctions," Habimana told Reuters in Bujumbura.

Burundi's government said it was up to other countries to decide what kind of sanctions could be imposed on the FNL.

"Regional heads of state have to ascertain that the FNL did not respect the ultimatum and take appropriate decisions," Foreign Affairs Minister Thérèse Sinunguruzza told a news conference late on Monday.

Sinunguruzza said the government remained open to talks with the rebels and that another regional summit should be held to analyse the FNL situation.

"In the meantime, the government will continue to protect its population against FNL attacks," he added.

The FNL ended its negotiations with the country's President Domitien Ndayizeye last week, accusing him of breaking a promise to end hostilities.

The two sides last month held their first talks in more than a decade, but negotiations closed with the Hutu rebels refusing to join a power-sharing government, though both sides had agreed to meet again.

Hopes for peace were lifted in November when the FDD joined a three-year transitional government set up under a 2000 peace accord aimed at ending a war which has killed an estimated 300,000 people.

But clashes have continued in the FNL's stronghold close to the capital.

Kashmiri rebels kill second ruling party official

SRINAGAR, India, Feb 17 (Reuters) - Suspected Muslim rebels shot dead a second activist from Indian Kashmir's ruling party, police said on Tuesday, as Indian and Pakistani officials met to thrash out an agenda for a peace process.

The People's Democratic Party official, Ali Mohammad Bhat, was killed in an attack by three gunmen at his home just west of Srinagar late on Monday, hours after another PDP activist and two policemen were killed in the city itself.

About 3,000 people protested on a highway on the outskirts of Srinagar on Tuesday after they found the bullet-riddled body of a local 35-year-old carpenter, whose death they blamed on pro-government militants.

"Allahu Akbar!" We want freedom!" they shouted as they carried the body of Abdul Rashid for burial.

On Tuesday, Indian and Pakistan officials sat down in Islamabad for the second of three days of meetings — the first formal talks between the rivals in more than two years.

Guerrillas and some political separatists oppose the dialogue and rebel violence continues unabated in Indian Kashmir despite the new rapprochement between India and Pakistan and a ceasefire along the military line dividing their forces in Kashmir.

No militant group has yet claimed responsibility for Monday's assassinations.

Almost a dozen Muslim rebel groups are fighting New Delhi's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, its only Muslim-majority state, and at least two pro-government militant organisations which include some former separatists are helping the army.



Kashmiri Muslim girls cry over the detention of their relative after an explosion in Srinagar, Feb. 17. REUTERS

Kerry says Bush has forgotten real 9/11 heroes

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 17 (Reuters) - Democratic White House front-runner John Kerry on Tuesday accused President George W. Bush of showing up "when the bagpipes are wailing" and then forgetting America's real heroes — firefighters, police and other emergency personnel.

With voters going to the polls in Wisconsin's pivotal primary, the senator from Massachusetts ignored his Democratic rivals and looked ahead to a potential matchup with Bush in November, slamming the president's "creed of greed" and "extreme radical administration."

Kerry, and U.S. Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri, former competitors for their party's presidential nomination, headlined a rally with union members who have flocked to Kerry's campaign since his winning streak began in Iowa last month.

With 14 victories in the first 16 contests, Kerry is in firm command of the Democratic race to challenge Bush. Opinion polls have also showed him the prohibitive favorite in Wisconsin where he is leading nearest rival Howard Dean by double digit margins.

Deriding Bush as "the worst president for jobs in this country since Herbert Hoover and the Great Depression," Kerry said the consequence was written in more than just the 75,000-plus jobs lost in Wisconsin over the past three years.

"It is written ... in the countless number of victims seeing their pensions blown away because of the Enrons and

WorldComs and an entire creed of greed that has been licensed by the Bush administration," he said.

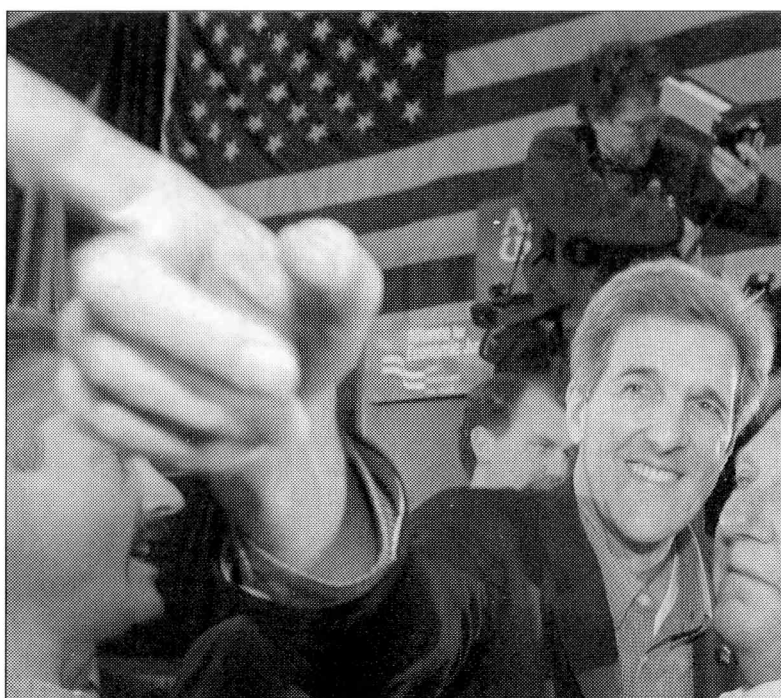
With several hundred union members chanting "Send Bush to Mars," Kerry said the president had failed to live up to his commitment to firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel and other union members who sacrificed in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

"I'm tired of these politicians who show up when the bagpipes are wailing and the flags are at half-staff and they talk about heroes in America," Kerry said. "And then when they go back to Washington, the flags are at full-staff again and the bagpipes have stopped playing, they forget."

Kerry and Gephardt appeared with leaders of the Alliance for Economic Justice, a coalition of 19 unions representing 5 million workers. On Thursday, Kerry will receive the backing of the AFL-CIO, an umbrella labor organization of 64 unions with 13 million members.

Gephardt, who built his campaign on strong labor support nationwide, had the backing of 20 unions before he pulled out after a disappointing fourth place finish in the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 19. Most of them have now thrown their support behind Kerry.

"My name is Dick Gephardt and I am here because we've got to beat George Bush," the Missouri lawmaker declared. "I said throughout my campaign that this was not about me or any



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry (D-Ma) points into the crowd after a campaign rally with labor leaders in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Feb. 17. Wisconsin holds its primary election February 17. REUTERS

other candidate, it's about our future, it's about our jobs, it's about our education and it's time we put someone in the White House who cares about what happens to the working people of this country."

Dean, the former Vermont governor who once led the Democratic race in money and momentum but has tumbled out of contention, recently lost the sup-

port of the 1.4-million member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME, who switched to Kerry.

With the future of his campaign hanging on the results in Wisconsin, Dean is still benefiting from the organizational muscle of the Service Employees International Union's 1.6 million members.

Dominican Rep. says region must help Haiti

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, Feb. 17 (Reuters) - The international community should step in urgently to help Haiti deal with a violent anti-government uprising, neighboring Dominican Republic said on Tuesday.

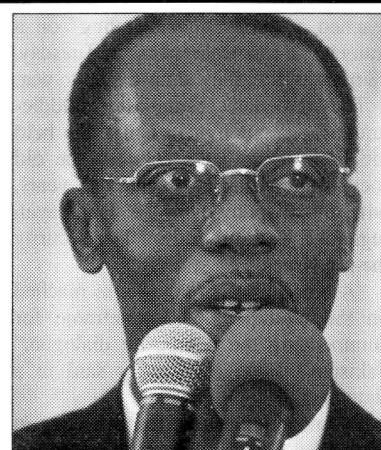
Haiti, facing a 12-day-old revolt against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, which fears unrest might spill across the border.

"It's time for the international community, the multinational lending agencies and friendly governments to act with a greater sense of urgency toward the deepening of a crisis that could end up being very harmful for the region," Foreign Minister Francisco Guerrero Prats said.

The Dominican Republic sought a peaceful solution to the crisis and was in touch with regional groups including the Caribbean trade group Caricom and the Organization of American States, he added.

Foreign aid to Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, has been scant in recent years because of a long-running dispute between Aristide and his political opponents. The crisis took a sharp turn for the worse when an armed gang took over the western Haitian city of Gonaives on Feb. 5 in a revolt that has spread to several other towns.

The Dominican Republic, which in recent years has enjoyed relative eco-



Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide addresses a press conference in Port-au-Prince, Haiti Feb. 16. REUTERS

nomic and political stability compared with its impoverished neighbor, has reinforced the soldiers guarding its 240-mile (380-km) border. President Hipolito Mejia said at the weekend that any conspirators in the revolt trying to get in or out of the Dominican Republic would be arrested.

But some Haitians who have joined the rebels in Gonaives, including a former leader of a paramilitary group and a former senior police official, have slipped over the border from the Dominican Republic.

Two Dominican soldiers at the frontier were killed on Saturday in an attack apparently carried out by Haitians, who fled with the soldiers' weapons.

Spanish police and strikers clash, 15 injured

MADRID, Feb. 17 (Reuters) - Spanish police and strikers from state-owned shipbuilder Izar clashed in the southern city of Seville on Tuesday, leaving 12 policemen and three protesters injured, the government's Seville office said.

Hundreds of masked workers striking for a pay rise barricaded themselves in an Izar plant and hurled rocks and home-made rockets at police in riot gear outside who eventually stormed the plant, television footage showed.

Another group of Izar workers set fire to a van to block a road near Seville, while other strikers from the firm blocked a main road and a bridge close to Cadiz, another southern city, officials in both cities said.

In the northwestern city of La Coruna, thousands of Izar workers marched through the streets in a peaceful protest.

The increasingly violent dispute has been going on for more than a month and stems from a breakdown in negotiations over a new collective work contract for Izar employees.

Last week, police fired rubber bullets and teargas to disperse thousands of striking shipbuilding workers near Cadiz who had hurled stones and blocked a bridge with burning tyres.

Izar says the workers want a 6.8 per cent pay rise which the firm is not in a



Workers of state-owned shipbuilder IZAR stand beside a burning barricade during protest riots with police in the southern Spanish town of Puertoreal Feb. 17. Hundreds of masked and helmeted workers, striking for a pay rise, clashed with police leaving 12 policemen and three protesters injured. REUTERS

position to grant.

A spokesman for Izar said on Tuesday a meeting was taking place

between firm and union representatives to try and break the deadlock.

Izar, which builds both civil and mil-

itary vessels, is Spain's only major shipbuilder. It delivered 11 ships last year, reducing its losses to 30 million

euros (\$38 million) from 120 million euros in 2002.

Ex-cop on anti-Semitism watch in France

BRUSSELS, Feb. 17 (Reuters) - Turkish could become an official language of the European Union this year if Cyprus chooses to make it one, translation experts at the European Commission said on Tuesday.

If reunification efforts succeed, the island long divided between Greek and Turkish Cypriots will unify before the entry of Cyprus into the EU on May 1.

Should Cyprus decide both Greek and Turkish are its official languages "we will have to provide interpretation and translation from the start", Marco Benedetti, director general for interpretation, told a news briefing.

"I mean, Turkish will be an official

and working language of the European Union."

Under the Cypriot constitution, Turkish is already an official language in Cyprus. Around 200,000 Turkish speakers live in northern Cyprus, with Greek Cypriots making up about 80 percent of the island's population. More than 70 million people live in Turkey.

Ankara, which is formally a candidate for EU membership, is seeking to start accession talks with the bloc in coming years. EU leaders will decide in December whether to give Turkey a date for starting such negotiations.

Turkish would join up to 20 other different languages in the expanded EU.

Saudis doing best to protect people-envoy

LONDON, Feb. 17 (Reuters) - A senior Saudi Arabian diplomat said on Tuesday the kingdom was doing its best to protect people from terror attacks but called for more international co-operation to stamp out the threat.

"It is the responsibility of the whole world to fight," said Abdullah al-Shaghrood after Britain warned that "terrorists" could be in the final stages of planning an attack in Saudi Arabia.

"The government of Saudi Arabia will do its best to protect all people living in Saudi Arabia no matter if they are foreigners or Saudis. It is our duty to do so," the Saudi charge d'affaires in London told Reuters.

But he said: "Terrorism is an international problem we have to deal with." The British government's warning was "a decision they (Britain) took and it is

really up to them", he added.

"We share intelligence with the British government and we think that with more co-ordination and exchange of information, we would be able to fight it (terrorism) and demolish it."

The Foreign Office warning followed an announcement from Saudi Arabia on Friday that a car owned by a wanted militant had been packed with explosives to be used in what it called a criminal act in the capital, Riyadh.

Shaghrood said he had no further details on the car.

Saudi Arabia is battling militant violence blamed on supporters of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. Suicide bombings against residential compounds in the Saudi capital Riyadh last May and November killed more than 50 people.

Twenty-three of the 26 most wanted suspects named by the Saudi government in December are still at large, and two weeks ago security forces found a new cache of arms in the capital, including a car bomb and rocket-propelled grenades.

Riyadh authorities say that in the last year they have seized 24 tonnes of explosives in the kingdom as well as hundreds of explosive belts and automatic rifles.

British Airways has cancelled several flights to Saudi Arabia in recent weeks because of security concerns.

The British Foreign Office updated its travel warnings on Saudi Arabia on Monday, saying it believed "that terrorists remain determined to carry out further attacks". It said they "may be in the final stages of preparation".

EU wants to protect ports from terror attacks

BRUSSELS, Feb. 17 (Reuters) - The European Union needs new measures to make sure its ports are protected from attacks by guerrilla groups, the European Commission said on Tuesday as it proposed tighter new security rules.

European authorities have focused great attention on airport and aviation security since Islamist militants commandeered commercial airliners in suicide attacks on the United States in 2001. Screening has been stepped up and some flights cancelled.

But the Commission said sea ports were vulnerable parts of the economic supply chain.

"Ports must be protected as much as possible against unlawful, illegal acts, including terrorist attacks," European Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio said in a statement.

She proposed EU-wide rules under which ports would have to carry out a security assessment to decide what safety measures were needed, draw up a plan to boost security and nominate an officer to be in overall charge of such issues.

"They (ports) must not be easy targets because too much is at stake: passengers, vessels, national and international trade and essential installations," she added.

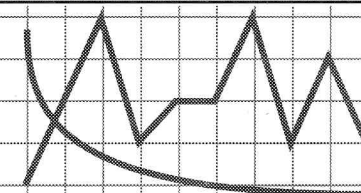
Security analysts say the maritime sector, specifically the container transport sector, remain wide-open to attack, with a dearth of co-ordination between various security bodies.

Around 90 percent of all cargo moves in containers and some 250 million are shipped annually, a vital lubricant for the global economy.

"Terrorists could, for example, use containers to transport dangerous materials, weapons, or use the containers themselves as weapons of mass destruction," a recent report by the Rand Europe think-tank said.

The EU's top three ports, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg, handle around 500 million tonnes of goods a year, according to EU Commission data.

YT Business



More ATMs are part of retail banking trend

Yemen's banks are changing with the times

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It's a time of economic blues. Yemen's economic growth is down, poverty and unemployment is up, and the government is stalling to implement vital steps in economic reform.

Yemeni banks are also facing hurdles. Lending money has always been risky because the country's legal system, notorious for not being able to solve business disputes, has done little to support banks trying to collect bad loans.

At the end of 2003, the loan-to-deposit ratio for Yemen's banking sector amounted to 29 per cent, very low for international standards. Until recently, Yemeni banks have been dependent mostly on letters of credit, letters of guarantee and buying Yemeni T-bills while aiming to make money.

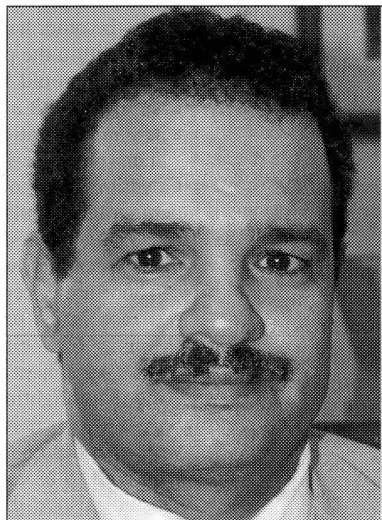
Yemen's banks also face two foreign heavyweights that are two of the biggest players in the local financial market. At the end of last year, Arab Bank, based in Amman, Jordan, led commercial banks in terms of deposits (\$525 million of \$2.6 billion for the whole sector), followed by the French giant Credit Agricole Indosuez (\$349 million). These banks with international brand names and the safety they imply have been attracting Yemeni customers.

Another challenge may be to get more of the Yemeni population to use banks. It is estimated that only about 250,000 out of 18 million Yemenis have bank accounts.

According to Ali Abdul Rahman Al-Bahr, former Minister of Oil and the Chairman of Housing Credit Bank in Yemen, the reason many people in Yemen avoid banks is lack of trust and education of financial institutions. But he believes that this will change.

"When banks offer more products and services and their branches reach the people, they will learn to rely on banks," said Al-Bahr. "When they see and use what's available, they will take advantage of it. That's the best way to educate the public about banks."

But some of the leading Yemeni banks are doing just that, and have recently decided to use a new strategy. They are building on retail banking to



Ahmed Al-Absi, General Manager of International Bank of Yemen



Mohamed Al-Zubieri, Chairman of Yemen Gulf Bank

help offset limits in lending to generate a healthy fee-based income. They also believe that this might help them grab a bigger share of the market.

Yemen Gulf Bank was initiator

The initiator was Yemen Gulf Bank. It opened its first branch in 2001 and came with one objective: focus mostly on products and services while being a step ahead of its competitors. "The banking sector in Yemen is very competitive, so our aim is to develop services in our bank," said Mohamed Al-Zubieri, Chairman of Yemen Gulf Bank. "We fully believe in non-interest income coming from retail services, so we will continue to offer more products and services, which will attract more customers."

Soon after Yemen Gulf Bank was established in Sana'a, and became the first bank in Yemen to offer online banking. It offers services that allow customers to check their balances, order checks, transfer money from one account to another within the bank and arrange for the bank to pay their bills.

Although Arab Bank already had phone banking, Yemen Gulf Bank upgraded phone banking in the market by offering services similar to its online banking unit, such as transferring funds and paying bills. It was also the first Yemeni bank to install an automatic teller (ATM) soon after it opened.

This year, Yemen Gulf Bank plans to roll out new products and expand on

what it has to offer. It is developing point-of-sale by issuing cards to customers that can be used in different retail outlets, such as stores, hotels, restaurants and supermarkets.

This will be a challenge: Yemen is a market based on cash, and it might take time to make using plastics in the market popular.

"As of now, there are no points of sales," said Zubieri. "We must develop it to get businesses connected to the Visa and Mastercard network. It will cost us a lot of time and money, but we expect big returns."

Mobile banking

Also up will be mobile phone banking that will offer a variety of services, such as customers checking their balances and receiving information from the bank. And Yemen Gulf Bank plans to place ATMs in different locations, like in major shopping centers and in the Sana'a International Airport.

Yemen Gulf Bank's focus on retail banking has shown good results. From 2002 to 2003, its deposits soared 125%, assets went up 110% and operating profits increased 60%.

International Bank of Yemen, which once focused on corporate banking by dealing with big businesses working in Yemen – especially foreign oil companies – has entered into retail banking aggressively to try and outflank its competition. "We decided to use many retail products in order to enable us to increase the volume of customers,"

said Ahmed Al-Absi, General Manager of International Bank of Yemen.

In a very short period of time, International Bank of Yemen will pump out a large number of products and services and expand on them at a very fast pace. It already has a foot in the door: Five months ago, it started up phone banking, and at the end of last year it installed ATMs.

At present, it has four ATMs in Sana'a and one in Aden, but it has plans to expand on ATMs swiftly. "We have a goal to establish 100 ATMs in Yemen by the end of this year," said Al-Absi. The strategy is to install ATMs in key locations where customers will be in need of money.

By the end of this month, the bank hopes to start issuing Visa Electron cards. These cards will give numerous advantages to customers: They will not only be able to use ATMs in Yemen but be able to use ATMs around the world and make purchases while using the cards as debit cards. International Bank of Yemen will offer mobile phone banking services by the end of February as well.

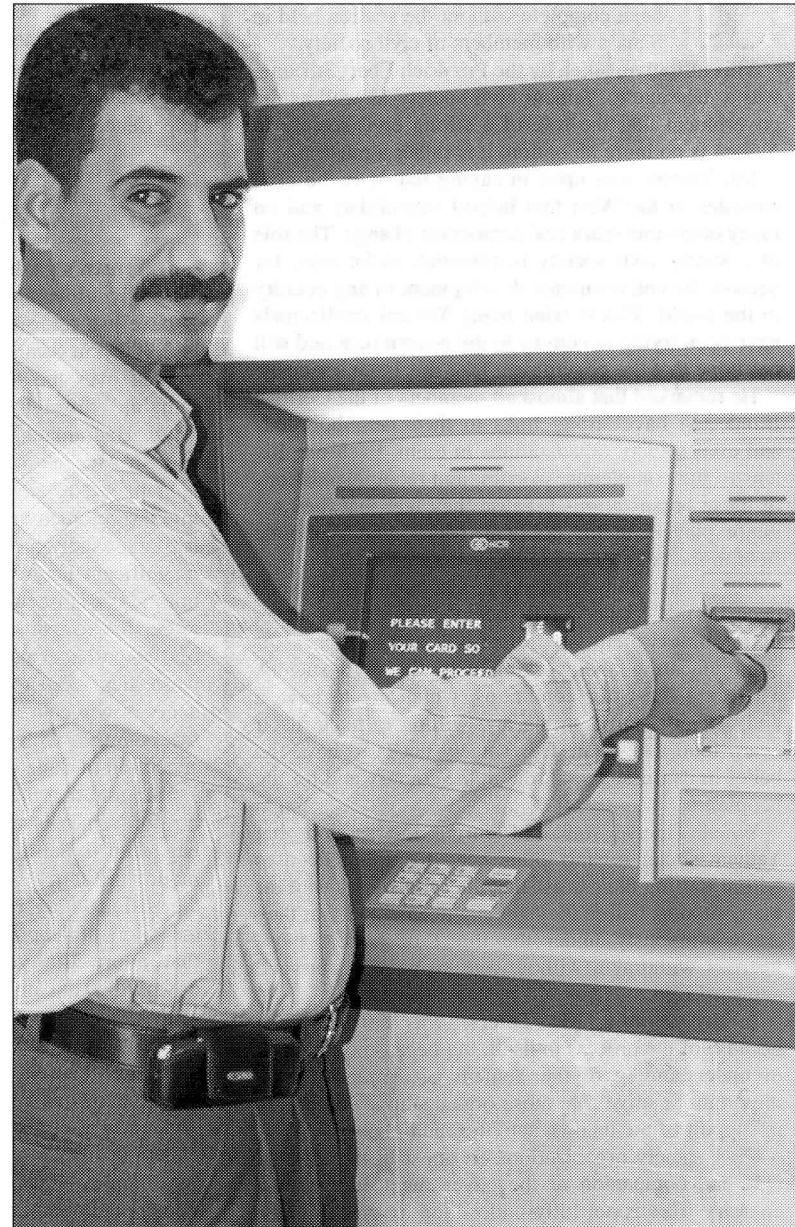
Online banking will also be on the way soon. The goal for International Bank of Yemen is to let its customers do as much banking on the Internet as possible. "Our customers will be able to make all transactions in real time," said Al-Absi. "Not only will our customers be able to use basic services, but they will also be able to transfer money overseas to other accounts."

International Bank of Yemen is also going after point-of-sale. The bank began developing relationships with retailers in the Yemeni market in 2002 and is almost ready to get point-of-sale up and running. Its aim is to do business with up to 1,000 merchants within a few months.

Al-Absi believes that the bank's efforts to build rapidly on retail banking will show positive results on the bottom line this year. He expects International Bank of Yemen's fee-based income to jump from 15% of total income to 30% and gross profits to increase from \$900 million in 2003 to \$1.6 billion this year.

Will take time

But while retail banking will help



A Yemeni at an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM), which are about to become much more common in Yemen in 2004. (Photo by Peter Willems)

strengthen the income for some Yemeni banks, there are still obstacles ahead. Some think that it will be very difficult for Yemeni banks focusing on retail products to pull customers away from foreign banks, especially Arab Bank.

It not only has a solid reputation that goes back many years but was already armed with some retail products before the spread of retail banking among Yemeni banks. But as one manager of a Yemeni bank said, "The foreign banks do a very good job at

attracting wealthy clients. Yemeni banks may do well at attracting a vast target group that is in need of services."

Then there's the issue of such a small percentage of the population having bank accounts, at least at this time.

It will take time to see how much retail banking will improve the income of Yemeni banks developing more products and services. But one thing is certain: More services will always benefit the customers.

Citizens blame the government

More price reform bashing

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The question of rising prices of basic foodstuffs and locally-produced or imported goods dominates what's on people's minds these days, especially that most of the citizens are from limited incomes and suffering from a drop in the level of their monthly income, if they even have jobs.

The people in general wonder about the use of the government's implementation of repeated price reforms of diesel, benzene, cooking liquefied gas, electricity and telephone, as well as

prices of travel tickets, as long as the deficit in the state budget remains chronic.

In a survey in the capital Sana'a we have found out that many people wonder about what they describe as contradiction between the state direction towards fighting poverty and its resorting to raising prices. They say it does not come in harmony in a country presently producing around half million barrels of crude oil per day.

Citizen Ahmed Farhan al-Shara'bi says there is no way of comparison and no acceptable justification authorizing the government to follow this contradicting course and implement recommendations of the World Bank in a

country where most of its people are from the poor and unemployed.

He further says that health and education services offered to the people by the government have receded.

The merchant Nassr Mohammed Al-Raimi asks what do you expect but rise in merchant prices, who have to make up what they have lost because of paying taxes from sale of their goods, adding that the consumer is the victim.

A civil servant Hamoud al-Udaini, working for a private telecommunication center, says when the government decides to carry out a price dose, it gives its employees a certain percentage of increase on their salaries, but those working for the private sector do not get

such a proportion and this makes them the victim of high prices more than others.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Ahmed al-Taizi, working for government education sector, confirms that the policy of price reforms over the eight past years has proved to be of no avail for improving performance of the national economy and reducing the deficit of the general budget, as well as its leading to aggravation of problems such as unemployment and stagnation of in the consumer market.

On the other hand the opposition political parties blame the price reforms describing them as not in harmony with poverty of the society. They say the

government bears the responsibility for the increase in suffering of the people and subjects its policy to dictates and conditions of the World Bank is flooding the country with debts.

While the government justifies its price reforms because of its deficit, the opposition parties criticize those justifications, saying the government can increase its non-oil exports and gain revenues from safe and non-inflation sources instead of adding more suffering to the life of the people in Yemen.

The government says the private sector has to help, and can contribute to 69% of investments meant for poverty alleviation during the years 2003-2005.

Exchange Rare for the Yemeni Rial

as of February 17

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.2800	184.5300
Sterling Pound	348.0000	348.4800
Euro	235.1900	235.5100
Saudi Rial	49.1400	49.2100
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.3700	626.2200
UAE Dirhem	50.1700	50.2400
Egyptian Pound	29.8400	29.8800
Bahraini Dinar	488.8100	489.4800
Qatari Rial	50.6100	50.6800
Jordanian Dinar	260.0800	260.4300
Omani Rial	478.6800	479.3300
Swiss Franc	149.1400	149.3400
Swedish Crown	25.7000	25.7300
Japanese Yen	1.7475	1.7498

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Words of Wisdom



This country cannot make real progress unless the value system is such that hardworking people are honored. Our system today honors the lazy people. I propose to initiate a system according to each those exceptional person are chosen on the basis of clearly defined criteria - away from politics

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

OUR
OPINIONLet us learn
from Germany

The latest visit of H.E. Wolfgang Thierse, the President of the German Bundestag (Parliament) to Yemen could have not been complete without the session held in Sana'a with members of civil society.

This initiative, taken by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, was a message to Yemeni civil society as well as the government that the role of a strong civil society in Yemen is no more an option, it is rather a must.

Mr. Thierse was open in saying that it is the civil societies in the West that helped consolidate and on many occasions spark real democratic change. The role of a strong civil society is essential, as he says, for democratic and economic development in any country in the world. This is what many Yemeni intellectuals have been trying to convey to the government and still has hope that the government take this issue seriously.

He remarked that almost all members of the German Bundestag have strong links to their neighborhoods and civil society organizations in them. Each one listens to the complaints, worries, and recommendations of those organizations because they feel that they are major players in the political, social, and economic field in the country and must be listened to.

But he also added that such ideal harmony between decision-makers and civil society members is not an option unless there is political will and awareness of communicating and working with the civil society. There are the other conditions, which are to have a civil society that is strong and willing to make itself heard loud and clear. This society needs to have the belief in its mission and role in the country and for the people.

When Thierse was told during the session that Yemeni social organizations need to obtain licenses before starting their work, that they sometimes wait for many months before they get any license and that they are continuously under the threat of having those licenses withdrawn without reason, he was outraged and surprised.

In my opinion, Mr. Thierse was not surprised because of the process in itself, but because of the lack of understanding of the Yemeni government to the important positive role those organizations could play in support of the its own activities and plans.

Civil society organizations are most of the time an aide and companion of the government and not the contrary. This is not fully understood by our officials, who sometimes tend to think of such organizations as a threat, possibly making the government lose its credibility when those organizations do projects more efficiently and economically than government authorities.

In brief, the German example is one that we should follow and learn from. We have gone through greater difficulties in the past, but not as much as the Germans have following World War II, yet we feel weak and unable to achieve even part of what they did.

We can become as good as the Germans if we join hands and understand the real value of cooperation between officials and grassroots community organizations.

Only then will we be able to develop.

The Editor



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First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf

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Nobody seems responsible for Yemen's poverty

So do we just
blame ourselves?

By SALLAM QASEM
sallam_8@hotmail.com
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

I read the article "We are the ones helping" published on the front page of Edition 712 of The Yemen Times. The article made it very clear that we should not blame the World Bank for the price hikes, since the world bank is merely suggesting reforming strategies and our government is the one to implement them.

It was also supported with a theoretical explanation about how this reform "should not" cause a price increase, a theory that all Yemenis look at with suspicion, especially with our life experience with some prices doubling

with each reform dose.

On the other hand, we cannot blame the government, since, as stated by Ahmed Ghaleb, we operate in a free market and it is the international market and currency fluctuations that are the cause.

Hence, a Yemeni citizen should blame himself, but even that is not permitted, and we all know how the "political security" is currently tracking down a Yemen singer for making a tape called "I deserve it."

I wonder how a Yemeni citizen can rely on a government that refuses to take responsibility to what happens to its economy, blaming naively the free market; as if we are living in a vacuum with no indications, no statistics, and no analysis.

Yemen is already one of the poorest countries in the world, and the actions of our government in denying responsibility won't help. We as Yemeni citizens demand the government to take serious actions to handle this crisis.

We demand to know how we will be able to feed, transport, and live. We demand our government to come down from its towers, and to experience the life of a regular Yemeni citizen.

We don't care whose responsibility it is, as much as we care about how much we going to pay for 'aldabab' (minibus), and for a bread the next day. I once read this "When it is good for everybody, it is good for me." I wonder if our government will ever realize this concept!

Letters to the Editor

Yemen's garbage
is intolerable

I have just returned from a 12,000 km tour through Yemen over the Eid, from Sana'a, through Marib, Wadi Hadramaut, Mukalla and Bir Ali.

I am sad to say this but my lasting memory of the trip will sadly not be the magnificent landscapes and unique architecture, but rather the overriding image of the garbage and rotting waste that seem to pervade every town and village in the country (with the sole exception of Sana'a).

I am told that the national bird of Yemen is the plastic bag, seen flying high in the mountain thermals and that the national flag represents the colors of the plastic bags that adorn the vegetation downwind of any human settlements.

But surely this is no laughing matter. Broken glass, sharp tins and rotting organic waste, as well as plastic of all sorts, seem to be the play area for most Yemeni children.

What I do not understand and perhaps one of your readers would kindly enlighten me is, in a culture where personal dignity and pride appear to be very important and where the Islamic faith puts a lot of emphasis on cleanliness, how can people accept and put up with living in such filthy surroundings? To the outsider, they do not appear to care.

Current solid waste management projects, the impact of which is hard to see, will be a complete waste of money unless people take some pride in their community and its surroundings.

Peter Llewellyn
kaskazi@y.net.ye

Good intentions

I read your editorial on South Korea and would like to express my admiration of its contents. But this is exactly the point of just good intentions. Just good intentions without a proper analyses of your own countries local situation, mentality-culture and all sorts of other excuses as our religion is one of the main factor we will never reach any top.

We are too jealous and envious of each other. We are still engaged in determining who is a Yemeni who is not.

I have been working for ten years for our beloved country making efforts to engage people in developing Yemen, so that at least we

would have a goal, but to no avail. Blaming tribal issues, so-called corruption, or the government proved to be useless. There were always people who turned up at the last minute who knew better the means of how to improve Yemen.

We lack the mentality to do it in our country, yet we have brains that can master development outside Yemen. Yemenis in exile are doing extremely well. Maybe we should try to find out why that is so, instead of seeing them as second class people because their father is Yemeni and mother is not.

In principle, with its rich national resources, its intelligent and hardworking labor force, Yemen should be one of the most developed nations in the whole Arab world. Yemen has what most other Arab nations lack, i.e., real incentives, and without those, our development pace will continue to grow too slow.

I have had my education under the most difficult circumstances but managed because of a Yemeni father who gave me the incentives needed for success.

There are so many Yemeni fathers in Yemen who now should do the same. As you may have learned in Korea, it was the fathers who send out their sons to learn in the West, that is true for Japan too.

We have enormous resources abroad including very well-educated Yemenis, some as myself associated to major industries who would love to come and be instrumental to reach for the top. I hope Yemeni fathers get the message.

M.A.N. Al Sayadi
m.nag@planet.nl

Cultural values can be
maintained

I would like to thank the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of Yemen Times Walid Al-Sagqaf for his insightful viewpoint editorials, which support global harmony, cooperation, and peace. I also believe that inter action between different societies has no reason to erode the cultural or religious values of a nation.

Gary Gunn
Phoenix, AZ USA
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Yemen's location
and the GCC

This letter of mine is regarding the definition where Yemen is located geographically. I believe we don't need approval from

Letters to the Editor

anyone, we are where we are and no one can change the facts and the history.

The Saudi and the Kuwaiti leaders may say so, but they can not change the history and we don't need their approvals. What we need is honesty, dignity and faith in ourselves, that this people will come to us to join them instead of us running behind them. We need to build ourselves before we join anyone else.

We have nothing to show or to give in terms of education, economy and politics. We are far away from where they are, so let us do it ourselves and I'm sure they will come to us requesting to join them.

Yasin Yasin
yasin999@hotmail.com

Prerequisite for improv-
ing Yemen

How can we improve Yemen when most of the population is chewing qat and is too lazy with no proper education and means of scientific and technology development? How can Yemenis be better than others while spending more money on qat than anything else?

If we Yemenis spend as much money on education rather than qat, or use those hours we spend consuming qat on hard work or education, then progress will be inevitable.

If all Yemenis help each other instead of feeling envy towards each other, then we can climb to the top easily.

We can only build a better Yemen if we build a strong base first. The base is enhancing education and science and abandoning qat and laziness.

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Animals have feelings too

I would like to respond to the article published in Yemen Times in its Jan. 22 issue entitled "SARS bites deep into HK snake Restaurant".

Although, this response is late, because of traveling, it is a timeless issue.

I am an Austrian Artist staying here in Yemen with my husband Werner who is an engineer, managing water and sanitation-projects in the country. We enjoy being in Yemen, since people are very, very nice and the hospitality is unique!

The appearance of all sicknesses and diseases, such as SARS or Bird flu is the consequence of locking up thousands of animals in concentration camps. No

care, no feelings! No wonder animals are getting sick!

There are practices of putting hundreds of snakes or other living beings in drawers or glass jars, like books and laundry, waiting to be killed and skinned next to the table of sick and disgusting folks who are able to attend such perverse events. In what world we are living?

Piling up hundreds of guenons (long tailed monkeys) in small iron-cages or dark rooms with no window and no fresh air is outrageous. Would anyone like that?

Yet there is the common practice of putting away poor birds, often alone, in small cages with no way to move, not to mention to fly, with no any space and no trees. How mean! So, one should do the most humane thing possible to avoid all those incidences.

After all, animals are of flesh and blood, and they have feeling like humans. They have fear, feel pain and joy. They have the same rights like us, people, to live a life of peace and freedom.

I just feel very sorry for people like Betty Chan, who think that wild animals are disgusting. I hope very much that it's a misunderstanding.

Who says such things or is treating people, nature, animal's in a mad way has no right to be a guest on the earth, which is a gift from God. Accordingly we should appreciate, take care and to protect such animals from greediness and people who wish to make profit from them without regard to their entity.

This is needed so that the coming generations would be able to enjoy the divine beauty of our world, with its valuable resources, it's variety of flora and fauna which have an important purpose and mission in the biological circle.

So, how is it possible for human beings, who claim to be the supreme creation, i.e., intelligent, to be so insensitive, cruel, mean, selfish and egoistic towards other creatures.

I have a wish that all people of Yemen drive a little more carefully in order not to hurt innocent and helpless animals. Unfortunately, nobody cares what they are going through after being run over by cars, suffering a horrible death sometimes few days, with no medical support. Would you like that!

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COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Hamoud Khalid Al-Sufee, Minister of CS:

On the right track!

Quite often, many people think that journalists never see the good side of anything, let alone Government and are viewed as being addicted to outright criticism of just about anything the Government does or of anyone in Government.

There is nothing that would please the journalist than to say: "Look folks, go on with your work, all is well and running smoothly in Government!"

After all that would be safer and more convenient than to have to burden one's self with the agonizing task of probing areas of deficiency in Government or the misdeeds of incompetent Government officials.

Nevertheless, it remains the task of serious journalists to keep the public abreast of what officialdom is doing and to what extent is the Government performing its end of the social contract.

On the other hand, journalists should maintain any hopes within the public by letting them that there are officials, who could be counted on to fulfill the trust placed upon them with a greater feel of the general public's concerns and aspirations.

This observer has often found that senior officials in Government, who owe their rise to political prominence to democratic popular elections tend to perform more effectively and even show greater character and charm, than their colleagues, who rely on appointment up the ladder.

There are exceptions to this, who this column did not overlook in the past, such as Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Arhabi (Minister of Social Affairs, President of the Social Fund for Development). But as once shown in this column (when highlighting the achievements of the Mayor of Sana'a City), it is elected officials (to Parliament), who were also designated executive positions of responsibility, who tend to be more effective, while reflecting a greater sense of responsibility.

In this league, it is safe to also include Mr. Hamoud Khalid Al-Sufee, the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reform, who in the short eight months he took the helm of the ministry, has displayed a remarkable desire to move forward on many of the monumental task of reforming our pathetic civil service in concrete steps, some visible and others on the pipeline - but they are there! This observer had an opportunity to view the latter at work on a couple of occasions over the last four months and must admit that both occasions were far beyond being shrouded by disappointment.

The first important attribute of any senior responsible official is the grasp he shows of the awesome responsibilities that he shoulders.

More important, what are expected of the official? How much determination is there to achieving those expectations? On the sidelines, of course are the characteristics of the official, in terms of charisma garnished with humility and reception to the views of others.

In Mr. Al-Sufee, one senses that there is a sense of his foremost consideration of the expectations of his constituency and those he works with, after all it is the former who put their faith in him by putting him in Parliament, and it is the latter who will help him get the job done.

But Mr. Al-Sufee, at the same time never forgets to weigh in the expectations of his superiors.

In a political environ, such as that of Yemen, this certainly is not easy as Mr. Al-Sufee often acknowledged, but nevertheless believes it is not altogether impossible.

It is obvious to anyone listening to Mr. Al-Sufee that he undoubtedly is in full grasp of the complicated and intricate situation, not just in his own Ministry, but throughout the other organs in the administrative apparatus of the Government, the personnel of which fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Civil Service in one form or another. In eight months, this is a commendable feat in a relatively short time.

Bear in mind this grasp is not a general perception or understanding, but entails an inkling of the quantitative manifestations of this perception and the qualitative ramifications involved as well.

Furthermore, Mr. Al-Sufee reflects an awareness of the other intergovernmental functions involved in managing civil service while not ignoring the challenges that would confront any serious effective administrative and civil service efforts, especially those posed by deeply entrenched vested interests, who will always resist any reforms that could undermine those interests.

It is indeed a tough job, but it simply is tougher on the country to let things stand as they are now, and a vital one for all the other reform activities to have meaning at all.

Donors have in the past looked at civil service reform as a "no fly zone" and the Ministry of Civil Service as a placement office to blow up the numbers of civil service personnel (active or inactive).

However, the apparent current view of the donors, thanks to the convincing presentations of the Minister, is that indeed the Ministry must be active and effective in the streamlining process of the awesome numbers in the civil service (dealing with redundancy, surplus staffing, etc.), in setting the appropriate civil service policies and the practical strategies for their implementation, not to mention, the need to put in place the institutional framework for integrated management of the civil service.

At the same time, the accumulated maladies and deficiencies plaguing the civil service, without prejudice to the maintenance of the dignity of the personnel involved is also a concurrent priority.

One senses the Minister's reliance on transparency as a vital tool for exploring with the other role players the areas of concern, as well as the projected solutions.

In short: "We have nothing to hide, because what we are doing is right and rightfully expected of us by the people of Yemen, the country's leadership and Yemen's sincere friends." If that is not being at the right track, then what else is it? We encourage all the support that Mr. Al-Sufee and his staff need from all those involved in shaping up our civil service.

Avoiding an Iraqi 'high noon'

BY DAVID IGNATIUS
THE DAILY STAR

Seeking to reduce the risk of what one top US official calls a "high noon shoot-out" among Iraqi groups that want peace but fear their rivals may shoot first, the Bush administration is debating some delicate policy moves that it hopes will stabilize the situation.

"There's a lot of anxiety and fear" among the country's three main factions, the Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds, the official explains. The best way to reduce the tension, he says, may be to "internationalize" the occupation through a new UN resolution, while also making clear to Iraqis that US troops won't be leaving anytime soon.

CIA officials are said to be worried that civil war is a growing possibility. Pentagon officials agree the situation is volatile, but they express confidence that US policies are working — and they counsel patience.

Deep divisions in Iraq have emerged on a range of issues, including Kurdish autonomy, the role of Islam, and the timetable for elections. Even the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council is sharply divided

over these questions.

The Kurds' hunger for self-rule increased after this month's twin suicide bombings in Irbil. The grisly attacks killed more than 100 people and convinced many Kurds they should detach themselves from the carnage of post-war Iraq.

Jalal Talabani, the leader of one of the two main Kurdish political parties, is said to have harangued his colleagues on the Governing Council this week, accusing them of betraying earlier promises that the Kurds could run their own affairs in a new, federalist Iraq.

The Kurdish issue could explode soon in Kirkuk, an oil-rich city that is home to a volatile mix of Kurds, Turkmen and Sunni Arabs. The Kurds want to ensure that the population of Kirkuk has a Kurdish majority — in hopes of adding the city to any Kurdish zone of autonomy. They want to move out Sunnis who were forcibly settled there by Saddam Hussein in the 1980s in an attempt to "Arabize" the region.

This Kirkuk relocation scheme is backed by senior Pentagon officials, who think it would defuse tensions. But Paul Bremer, the US occupation chief, is said to be wary, arguing that

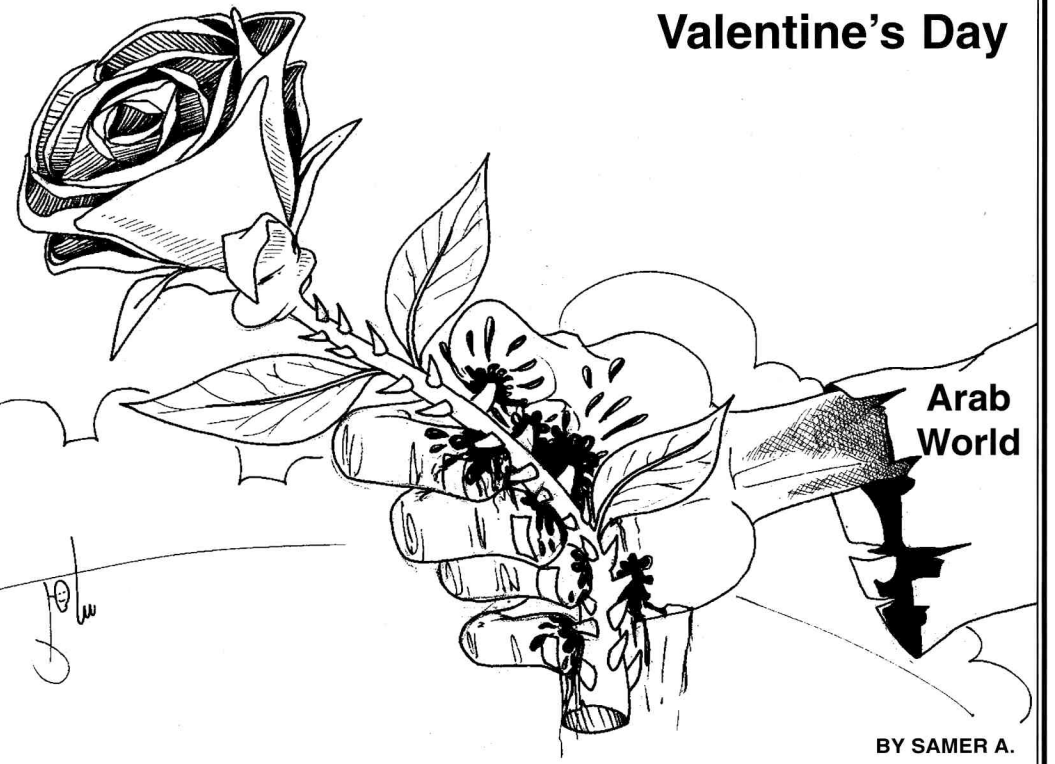
Kirkuk is too risky a place to begin any nationwide policy of relocation.

Tension is also rising over the role of Islam in the new Iraq. In a draft of the "fundamental law" that will guide Iraq during its transition, some members of the Governing Council have proposed a mild formula that describes Islam as the country's official religion but doesn't impose Sharia law. But the council's current president, a Sunni fundamentalist named Mohsen Abdul Hamid, this week demanded a broad adoption of Islamic law.

The election issue remains the most fractious of all. Shiite Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani has demanded that the new Iraqi government be chosen through direct elections, which would lock in the power of the Shiite majority. About half the Shiite members of the Governing Council have endorsed Sistani's call, but all the non-Shiite members are said to prefer Bremer's plan for provincial caucuses.

Some senior Pentagon officials argue that Sistani is demanding an unrealistic election timetable because he really doesn't want US troops to leave. But Arabs who know Sistani argue that his tough line is instead an effort to position the Shiites as the

SKETCHED OPINION



Valentine's Day

Arab World

BY SAMER A.

group that defied America and liberated Iraq from occupation.

Hopes remain for a UN-brokered deal on the elections issue. A team of experts headed by Algerian diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi has been in Baghdad this week, exploring whether early elections are possible. After meeting with Sistani Thursday in Najaf, Brahimi said the UN was "100 per cent" behind Sistani's demand for elections, but did not say when they should take place.

So how can the Bush administration

soothe an Iraq that is frazzled by almost daily suicide bombings? The best option, officials say, is maintaining the strong US military presence, which polls show most Iraqis actually want.

To make this stay-the-course strategy more palatable, administration officials are debating whether to propose a new UN resolution. It would provide a continuing role for a multinational force in Iraq, under US command. To appease both Sistani and his critics, the resolution might endorse the July

1 date for transfer of sovereignty and also set a specific date later for elections.

Boil it down and the dilemma is painfully obvious: What do you do when failure isn't an option, and yet your policy is in danger of failing? The administration's answer is to tough it out, keep the faith — and train Iraqi soldiers and police as fast as it can. To critics who argue this is more a hope than a strategy, the administration might reasonably ask: You got a better idea?

The Israeli wall: Who is afraid of the law?

BY ADEL SAFTY
FOR THE GULF NEWS

Last week, the Israeli government announced that Israel would not participate in the legal hearings scheduled next week at the International Court of Justice, ICJ, on the issue of the legality of the wall.

On December 8, 2003, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution requesting an urgent advisory opinion from the ICJ on the legality of Israel's construction of a wall separating the West Bank from the Jewish state.

When completed, the wall would incorporate substantial portions of occupied Palestinian land into Israel. The question before the ICJ is whether or not the encroachment of the wall on occupied Palestinian territories is a violation of international law.

Israel denied that the ICJ had jurisdiction to give an opinion, and the Bush and Blair governments supported the Israeli position.

Why are Washington and London afraid of the law?

Probably because they have concluded that constructing the wall is against international law, and the opinion of the ICJ is likely to confirm the illegality of the Israeli action. This would further

reinforce the status of Israel as a pariah state. That should have been all the more reason for them not to support the Israeli action.

When completed, the wall is likely to stretch for 650 km and in some places reach a height of 8 metres (the Berlin Wall was 155 km long and 3.6 metres high). An Israeli professor from Ben-Gurion University estimated that if the current project is completed "50 per cent of the West Bank will be annexed to Israel, and there will be no possibility of creating a viable Palestinian state."

The United Nations has already confirmed the illegality of the Israeli action. In his November 28, 2003 report, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated that the wall "is not in compliance" with General Assembly resolution ES-10/13, adopted by a vote of 144-4 on October 21, 2003, demanding that Israel halt its construction activities and dismantle the existing parts of the wall.

Both the UN General Assembly resolution on the wall and the UN Security Council draft resolution 980, which was vetoed by the US, stated that the wall is "contrary to relevant provisions of international law."

The Fourth Geneva Convention provides that appropriation of property can amount to a "grave breach" and therefore a war crime. It also forbids (Art.

49) population transfer into occupied land. The Israeli colonisation policy has resulted in the transfer of 400,000 Jewish colonists to occupied Palestinian land.

UN Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur John Dugard stated in his latest report that Jewish colonies "in East Jerusalem and the West Bank are the principal beneficiaries of the wall and it is estimated that approximately half of the 400,000 colonist population will be incorporated on the Israeli side of the wall."

The UN report states that over 200,000 "Palestinians living between the wall and the Green Line will be effectively cut off from their farmlands and workplaces, schools, health clinics and other social services..."

This is confirmed by B'Tselem, a leading Israeli human rights group, which submitted that the wall is an infringement of the right to freedom of movement, the right to work and the right to property of at least 210,000 Palestinians living in 67 villages and towns.

The UN report concluded that the "evidence strongly suggests that Israel is determined to create facts on the ground amounting to de facto annexation," which it described as "conquest in international law...prohibited by the

Charter of the United Nations."

Despite these findings, Sharon found support in Washington and London to oppose the involvement of the ICJ on the grounds that, in the words of the British, it would "serve to politicise the court in a way for which it was not designed".

This is a strange argument: practically all cases and requests for advisory opinion brought to the ICJ have been political in nature, for instance the US vs Iran case and Nicaragua vs US case. Sharon and Bush claim that what is needed is a negotiated solution. Yet, both refuse to negotiate with, and have been calling for the removal of the democratically elected president of the Palestinian National Authority, PNA.

By trying to deny the Palestinians legal remedy, even for a non-binding advisory opinion, how reasonable is it to expect them to act rationally, believe in the impartiality of the US, and have faith in a political settlement while being continuously dispossessed all the while?

It would have been ironic that the issue of the legality of the Israeli wall could be heard in the Supreme Court in Israel, but not in the ICJ. The objections of Washington and London to the involvement of the ICJ suggest that the Bush and Blair governments may

accept that rule of law applies in Israel, but not to Israel.

How long can Israel continue to dispossess Palestinians, escape legal accountability, and receive support

from the US and Europe? The question is of urgent concern not only to the Palestinians, but also to all those who care about a more rational and peaceful world.

Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi



Jobs and salaries of foreigners compared to Yemenis

Let's see equal pay for equal work

The Government of Yemen disrespects its own people. It is rather disdainful to note that most official posts in Yemen are occupied by ill-qualified people whose prop is favoritism and nepotism, and such misconduct reflects itself in an evident complex termed as the "Foreigner's Preference."

"Foreigner's Preference" means here the liking of foreigners to local people in the field of employment, particularly giving foreigners higher salaries, bonuses and remunerations although locals can be in most cases highly skilled. In fact, some foreigners might produce falsified evidence and be accepted blindly. Many have been discovered accidentally.

This has almost been eliminated in other Arab Countries, where, if it ever existed, was meant to prefer Europeans over Arabs.

But the case in Yemen is rather ridiculous because any given foreigner whomsoever, no matter where he hails from, is highly thought of and thus treated better by our public and private sector leaders.

I know of a company that imported six technicians whose salaries are paid in American dollars, and were supposed to operate and maintain some machines, but after they were put to work, they said they could not because the machines are different than those they are accustomed to back in their country.

So the Yemeni businessmen ordered his underpaid Yemeni technicians to train these foreigners. Is it not idiotic?

Particularly when a person who has studied business in the UK perpetrates it. But he is not to be blamed, for I think he is merely copying the government on this.

Thus we have to ask where is the Ministry of Social and Labor Affairs? Why does it not include and discuss this issue amongst other issues during the prospective seminar which it intends to hold?

Look for example at Yemeni doctors, engineers etc. whom the state pays a lot of money for education and training abroad in USA and Canada and other rich countries, and how they are maltreated and underpaid back home.

I know many foreign architects, accountants (translators having only secondary school leaving certificates). Some of them are receiving monthly salaries ranging between \$2,000 and \$10,000, amongst other advantages, while their Yemeni counterparts are merely paid salaries ranging between YR15,000 to YR70,000, which is \$70 to \$350.

I have tried to find a justification for this misconduct and found none. Other countries do not permit foreigners to work, except after having scrutinized meticulously whether they are unrivaled by locals or not. I have concrete examples about this.

What is rather funny about all of this, is that such foreigners often subcontract locals to do them the work they are supposed to do. For example, I mostly work as a translator and have met many such people subcontracting my services because they do not want to tire themselves.

On the whole, our responsible people are content with the status quo albeit Saudis and Omanis next door are Saudizing and Omanizing to the extent they could enforce some advantages to Foreigners.

So, do you think the day shall come when we would follow suit!?

Will EU yield to US-Israeli pressure?

BY HASSAN TAHSIN
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR
FOR ARAB VIEW

Recently the Europeans seem to have decided to rid themselves of their guilt complex over the systematic Nazi murder of some six million Jews during World War II and free themselves from the American mantle in order for the European Union to emerge as a second global superpower. It chose to do so by going back to the people.

Gallup polls were conducted to gauge public opinion through their branches in each of the EU's 15 member countries. A number of questions were put to them, with the most important among them being: "Which country poses the greatest threat to world peace?" Among the choices offered were Israel, the US, Iran, Iraq, North

Korea and a number of Arab countries.

The results overturned the balance in the European-American-Israeli relationship. For the first time and without fear, 59 percent of Europeans said that Israel was the No. 1 threat to world peace. The US came second, followed by North Korea.

Washington was furious. Israel and Zionist organizations spewed venom, putting the blame on the Gallup poll itself and accusing Europeans of resurgent anti-Semitism.

The European leadership didn't officially accept the results of the survey, and in the face of fierce pressure from Washington and Tel Aviv entrusted Italy, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, with remedying the situation.

The Italian Foreign Ministry expressed its regret, anger and astonishment at the results and said there could be an error, and added the

results of the poll did not reflect the opinion of the European Union or its policy.

In essence this means that the European leadership is not committed to the opinion of its people. Romano Prodi, the head of the European Commission, professed himself aghast that the poll was prepared by a group of technicians and not politicians. Prodi reply was not well chosen — a poll prepared by specialists is without doubt more accurate and more truthful than one prepared by politicians.

The question is: Ought the people to reflect the policy of their government or should the government reflect the opinion of the people? Since the most important principle of democracy is that power is in the hands of the people, their opinion should surely be more important than what their governments want them to think.

The crux of the matter is that Israel

and the US have realized that European citizens consider them, and not the Arab countries, the greatest threat to world peace, and that it is Zionist terrorism that must be eliminated.

The arrogant power wielded by Israel and the US has driven the Europeans to vote as they did. They reject the occupation of Palestinian land, the murder of defenseless civilians, and the seizure of natural resources.

As it happens, Europeans have expressed this before, in the passionate demonstrations against Israel's inhumane treatment of Palestinians and the US occupation of Iraq.

The European leadership has the chance they were looking for — a chance that was handed to it by the people themselves. Will it grip that lifeline, or will it sink under US-Israeli pressure?

Tales of journeys reveal links between Kenya and Yemen: When Yemenis sailed to Lamu



BY IRENA KNEHTL
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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Throughout its history Yemen has been a seafaring nation, famed for boat building and its mariners' navigation skills. While Yemeni sailors harnessed the monsoon winds to reach distant ports, on inland, its farmers harnessed water to develop life-sustaining agriculture to adopt to a harsh and often formidable environment.

Yemen is often associated with frankincense, a fine aromatic resin, a great commodity of the ancient world and in high demand. To the ancient Romans it was valued as gold.

Archaeologists are still investigating these long gone civilizations that have played a major role in transforming global history. These ancient civilizations introduced deep-sea sailing vessels capable of long distance travel and trade. At this time writing, banking, and shareholding were established and developed societies were formed for perhaps the first time over.

Linen, cotton, wool and metal were taken to China, where cargoes of silk, camphor, musk, spice were exchanged and Yemen acquired ceramics. Southern Arabia was on cross roads on the trade routes between China and India to the East, and the Red Sea and East Africa to the southwest providing merchants with huge and lucrative markets.

"Barbara and Jaifuni, and your insane waves Jaifuni and Barbara – the waves are as you see them.

By early June, the south-west monsoon breaks and there are three months of wind and water with short spells of sharp glittering sunshine. The wind and rain, the sudden thunder darkness of the day, and the sky beyond with sea-secrets. In the absence of words and the emptiness in eyes, is an inky sea.

Taste of the hot salt breeze in their mouth. It is warm, the water, gray-green, like rippled silk, with flash in it, with the sky and trees in it, and at night, yellow moon in it. Their faces and wrinkles around their eyes would soften, for them ritual prayer had an outer form and an inner reality:

"For if you do not see Him, He sees you... when He enters the heart it opens up and it enlarges it". Remembrance was their weapon, and sincerity their sword. With hope and fear, words from the Book seemed deep like the waters of the Ocean.

And the Scent of garden perceived at a thousand years...

For a voyage in the Lamu Islands
Await the end of the rains
When they have finished, board,
Not a steamer but a dhow.

One of the city-states founded by Yemeni Hardami Arab travelers was located on the island just off the northern coast of present day Kenya called Lamu. While there were certainly early settlements on the island, the present town site is not likely to be

force in the region.

Under Omani protection, coastal commerce slowly regained its former momentum. During this period that Lamu inhabitants built most of the traditional stone houses and mosques still standing in the old town today. They used the coral stone and mangrove timber from the archipelago and also employed skilled craftsmen from India.

The island remained prosperous for over two hundred years until the late 19th century when the British began to take interest in East Africa. But it was the town's isolation from 20th century modernization that preserved the rich architectural heritage still existing today.

The best part of Lamu is the approach by sailing boat from the sea-side. Before is the coral coast, the savannas and arid steppes with spare thorn trees, in front are the coconut palms and mango trees, behind the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean, shining now like pearl in the early night.

The travelers were charmed by the beauty of the town's eastern aspect, where it stretches along the sea front with its white buildings with pillared porticoes and oriental arches, framed by palm groves under a deep blue sky. The mansions of the waterfront and the palm trees in the plantations, its shaded streets, Lamu used to be named the Paradise of the Coast.

Lamu and its history

The guests were sprinkled with rose-perfumed water, and given nuts to chew.

The citizens would slaughter many camels a day. Carpets must be laid on the floors on the guesthouse. The meal consisted of rice cooked, or fried in butter, dishes of meat, fowl, fish and vegetables, pickles, lemons, bananas, ginger and mangoes.

The fine clothes of the leading citizens were imported from Yemen, Egypt, and even Syria. Wonderful orchards contained lemon, lime, and banana trees and rose apples which grow in the island. Mosques built of coral stone:

"Aaaaaaahaaaaa Ak-bar!"

No prerecorded message broadcast, rising distant and clear from some small, nameless mosque south of town, or from Riyadh Moswue or the Mwenye Alawi: "Hurry to your prayers"

The hot season begins and the breeze that normally cools Lamu shifts from an easterly kaskazi to a southerly kusi. It slips past the crenelated parapet surrounding rooftops terraces. The kusi brings the "long rains", heavy storms preceding the cool season. They have already begun inland, ending a drought. On the far horizon, over bush and baobabs, banks of cumulus catch fire in the approaching dawn. The sun fires the high-piled clouds that turn crimson and orange, then pale to a hot chrome yellow.

Lamu has its own dialect, of course, called Kiamu. It has been used and refined by numerous poets, including Yusufu Lamui, Ali Saji, Zahidi Mngumi, Muhiuddini, Sayidi Mansabu and the colorful, brilliant Muhammadi Abu Bakari Kijuma, poet, scholar, calligrapher, painter, woodcarver, musician and much more awith strong links to Hadramawt. He wrote a long poem in praise of the women in Lamu. He also wrote down, from the oral traditions, the now famous Habari ya Lamu (The Chronicle of Lamu).

Habari Ya Lamu, The Story of Lamu

The first people of Lamu were Arabs who came from Damascus, Syria. It was Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan the Caliph who, in 77 A.H. sent them to the Coast when he needed great quantities of copper. After this first group who were sent, others came who were kinsmen of theirs.



Children playing on beach in Lamu

Their leader was Haji Saidi. More Arab settlers arrived until they were so numerous and powerful that the town they built, Hedabu, now covered by a hill, was the greatest on Lamu Island. They did not know that on Weyu there was the town of the Weyuni who were very powerful since they mustered 12,000 armed men.

When the Arabs learned that there was a town near their own, they wanted the Weyuni to be in their power. Those Weyuni claimed to be Arabs who came from Yunubu (Yanbu) and they were the people who were known (lit. greeted) as Wayumbili.

The two groups could not agree and they battled for many days until on both sides people came out and said we want peace. Both sides sent envoys and they signed a peace agreement. An old man of the Weyuni warned "Do not leave your weapons at home, the day of peace is the day of war".

He was right. They Weyuni arrived unarmed at the peace meeting but the Wahedabu had daggers. They cheated and slew the Weyuni in great numbers.

Many years later there arrived Arabs and Muslims from India who brought saplings of coconut palms. The Arabs spoke to Haji Saidi: "You must be our chief, you came here first". Her answered: "Select a man every year to be your chief. I will be the one who decided cases when there is no agreement". They were all reconciled with that.

Haji Saidi was given the title of Yumbe of the Palace.

The men from India were called Kina-miti "People of the Trees", further, apart from the Wayumbili and the Weyuni there were the Wafamau, the people of Famau. These are the main tribes of Lamu. Bwana Tamu, the king of Pate, built a ship and sent soliders to attack Lamu but the men of Lamu beat them with big sticks because in those days the Lamuans were very strong.

One day the Lamuans were in large numbers and marched to Mombasa where they sacked the old town. The Sultan of Pate, Bwana Bakari wa Bwana Mukuu, came to Lamu one day to marry a woman from Lamu. They had two daughters, whom the Sultan sent to Pate. One of them married a man called Bwanyai wa Shiywe and had a son called Fumo Luti.

By the time her father had died and Bwana Madi had become sultan. He spoke "When I die, Fumo Luti will inherit the kingdom, so that there may be no sedition, and he may have support from outside. However, when he died, someone else ascended the throne of Pate, so the Lamuans came and made war which lasted a long time. This was the cause of the battle of Shela (1812).

The Lamuans had sent a delegation to Sayid Said, ruler of Zanzibar and imam of Oman, to ask him for help to face Mombasans. Sayid Said graciously agreed to send 500 soliders to

Lamu under his commander Nasuru. Lamuans built a fort for them which is still there and the Arab soldier stayed. Sayid Said henceforth ruled Lamu and the town prospered with it.

Sayid Said died in 1273/1856 and was succeeded by his son Majid. Soon afterwards, the town of Kipini, Pate and Siu rebelled. Sayid Majid ordered the men of Lamu to patrol the sea with their ships. Sayid Barghash, who organized his whole state properly, so that he controlled all the Swahili towns, except Witu. Sayid Barghash harassed Witu until it sought protection from him with the Germans. Sayid Barghash died in 1305/1888 and was succeeded by his brother Ali who reigned only two years.

It happened in those days that there was a great scarcity of women in Lamu so that a man could not marry at all unless he belonged to the upper class of Lamu society with the lineage of twelve generations in the female as well as in the male line, of pure Lamu

descent. A man who did not have such a status had not chance to marry.

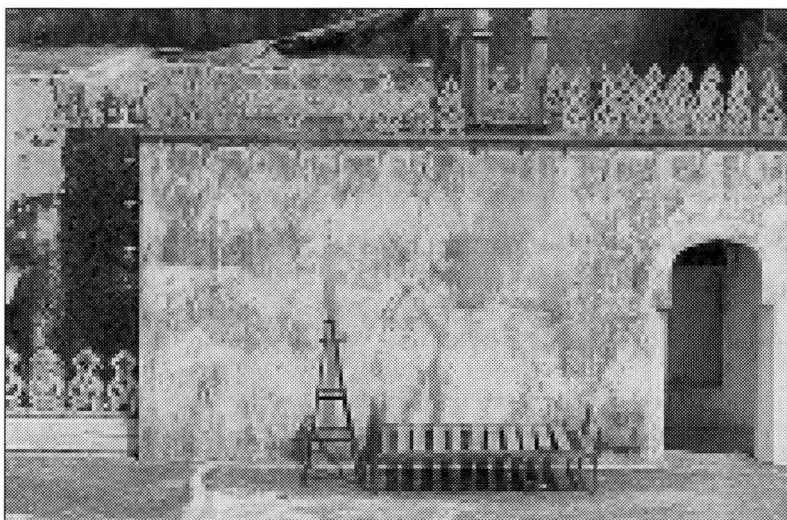
Therefore the men of Lamu held council and decided to do away with these restrictions, so they threw all the family records in the sea. That is why there are no historical documents left in Lamu. Now it suffices for someone to be the son of somebody, to marry. That name suffices.

Peace to the readers. These words were copied from Shaiba Faraj bin Hamed al Bakariy al-Lumuy, by Saleh on orders from the Governor Abdullah bin hamed.

It is a collection of events and anecdotes including the names and dates of ruler, but very little about the events in their reign. The chronicle ends with the poem:

We accept that when the boat sinks
We shall all be in the water.
We, free men and bondsmen,

**Irena Knehtl is an economist and regular contributor to Yemen Times*



A mosque in the city

What kind of seas do you ask me about?

About clouds of fire?
And islands of coral?

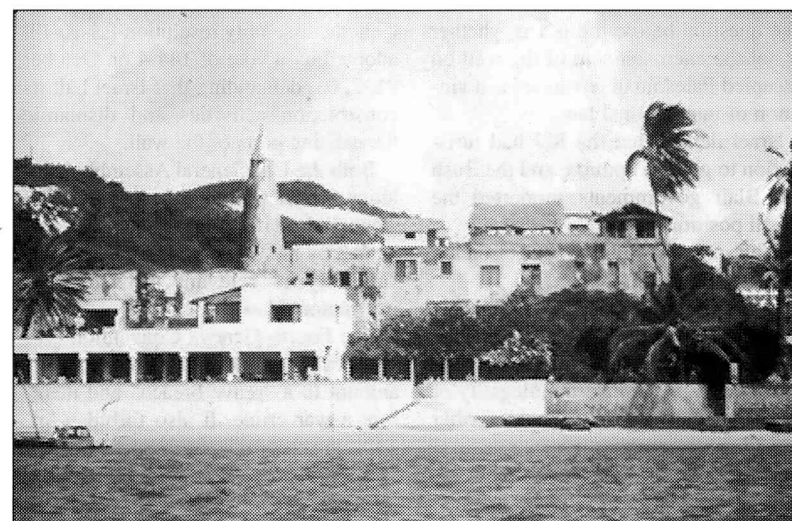
With stars in their eyes after the last sky:

The Arabs accepted that the world was round – encompassed in an ocean, then air, then fire: another ring of air and a final ring of fire. They would cross the Gulf to the island of Socotra in the Sea of Zinj, and further after the last sky. They used to call it the Sea of Barbara and the Land of Jaifuni.

Its waves are... blind waves. When the waves go high they are as high as the mountains, when they go down, when they go down, they are like the deepest valleys. When they were in the middle of this sea, they would recite a few lines of rajaz poetry:



Lamu offshore



A view of Lamu city

Did you know that . . . ?

- Lamu, an island off present day Kenyan coast is a world heritage site.
- American writer Don Meredith whose writings frequently appear in Poets and Writers Magazine and Texas Review makes home in Lamu.
- With a population of 30.5 million, Kenya has emerged an important trading partner to Yemen. Located on equator with a frontage on East coast of Africa and sharing borders with five countries. Kenya is a fast moving market oriented economy. It is also regional trade center for COMESA. The manufacturing sector provides room for imports.
- Kenya is rich in mineral

resources. Compared to other East African countries, Kenya has the lowest duties imposed on locally produced commodities. Full exemption on import duties and sales tax is allowed for all imports that are needed to establish the enterprises, including equipment, machinery, spare parts, raw materials, and supplies.

- Main Exports are tea, coffee, fruits, beans, horticultural products, fresh flowers, pyrethrum, minerals. Kenya is popular for tourism and wildlife.
- Main imports are vehicles, auto spare parts, cosmetics, perfumes, machinery, foodstuff, electronics, building materials, garments and textiles.

Cats are eating human afterbirth in some hallways

Why do well-run hospitals break down?

BY RIDWAN AL-SAQQA
ADEN BUREAU CHIEF

Aden citizens are complaining that health service conditions and standards in the governorate of Aden have dropped dramatically during the last few years. The significant decline in this sector has resulted in dismay and anger among Aden who once had one of the best medical services available in the country.

This comes despite the fact that several new private medical enterprises have been established, but which are not audited or monitored by the state.

This can be attributed to the fact that even state-run medical facilities are of very low standards, and suffer from many problems including inefficient management, lack of resources, corruption, low hygienic standards and more.

In fact, private medical enterprises are most of the time much better than governmental ones in some parts of the governorate.

Citizens of the governorate recall that despite the state's limited resources pre-unification, the country did have decent medical services and employees used to be more dedicated and honest in providing healthcare to citizens in need.

In an effort to focus more on the conditions of the different hospitals of Aden, Yemen Times looked into the care of various hospitals and came up with this information:

Republican Educational Hospital (Jumhuri)

This hospital is among the oldest educational and medical hospitals in Aden. It was established by the British colony to provide healthcare to all citizens residing in Aden in the late 1940s.

Following evacuation of the last British soldiers in November 1967, the hospital's name was changed from its old name Queen's Hospital, to the Educational Republican Hospital.

The hospital played a major role in curing and treating hundreds of thousands of patients who suffered from

various diseases and who came from different parts of the country. The hospital also served as an educational institute providing knowledge to medical students.

But today, the hospital's conditions are upsetting as most of the promises to modernize the hospital and provide it with the necessary equipment to run its medical services appropriate are still not fulfilled.

The hospital is in deep need of ambulance cars, and an extra electricity generator to work when public electricity is cut off, which happens too often. Special precautionary measures need to be made to care better for corpses kept in the fridge of the hospital's morgue.

The hospital also lacks qualified medical staffers both doctors and nurses, which negatively affects the hospital's reputation.

The hospital's building is also in need for renovation as some of its walls and ceilings have decayed and need repair.

Al-Wahda Educational Hospital

This hospital was built with the help of the former Soviet Union in the 1970s. It used to have two major departments, gynecology and obstetrics. It is a huge building that suffers from chronic problems, particularly in the building's infrastructure, as it leaks of its sewage and sanitation pipes. Some of the ceilings are severely damaged and require urgent repair to prevent a possible catastrophe. There are even small pits filled with sewage water in the hospital's building.

Some of the floors of the hospital are so neglected that insects, rats, and even cats live in them, causing severely poor hygienic conditions.

Cats are often seen wandering in the halls of the hospital and feeding on the remains of women's afterbirth. This disgusting situation is happening in a hospital once known to be a model hospital that provided high-quality medical services to Yemeni citizens in Aden and nearby provinces.



Patients in Aden hospitals suffer from lack of proper health care

Furthermore, patients continue complaining of the poor medical quality offered in the hospital and sometimes rough and uncivilized behavior of some of its staffers.

Despite of the hospital's management's efforts in paying for the expenses of running the hospital from its internal revenues, and despite the massive efforts exerted by the sincere staffers to have it continue to provide its services, the hospital's future is still in doubt, especially as the building's infrastructure is deteriorating year after year and needs massive renovations.

The management is still hopeful in that the Ministry of Public Health and Population will take necessary measures to save the hospital.

Aden's General Hospital

The hospital is relatively new and was funded by the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia. It was opened in early 1990 and provided services for some time in an excellent manner. However, in time, the situation of the hospital also deteriorated, especially as it suffered from lack of maintenance and supervision.

Being a modern hospital with new equipment and staff, the hospital was once seen as the hope of all Aden's citizens in becoming an example to other hospitals, but it turned to be similar to the rest, pinpointing to a possible defect in the public health system, which seems to turn successful hospitals to incompetent ones.

The main reason behind the failure of the hospital to reach high standards is basically, according to the hospital's staffers, low wages, lack of modern equipment, and mainly financial burdens. These are basically the same reasons behind the failures of all other governmental hospitals throughout the country.

Can the government prevent their collapse?

It remains to be seen how the government would act to save these hospitals from collapse. The ministry of public health and population needs to rethink its ways of monitoring the hospitals and distributing its budgets and financial resources, which many believe are huge. The ministry will have to enforce regulations and laws that would prevent mismanagement and waste of public funds.

Yemeni citizens have basically lost confidence in the government's so called 'new medical projects' because almost every project starts with glory and huge investments, but ends in misery.

In brief, a new vision and commitment need to be followed by solid and permanent steps to save Aden's medical sector from destined collapse.



Pits filled with sewage water around the hospital

New facility a big help

Training female health workers in Marib

The new dormitory for female students at the Health Institute in Marib founded in late January, means that the governorate has now its own Health Institute, where female students of nursing and midwifery can be trained.

Symbolically it shows that the government has recognized the importance of enabling all governorates to look after themselves and to make female staff available for the health services.

About 70% of the population are women and children under 5 years of age. Especially in regions with strong traditions this population group can only be reached by health services if the peripheral health facilities have female staff.

Only women from the communities in Marib will be ready and able to work in remote areas of the governorate, and only if the training facility is under their watch, will families in Marib allow their daughters to be trained for modern professions.

Therefore the event is a breakthrough for the Marib in many regards.

The construction was financed and guided by the German Development Cooperation for Health. Involving a local firm and local daily manpower was part of the strategy to contribute also to economic development in disadvantaged regions.

The building with 3 floors was completed in 12 months and with a high standard. The opening ceremony was attended, among others, by the Dep. Governor, the General Director of Health in Marib, the deputy of the German Ambassador, the directors of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the German Development Service (DED), as well as the managers of the Family Health & Family Planning and Health Sector Advisory Projects of GTZ.

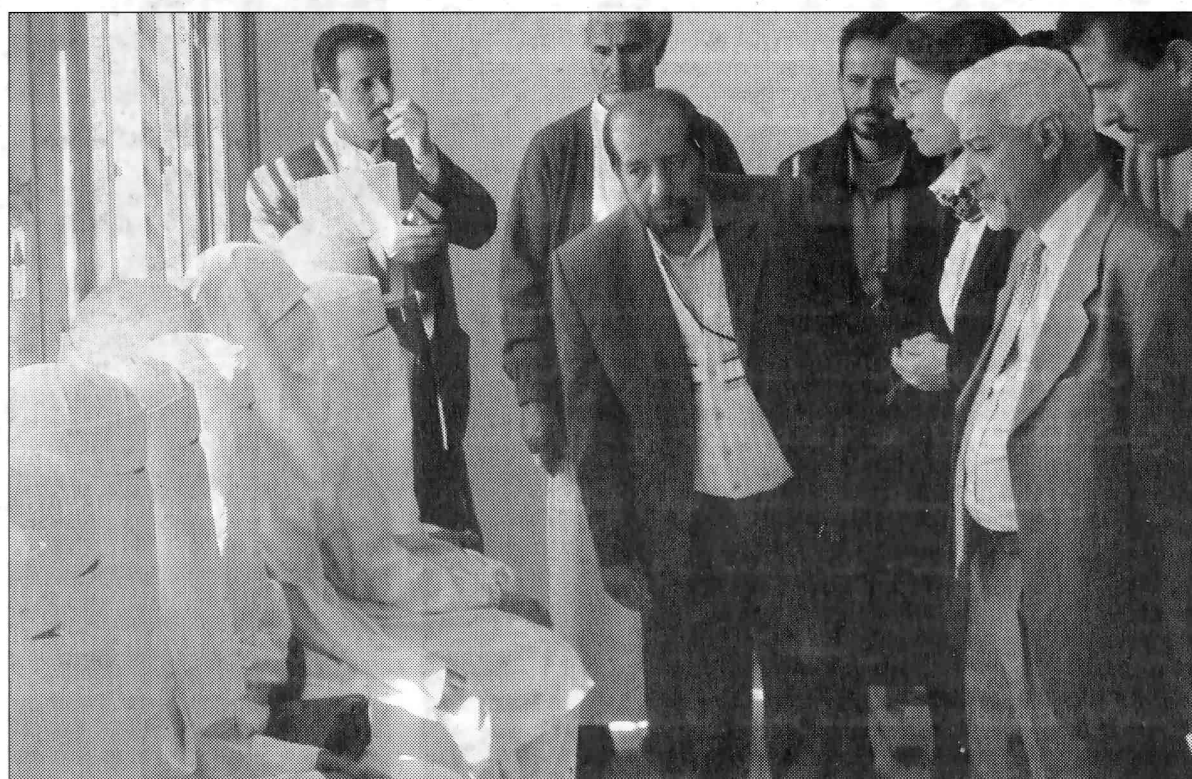
The German Development Cooperation has supported the health sector in Marib Governorate since 1998. The Governorate was jointly selected by the Ministry of Health and the German partners because health services seemed to reach not even 20% of the population, and also because development in the social sector would

help to reduce the danger of conflicts in Marib.

In order to contribute to the achievement of the second objective and assure equity, from the very beginning support was given to all 14 districts of the governorate. The focus of the assistance is on improving family health/family planning as well as curative services and on establishing a solid district health management system. At the same time, capacity building in the Governorate Health Office is supported.

With regard to systematic management and cooperation between sectors and official local authorities, the governorate was in last place 5 years ago. The German side confirms that progress is satisfying, that for example the health centre in Marib Town has developed to be one of the best ones in all the 10 governorates supported by the German Cooperation.

The technical cooperation with the Health Office and especially its director general is good, and that they feel strongly supported by the very active Governor.



Female trainees on health work

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



26 September weekly,
organ of Yemen Armed
Forces, 12 February 2004.

Main headlines

- Positive and fruitful results of the president's visit to Cairo,
- The president: Yemen-Egypt security dossier discussed and closed,
- President Mubarak: Bilateral relations strong and deep-rooted in Egyptian and Yemeni peoples hearts,
- FM al-Qirbi: Committee from both countries to draw up joint perception for the reform of the Arab League to meet in Sana'a next April
- Interior ministry delegation visit Cairo soon
- Denying receipt of oil coupons, Tawfeeq Abdulraheem gets offer for exporting petroleum materials to Iraq
- The U.S. decides increasing development support to Yemen in appreciation of its democratic pursuit
- PM Bajammal visits China end of March

On the Yemeni relationship with America columnist Ahmed al-Zubairi says in his article the recent successful visit of the Yemeni foreign minister Dr Abubakr al-Qirbi to the United States of America came to express the level of development the Yemeni-American relations have reached. This was embodied by the Yemeni minister's meetings with American officials at various centres of decision-making and ability of those relations to establish channels of understanding, communication and discussion of all issues accompanied with the respect of towards the variance of viewpoints towards different matters. This is an indication of mutual understanding of the visions on which both countries' leaderships perceptions are built.

It could be indicated that the American-Yemeni relations during the nineties decade of the last century and the past years of this century were not always in good terms, but through understanding and dialogue those relations managed to overcome any misunderstanding that might arouse between the two countries. Thus in this direction the Yemeni foreign minister visit came to head. The visit lasted for several days as a necessary step to make the American friends be aware of the factors and motives from which Yemen proceeds in dealing with issues of terror and consequently defining the areas of security cooperation in the fight against this world phenomenon.



Annas weekly, 16
February 2004.

Main headlines

- Horrendous crime in the city of Ibb, a child strangled to death, the accused an entire family
- Presidential visit to Riyadh to settle the border crisis
- Preparation for the journalists conference continue amidst possibilities

ties of postponing it, parliamentary differences on the journalists law

- Physicians and pharmacists intend the election of their union next March

Dr Saeed al-Assali discusses in his article the question whether he experiment of the state based on religion is approaching its end saying no doubt Iran has been during the second half of the twentieth century the focus of the world attention and seems to continue to be so at least in the major part of the 21st century. Perhaps the success of the Islamic revolution in 1979 was the most important event in that year and maybe its sudden downfall would be the most important one the first half of the 21st century would witness.

The Iranian revolution was looked at as a beginning to other revolutions in the region and that would lead to a radical change in the political regimes in the area and would result in an effect in the regional and world orders. But a thing of this kind did not happen as the Iranian revolution was besieged in its very own place and surely the failure in the attempt of exporting it represented the beginning of the end of the Iranian revolution.

What is going on in Iran nowadays is in fact one of the phenomena of conflict between supporters of the two camps; supporters of the religious state and those of the democratic state. It is obvious that the trend of the conflict is tilting in favour of supporters of the religious state due to partiality of the Islamic republic constitution to them, but that would not last long.

The Islamic republic did not achieve any progress in economy and this failure will make lose the support of many segments of the Iranian people, especially the middle class and city residents. In the near future the Islamic republic would resort to narrow the space of freedom and practice suppression under pretext of preserving the regime. This in turn would make it lose the support of many people who are still thinking that the religious state could realize justice even if it failed to realize democracy. So what is now happening in Iran represents the beginning of the end. We have also to call the attention that what is happening now in Iran and what would happen in the future would not restrict its impact on Iran or the Shiite but the conflict would affect all Islamic movements because it would prove that the slogan of establishing an Islamic state similar to the state of the Caliphate is not a possible matter.



Al-Shumou weekly, 14
February 2004.

Main headlines

- Burdens of foreign debts get heavier due to inability to utilizing potentials in the required level
- After the decision of merging the four banks, Economic circles demand the government to take measures for collecting its stumbling debts instead of overburdening

Main Headlines

- Al-Hattar alternative to Binladen: American vision in the Yemeni approach
- Merging banks, hasty step harming the national economy
- Yemeni-Saudi relations, from partnership to dividing barrier
- America: prominent figures in Guantanamo, among them having links to Cole attack-
- TeleYemen protects its subscribers against Internet viruses
- President Saleh to Saudi Arabia to settle cordially the issue of border screens
- Parliament discusses conditions of detainees in the political security prisons
- American gunboats for Coast Guard Force arrive in Aden
- Government raises diesel and fuel prices to 40 and 50 rials per liter
- Maaref: Israeli military secrets fall in hands of Egyptian intelligence
- To determine monitoring and operational centers for coast guard gunboats,
- Sea survey conducted at the Red Sea southern and Miyoun Island
- Emir of Mecca gives orders for investigations into allegations of selling children in the Kingdom
- Tension on borders escalating,
- Saudi Arabia prevents cutting road inside Yemeni territories
- American plan to protect against Middle East regimes
- Manoeuvres to undermine Journalists Syndicate conference
- Women suicide incidents in Ibb governorate increase
- In continuation of the war against the Islah,
- America accuses Sheikh Abdullah Saatar of involvement in supporting terror
- Following the government's accusing him of smuggling Yemeni oil,
- Baghdad accuses Tawfeeq Abdulraheem of receiving oil coupons as bribes
- To supervise amending education curricula,
- American delegation arrives in Yemen in a few days time
- Central Apparatus report discloses violations and excesses in the Yemeni Bank
- After al-Mouayad and al-Haila,
- The danger of kidnapping threatens Engineer Abdullah Saatar
- The president gives directives to refer political security detainees to judiciary
- Pollution of the two largest dams feeding Sana'a basin with subterranean waters
- Receiving participants in the civilizations dialogue international symposium,
- President Saleh: Civilizations conflict results in catastrophes
- Yemen's civilization and human heritage, property of entire humanity
- Djibouti ambassador to Sana'a denies reports about arresting Yemenis in his country
- Parliament and Shoura Council discuss sea border agreement with Oman
- Sana'a, a regional headquarters of American democratic institute
- Yemen free from Bird flu virus

ing the state budget

- In the midst of preparations for the journalists syndicate conference, journalists call for boycotting elections.

The political editor of the newspaper says in his article that there are serious events threaten the political and social fabric of the Yemeni homeland in particular and the Arab in general. There are also some consequences dictating on us run after the policy of ridiculing the Arab and Islamic nation dignity and to surrender to the neo-colonialism with all of its forms and colours.

If what has happened in Iraq and Palestine is a natural reflection of the deterioration of the Arab situation politically, economically and socially, its effect would not stop at a certain point but would rather spread around heart of the Arab nation. And if the situation is thus it is a common sense to presume Yemen be one of the states to be affected politically, economically and socially by those negative developments. As Yemeni people we could not distance ourselves from taking part in the crime committed against the Yemeni people and the Arab nation. While we observe the lessons before our eyes we find ourselves intentionally putting masks on our eyes lest we should learn of what is happening around us. The defeatism the region is experiencing is an outcome of a defeat whose impact would get extended to long periods as it has become a kind of culture we are leading in a dynamic way in our everyday life.

The declared war on the Islah is going on under pretexts of fighting terror. But despite of that, there are indications pointing out that this war is not restricted to be against the Islah to include officials at the top of positions of the ruling party. At the time when the war of the American intelligence on the Islah is going on, we find that intelligence inaugurates a new war against the GPC when the Iraqi press, under American instructions published lists containing names of whom it had described as beneficiaries from coupons Iraqi oil during the period of the former Iraqi regime, such as the secretary general of the GPC Dr Abdulkareem al-Eryani. His is considered an apparent confirmation that the American policy towards our country does not differentiate between who is a modernist Islamism and open liberal. The security cooperation between Yemen and America resulted in victimizing the country's interest and stability in the first place and then the detention of sheikh al-Mouayad and his companion and later Abdulsalam al-Haila and falling in the hands of the Americans. America does in fact differentiate between the Zionist-American interest and that of the Arabs.



Al-Shoura weekly, organ
of the Union of People's
Forces of Yemen, 15
February 2004.

Main headlines

- Journalists Syndicate leadership receives YR 25 million, seeks to abort the conference
- The president heads for Saudi Arabia,
- Parliament members freeze the journalists syndicate draft law
- Lawyers' financial subscriptions delay holding their union conference
- Two killed, three injured in Sa'da
- GPC organisation in Ibb calls on the government to stop the policy of impoverishment
- Lahj local radio station suspended
- 41 new arrestees at political security prisons.

Columnist Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani says in his article that all know that the democratic margin in Yemen has diminished but that of the press. The political pluralism has receded after most of its leaders have been "domesticated" and trade unions have been sidelined after the authority has confiscated them and civil institutions have been emptied of their content and rendered themselves property of the authority. Amidst such atmospheres the press could not be left with a margin, or for the journalists the remains of freedom. The democracy in Yemen is so much narrow, and this is its own affair. But the problem lies in how the journalists are going to deal with this trend? They refuse the draft law of the syndicate and get surprised by some journalists refusing the government withdrawal of the law, as if they themselves are the government. The journalists should support the profession and the syndicate independence. The syndicate's elections should either be an end for downfall or the beginning of a genuine freedom.



Al-Ayyam daily, 15
February 2004.

Main headlines

- In al-Mansoura Prison in Aden, prisoners infected with AIDS, others detained against the law
- Traffic accident kills UNICEF's Muhra bureau director and his son
- Researchers from Holland and America visit Hadramout

Columnist Dr Hisham Muhsin al-Saqaf says as we are approaching the date of holding the conference of the Yemeni journalists syndicate, credibility of the democratic experiment in the country is dependent on the extent of transparency and impartiality that are going to be followed in the process of electing a new leadership replacing the present one. We do not want to repeat the mistakes in the name of democracy; violate laws and regulations, confiscate others' rights and muffle voices and then allege that all that was democracy.

Free elections with free will of a new leadership of the journalist's syndicate of Yemen would be a new indication in our democratic life and an usher of consolidating the meanings that we talk about as facts practiced in our life.

CONDOLENCE

The staff of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Yemen wish to offer their most sincere condolences to the family of their late dear colleague,

Dr. Ali Munassar

UNICEF's field Officer in Al-Mahara, who passed away, along with his eldest son Marwan, in a terrible car accident. This tragic and untimely passing away was felt, amongst all staff, with deep sorrow and great regrets. May-God Almighty rest their souls in eternal peace and grant the saddened family the solace and patience to pass through this difficult time.

UNICEF Staff, Yemen

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- **Trade Marketing Executives**
2 years work experience in FMCG, Computer skills, fluent English.
- **National Sales Manager**
5-7 years work experience in FMCG, Computer skills, fluent English.
- **Regional Sales Supervisor**
3-5 years work experience in FMCG, Computer skills, fluent English.
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بِقُلُوبٍ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدَرِهِ تَلَقَيْنَا نَبَأَ الْفَاجِعَةِ
الْمُؤَلَّمَةِ بِوَفَاةِ الْمَغْفُورِ لَهُ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى

الأستاذ عبد الحفيظ بهران

وبهذا المصاب الجلل نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق
المواساة إلى أسرة الفقيد سائلين المولى عز وجل أن
يتغمده بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنه فسيح
جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان
وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر
عنهم الأستاذ/عماد أحمد السقاف

A Case Study Translation of *The Arabian Nights*



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Abstract

This paper discusses an instance of practical translation so as to bring to focus the constraints in translating a text in Arabic to English and vice versa. The selection here is from *The Arabian Nights* since the text has been widely translated and read outside the Arab World. One tale of this narrative is translated by an Arab and the other one by a non-Arab.

Introduction: Nature of Arabic

A translator is to be like his author, it is not his business to excel him.

Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

To talk of translation is to talk of the cultural and linguistic aspects of the language (means of expression, lexical, phraseological elements, grammatical forms and syntactic constituents as well as different genre-related styles). Translation of Arabic language requires special attention to the peculiarities of this language. (in terms of script, vocabulary, grammar and cultural nuances) so as to be able to transfer the subtleties of its meaning to any target language. An Arabic text is interlinked with its form, ideas, environment, time, place and so on.

In terms of writing system, Arabic does not follow the pattern of many languages. It is written from right to left. Its grammar is inflectional where a change in the form of a word takes place to show a grammatical change in tense, mood, gender, number, etc. The word order of Arabic is not like English: subject-verb-object (SVO). It varies its syntactic word order. Normal sentence word order in Arabic is VSO but SVO is a possible structure. Variations of word order are not limited since subject and object can be distinguished by their case endings due to the inflections and verb conjugations. This is because grammatical rules of Arabic depend on *إعراب* *e'erab*, applying rules to the word regardless of its position due to the inflectional structure of Arabic. Unlike English that depends on the place of the word in some grammar slots, Arabic vocabulary alters not because of their place in the word order but because of their function in the sentence. However, an adjective follows the noun and it is followed by an adverb unlike the case in English where the adjective has to precede the noun and it has to be preceded by the adverb. Whereas a word in English can fit different parts of speech (as an adjective, a noun and a verb), the form of an Arabic word does not change a lot to occupy different grammatical functions. Present past and future tense is available in Arabic but formation is different from English. However, there are no present continues, past participle or past perfect. Auxiliary verbs and particles are not available in Arabic too. Negating a sentence is made by putting a negation word before the verb with no auxiliary, e.g. لا دخان بلا نار [la duhkan bila nar] there is no smoke without fire.

ما كل ما يتنمذ المرء بذكره

تأتي الرياح بما لا تشتهي السفن
[ma klu ma yatman al mar'a udrikahu tagri al rih bi mala tashthi al sufunu] Man does not attain all his heart's desire for the winds do not slow as the vessels wish.

Past, present and future tense of Arabic Verbs are formed by adding suffixes or prefixes that sometimes contain number and gender. In addition to the two tenses there are imperative forms, an active participle, a passive participle, and a verbal noun. Verbs that conjugate regularly are inflected for three persons, three numbers (singular, dual, plural), and two genders. The following examples of Arabic verbs in practice: **اكتب الدرس** *ekataba*= imperative form; write the lesson. **يكتب الدرس** [*yaktub* *adres*= present; He writes the lesson]. **كتبت الدرس** [*katabtu* *adres*= past form; I wrote the lesson]. **سوف أكتب الدرس** [*sofa* *aktub* *adres*= future form; I will write the lesson]. **قد كتبت الدرس** [*gad* *katabtu* *adres*= similar to past perfect; I had written the lesson]. **كتب الدرس** [*kutib* *adres*= passive voice; The lesson was written]. If we want to negate the verb, it is simply by adding the negative marker لا [*la*=no] in front of the verb, e.g. **لا تكتب الدرس** [*do not write the lesson*].

Nouns and adjectives are less regular in formation, and have many different plural patterns. The so-called broken plurals are formed by altering the internal syllable shape of the singular noun. There are three cases (nominative, genitive, and accusative) in the declensional system of Classical Arabic nouns; nouns are no longer declined in the modern dial. Pronouns occur both as suffixes and as independent words, (Britannica 2002)1. These characteristics of Arabic grammar influence understanding of the text to be translated. When it is transferred to English, for instance, the problem becomes different. English is idiomatic in its use. Verbs gain different meanings when they are followed by some prepositions (phrasal verbs). *To look into*, is not like *to look for* or *after*. This feature is not part of Arabic language. It poses another problem for translation to and from Arabic.

This kind of grammar gives rise to some problems in translation. Another problem is the long history of Arabic that gives its vocabulary a wide range of connotative and denotative references that adds to its cultural heritage. All these have heavy bearings on the translator and on the message receptor. Thus if Arabic is a source language, the translator requires an exceptional effort due to distinctiveness of Arabic as a language that has its deep-rootedness in the Islamic and pre-Islamic culture.

With such a grounding of Arabic, one thinks of the role of the translator who has to digest the intricacies of Arabic and the target language. Understanding the art of translation as a social, reproductive, or creative activity so as to foster intercultural communications is another fascinating aspect that attracts translators.

Next part of this paper focuses on two passages translated by two different persons who came from two different backgrounds which may serve throw light on the translation potential of Arabic.

The aim here is not faultfinding, rather it is to see how one handles a text by being target-oriented or source-oriented.

Paper-and-pen theoreticians have heatedly debated the notion of literal, linguistic, formal grammatical, textual vs. free, semantic, communicative, dynamic pragmatic translation. In practical translation, the theory of transfer, equivalence or correspondence from SL to TL is of little help for ground reality flouts all theories, at least with reference to the present selection. Translators make decisions whether to re-create or re-write texts so as to transfer the required amount of the intended text. This is governed, among other things, by type of text (scientific, technical, literary or non-literary), audience and purpose of translation. The process involves a lot of additions, deletions, expansions, changes of order, etc that touch the linguistic, literary and socio-cultural levels of SL and TL text. When it comes to a fictional text as the one under review, the situation becomes even more demanding due to the literary and cultural conventions inherited in the culture where the text originated and from the passage of time that adds another dimension to the text.

The translator in such a situation is faced with other technical aspects that relate to the dichotomy of form and content. The form of *The Arabian Nights* is unique if the authorial style and text style are taken into consideration. The message can be tailored to suit the target audience but at the expense of the original or the other way around. The linguistic and non-linguistic contexts (i.e. culture and society) are interwoven when a message is transferred from the SL to TL for the translator is dealing with two different cultures at the same time.

The Arabian Nights

الف ليلة وليلة [*Alf layla wa-layla*; trans. *The Arabian Nights* or *The Thousand Nights And One Night*] is a collection of stories that have been seen as one of the world great works of literature. *The Arabian Nights* is possibly originated as folk tales, anecdotes, or fables that were passed on orally. Stories like *Ali Baba*, *Aladdin*, and *Sindbad the Sailor*, etc are famous worldwide. It has been seen as a valuable source of information for scholars in different fields. These stories have been used as a window on the Arab world. Perceptions of prototypical Arabs were formed on the basis of the fictional portrayal. Like the *Rub'iyat* of Omar Khayyam (1050? - 1122), this narrative implies a sensual background of the East for it portrays the early Middle Eastern culture in that way. However, during the "medieval Arabic" (in the western terms), *Alf layla wa-layla* did not enjoy the esteem of literary scholars, who favoured the stylistically more challenging and erudite adab (literature) as *The Nights* and *maqamat**. Nevertheless, this adab continues to be read and appreciated both in and outside the Arab world for its form and content. The narrative style of the frame story and interlinked stories within influenced writers all over the world.

The story is of a frame story and other related stories within it. The narrator of the frame story begins by a distinct Arabic style of narrative. It begins in the name of Allah, the most Merciful, most Gracious. The usual opening of every formal discourse in Arabic or traditional Arabic stories also includes words of thanks and praise to Allah **الحمد لله**

[*Alham 'dollah*= glory be to God!]) and prayers and blessing upon the Lord of the Prophets, his family and companions. To draw the attention of the audience to the untruthfulness, the narrator says that **الله اعلم** [*Allaho A'alam*= God is All-knowing]- a usual stylistic device in the Arabic style to dissociate oneself from the fictional world of the story. It is to say that it is only as story for entertainment that has fun and wisdom in it.

After the elaborate introduction that prepares the audience mentally and psychologically, the narrator of the frame story begins by narrating the story of a king (sultan Schahriar) who paid a visit to his brother who is a king too. Sultan Schahriar went on an expedition and his brother who is bitter with the unfaithful wife remains behind. To his dismay, he saw the wife of the king having love affair with her cook. He told sultan Schahriar to hide himself and see how his wife behaves in his absence. When sultan Schahriar saw his wife in the hands of a servant, he swore himself by a binding oath that whatever wife he married, he would sleep with her at night and slay her at daybreak to make sure that his honour is not marred. He believes that there never is one chaste woman upon the face of earth. He resolved to marry every night a virgin girl and get rid of her in the morning. His Wazir [minister] has to bring him a girl every night for about three years to the extent that no girl is available to marry the king. Now the turn came to the daughter of the Wazir himself who decided to marry the king willingly to save the skin of the Muslim daughters. She designs a scheme to thwart the sultan's decree. Her strategy is to exploit the power of fiction to spell the sultan.

From this point in the story, the legendary queen named Scheherazade takes over to tell the story. The night after the wedding, she tells one of her enframement stories to her sister so that the sultan can overhear. She stops, however, before the story comes to its conclusion, and the sultan allows her to live another day so that he can hear the end. She continues this pattern night after night. After 1001 nights, the sultan relents and decides to let Scheherazade live. With this strategy, Scheherazade saves her skin and the daughters of the Muslims as she planned.

This powerful work attracted many translators who attempted to transfer both the linguistic and socio-cultural effects to the target audience. For the sake of convenience, the paper juxtaposes two translations of a tale in this long narrative. One of this was by Richard Francis Burton¹, who translated *The Arabian Nights* in the 1880s. The other translation is from Abdulqader Alqit³ (1974). The two translations are juxtaposed to show the distinctiveness of Arabic style that resist translation and the way translators handle it to transfer the original to the target language and audience.

The Fisherman and the Jinni

This is the third story in the third night after the wedding of Scheherazade to the sultan Schahriar. The queen narrated stories that led to the fisherman and the jinni. The fisherman who is married with three children is poverty-stricken. He went to fish and after trying thrice got nothing. He made another try to find an earthen pot in his net. He hoped that he has got a treasure that he can solve his economic problems with. To his surprise there is a jinni in this pot. The jinni told the fisherman that he has sworn to murder anyone who saves him and the fisherman has to choose the way he wants to die. Here Scheherazade 'perceived the dawn of the day and ceased to say her permitted say'. When earnestly asked to complete the story, she narrates how the fisherman used his intelligence to come out of this problem. He convinced the jinni that he couldn't believe that such a huge creature as jinni was inside that small pot. The jinni returned to the pot to show the fisherman and then the fisherman closed the pot upon which the jinni swore he would make the fisherman rich if released. The fisherman told him that his story with the Jinni is like the story of the Wazir of King Yunan with the sage Duban. The jinni asked about the story upon which the fisherman began to tell his story.

To be continued

Using Internet Explorer

BY AHMED MOHAMMED AHMED AL-WAREEP
APTECH, SANA'A CENTER

Internet is a powerful tool to access the latest advances in all branches of the constantly widening spheres of knowledge. In the fitness of things, a knowledge about the techniques of using the internet is an imperative for every one, especially the younger generation.

One way to access the information available in the internet is by using Internet Explorer. Here are some tips of how to use it:

run a program

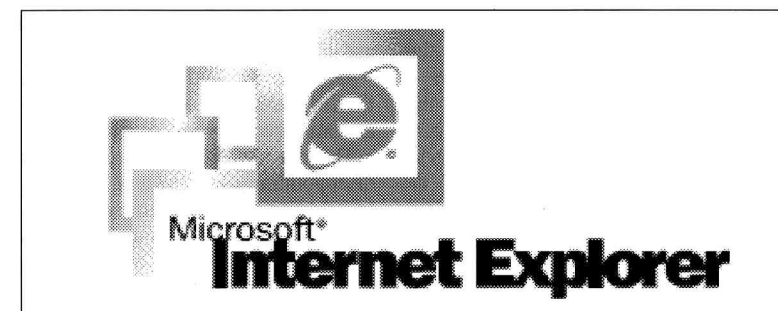
- To go to a Web page, type the Internet address - for example, www.microsoft.com—in the Address bar, and then click the **Go** button.

- To run a program from the Address bar, type the program name, and then click the **Go** button.

If you know the complete path and file name, you can type them—for example:

C:\MSOffice\Winword\Winword.exe.

- To browse through folders from the Address bar, type the drive and folder name, and then click the **Go** button—for example:



To open Internet Explorer, click **Start**, point to **Programs**, and then click **Internet Explorer**.

With Internet Explorer and an Internet connection, you can search for and view information on the World Wide Web. You can type the address of the Web page that you want to visit into the address bar, or click an address from your list of Favorites. Internet Explorer also lets you search the Internet for people, businesses, and information about subjects that interest you. Internet Explorer security features let you browse the Web with confidence, knowing that your computer and personal information are safe.

how to browse the Web faster and easier

To start browsing the Web, click any link on your home page, which is the page that appears when you start Internet Explorer. You can see whether an item on a page is a link by moving the mouse pointer over the item. If the pointer changes to a hand, the item is a link. A link can be a picture, a 3-D image, or colored text (usually underlined).

Now you're ready to find a Web site on your own.

To open a Web page or folder, or to

C: or C:\My Documents

To link to Web pages you recently visited

- To return to the last page you viewed, click the **Back** button.

- To view a page you viewed before clicking the **Back** button, click the **Forward** button.

To see a list of the last few pages you visited, click the small down arrow beside the **Back** or **Forward** button.

- To return to the page that appears each time you start Internet Explorer, click the **Home** button.

- To select a Web page from your list of favorites, click the **Favorites** button.

- To select a Web page from the list of those you visited recently, click the **History** button. The History list also displays previously viewed files and folders on your computer.

What to do if a Web page isn't working

- If a page you are trying to view is taking too long to open, click the **Stop** button.

- If you get a message that a Web page cannot be displayed, or you want to make sure you have the latest version of the page, click the **Refresh** button or F5.

Ministry of Education needs a complete overhaul

BY MOHAMMED MOHISIN SHATUBI
ENGLISH TEACHER

Education, especially at the secondary level suffers from a deep crisis. Almost 90% of the schools in the country have shortage of teachers: specially secondary & preparatory schools for the following subjects Maths, Physics, biology chemistry and English. In Sana'a alone more than 30 schools are without teachers. It's a pity that the ministry can't solve it before the academic session starts.

Books are not distributed according to the requirement of the schools almost 30% of the schools in Sana'a are without complete texts. The rest of the provinces might presumably be without any books at all.

Inspectors from academic, financial, materials, administration are almost one third of the total number of teachers. And most of them are basically teachers and are unfit to be inspectors or supervisors. They have little professionalism.

In this ministry and at the local administration office (MOE), positions are in dozens, but non-of them solves the problems of schools, teachers, book, etc. they are just there for nothing. In some local adm-office (MOE) even don't have office sogn papers on the corner or inside the compound.

In some schools the number of administrative staff is more than the teachers, some of them hired directly

by the school directors, and some of them relatives for officials at the head office or local administration office. Many schools have many deputy directors, clerks, controller and so on.

There is no standard promotion policy for students to the next higher class. Every school director. Even teachers don't know what's happening after the exam.

Frequent transfers of teachers from one school to another jeopardises their morale and forces them to opt for private schools.

Many new schools have added new classrooms, but almost all of them are without furniture, teaching materials and teachers.

The so-called Teachers' Associations create confusions for the poor teachers by putting forth often contradictory agenda of action, and demands.

Teachers' salary should be paid through the bank or by some more scientific and expedient means.

These facts and circumstances call for a complete overhaul of the ministry and its modes of operation from the grass-root level. The Ministries of Local Administration, Finance, should also be involved in the whole exercise. Human resource development is the most important part for any country's development, without which the wheel of progress will be halted. If there is no development, the final result will be a morally degenerated and intellectually impoverished generation. Let's fight corruption and corrupt officials. Especially at Ministry of Education.

YOUTH FORUM

Lovely eyes
More than love,
What I share with you is your silent eyes
Which is more than love...
What can words say
When silence captures words and senses?
When the alphabet falls short
To reveal my emotions?
Shall I break the walls of this charming silence?
Shall I prevent my heart
From feeling on the speechless message
You send by your lovely eyes?
O love,

Keep them fixed in mine!
Let me observe, see and read my future through them!
These lovely eyes,
These bright couple of stars...
BY GHADA MOHAMMED AL-HARAZI
DEPT. OF ENGLISH
FACULTY OF ARTS, SANA'A

Teach me how I can conserve
Roots of your love in the depth of my heart
Teach me how the tears can dry
Who gave me the pains of life?
Nice words of verse
Covered my heart
With love and tender feelings
Help me now to travel away from all these

To my friend
If you were my friend, help me
To travel away from you
If you were my friend
Treat me from the deep wound
I miss you
So teach me how not to miss you

(Translated from an Arabic poem)
BY FATIMA HAMOUD AL-SANHANI
LEVEL 4
FACULTY OF EDUCATION, AL-MAHWEET

Pantani death still unclear after autopsy

By Stephen Farrand

RIMINI, Italy (Reuters) - Italian cycling great Marco Pantani died after an accumulation of fluids in his brain and lungs but it is still unclear as to what caused the death, the pathologist heading the autopsy says.

Giuseppe Fortuni said on Monday the investigation into the death of Pantani, who was found dead in a Rimini hotel room on Saturday, would "take weeks".

"Two elements have emerged — bleeding in the brain and lungs. At this point, we can exclude violence. The investigations will last several weeks."

"The autopsy has finished but it is only the first of a long series of investigations. Samples taken today will be analysed to evaluate and complete the investigations," Fortuni told reporters.

"They are complex and only at the end will we be able to respond with certainty to what the judge has asked us to report on — the cause of death," he added.

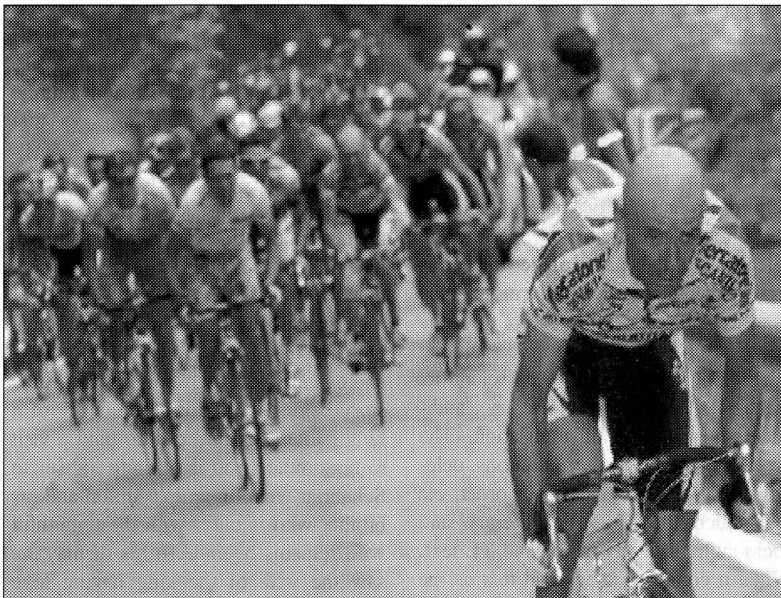
Asked whether the death of Pantani could be linked to a possible cocktail of drugs, Fortuni replied: "There is no sign of that but no way of excluding it either. We will investigate everything. No hypothesis has been excluded".

A coffin bearing Pantani's name and date of birth and death arrived at the morgue on Monday, but it was not clear when it would return to the Pantani family's home in Cesenatico, where the funeral is expected to be held later this week.

Pantani won the Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France in 1998 and was one of Italy's most popular sportsmen until the 1999 Giro when he was thrown out of the race for failing a test for haematocrit — an indicator, though not proof, of the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

He was banned in 2002 for using insulin during the previous year's Giro and his career never recovered.

He rode in the 2003 Giro, finishing a disappointing 14th, and was later treated in a drugs and depression clinic.



The investigation into the death of Italian cycling great Marco Pantani will "take weeks", says the pathologist who carried out the autopsy of the 34-year-old rider. REUTERS

Arsenal face FA Cup away trip

By Mike Collett

LONDON (Reuters) - Holders Arsenal have been drawn to visit either Liverpool or Portsmouth in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup.

Liverpool were the last team to beat Arsenal in the competition when they came from behind to edge them 2-1 in the 2001 final at Cardiff with two late goals from Michael Owen.

Arsenal have won the cup twice since then and following their 2-1 win over Chelsea in the fifth round on Sunday have now gone 17 matches without defeat in the competition — the last three all against premier league opponents this season.

They beat Leeds United 4-1 in the third round and Middlesbrough by the same score before seeing off Chelsea on Sunday.

Arsenal are bidding to become the first team since Blackburn Rovers in 1886 to win the cup three times in succession — and the first to appear in four successive finals.

They have met Liverpool 15 times in the FA Cup, winning six times, including the finals of 1950 and 1971, drawing four times and losing five.

Their last cup meeting was in the fourth round in 2002 when Arsenal won 1-0 at Highbury with a Dennis Bergkamp goal. Bergkamp was later sent off as were his team mate Martin Keown and Liverpool's Jamie Carragher.

Arsenal have only met Portsmouth three times in the cup, beating them 2-0 in 1932 and 3-2 in 1971 after a 1-1 draw.

Liverpool and Portsmouth drew 1-1 at the weekend and the two sides will replay next Sunday.

Lower division

Manchester United, looking to win the cup for the first time since their record setting 10th win in 1999, will play either Fulham or West Ham at Old Trafford.

United inflicted West Ham's record cup defeat when they beat them 6-0 in the fourth round last season — and United have not lost to Fulham in the cup since 1908. In recent years they have beaten them 1-0 in a fifth round tie in 1999 and 2-1 in a third round tie in 2001.

One lower division team is guaranteed a place in the semi-finals with first division Millwall drawn at home against second division Tranmere Rovers.

Millwall have reached the semi-finals three times in 1900, 1903 and 1937 while Tranmere have never gone further than the quarter-finals, which they have

now reached for the third time in five seasons. The two sides have never previously met in the cup.

If premier league Birmingham City overcome Sunderland in their fifth round replay, they will meet another first division side in Sheffield United, who were beaten by Arsenal in the semi-finals last season.

United striker Paul Peschisolidi, who scored the only goal in Sunday's fifth round victory over Colchester, said before the draw that it was the one pairing he did not want as his wife Karen Brady is the managing director at Birmingham.

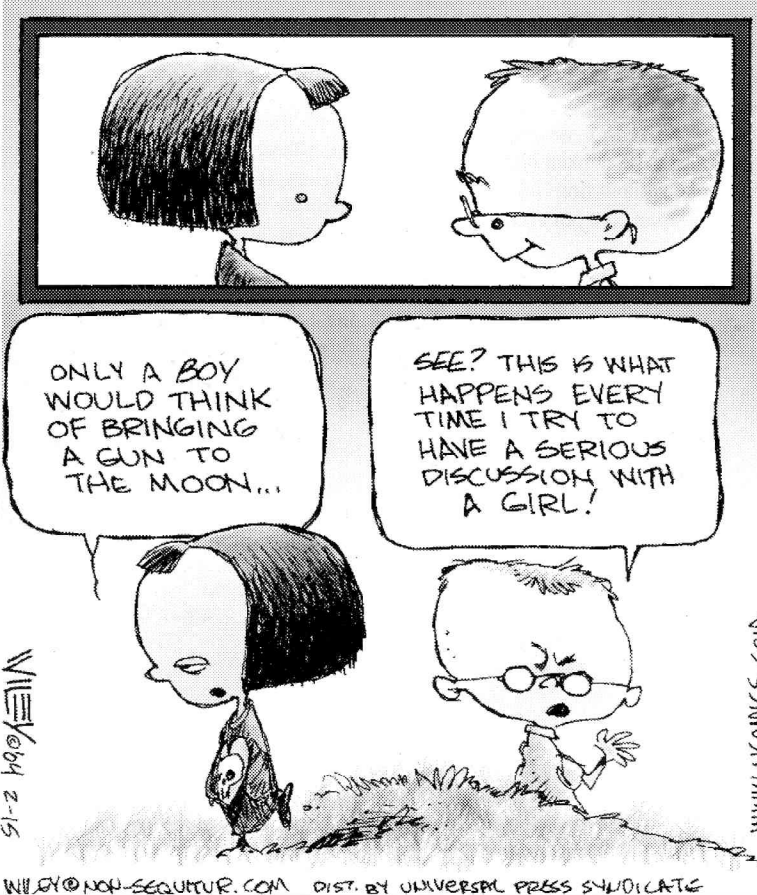
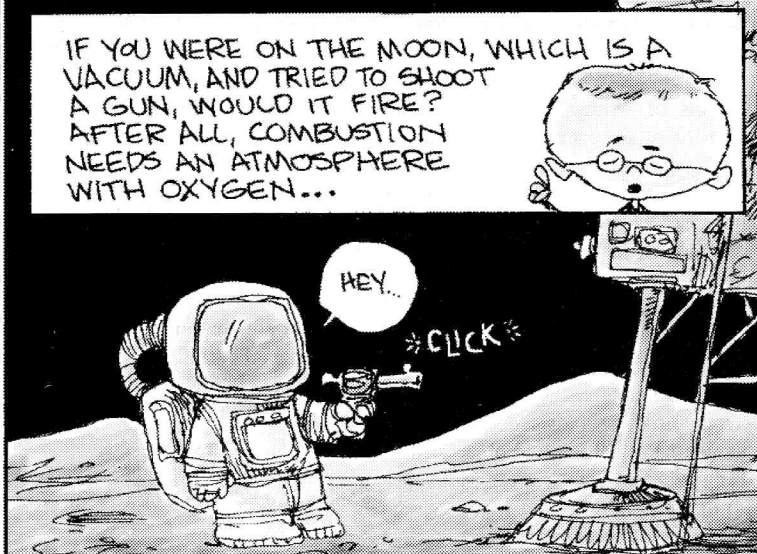
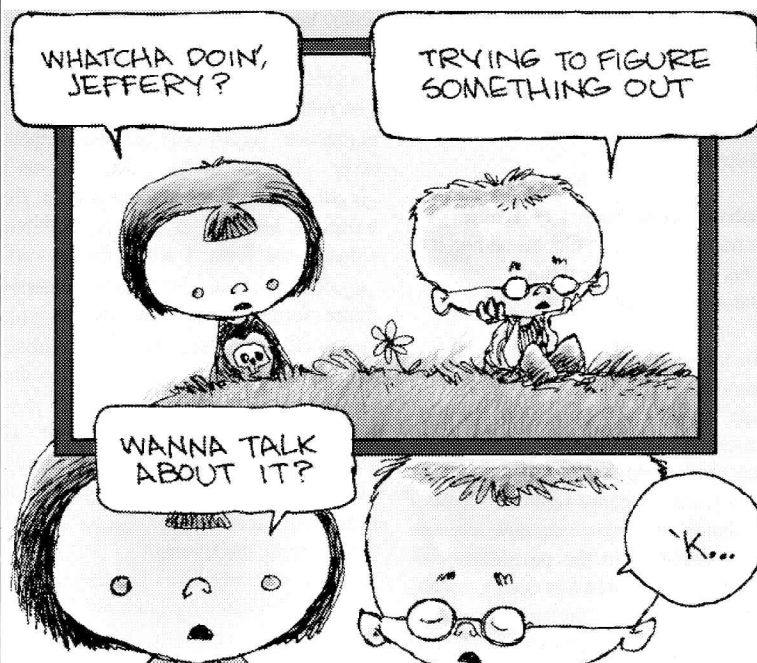
"I hope its not Birmingham," he said. "I can't stand the thought of being asked loads of stupid questions about it by the press."

The matches will take place on the weekend of March 6-7.

7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	27	27	27	26	26	27	27
Lo	4	6	6	6	7	7	7
Aden	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	32	32	32	32	33	33	34
Lo	20	20	19	19	19	19	19

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY



Contest No. (3) مسابقة رقم (3)

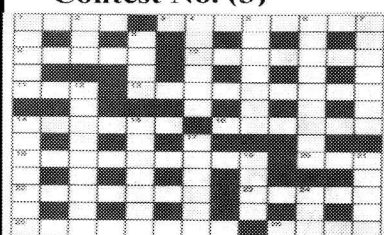
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Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer

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المسابقة رقم (3) Contest No. (3)



ACROSS

- As well as (4)
- Mail from someone on holiday (8)
- Australian bear (5)
- place for plays and concerts (7)
- Scrambled, boiled or poached? (3)
- Part of a school (9)
- Salted or dry-roasted? (6)
- Not just (6)
- Get ride of (9)
- Highest point (3)
- Take a seat (3,4)
- Not before! (5)
- Power (8)
- Hill insects? (4)

DOWN

- Leg/foot joint (5)
- Area of salt water (3)
- Bandit (6)
- Crime against the Queen (7)
- NASA spaceman? (9)
- Night-time imaginer? (7)
- Bath-time powder (4)
- Roman fighter (9)
- Forces down (7)
- Mythical single-horned 'horse' (7)
- One cracked at Christmas? (anagram of TULAWN) (6)
- Red-skinned cheese (4)
- Capital of France (5)
- Get brown in the Sun (3)

حل المسابقة رقم (2) Answers of contest No. (2)



الفائز في المسابقة رقم (2) Winner of contest No. (2)

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Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

You will feel good about yourself if you make a contribution to help an organization you believe in. Get involved in this group and you will make new friends and possibly business partners.



Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

You'll have to be careful when discussing personal matters. The people you think you know the best may surprise you today. Don't hide your feelings.



Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

The unusual will draw your attention and lead to a chance meeting with someone who will help you do what you want to do. Travel for business or pleasure will lead to interesting conversations with strangers.



Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

Don't play the martyr or pay for things you aren't responsible for. Focus on what you need to do to make your life better.



Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

You and your partner can come up with a great idea that will be advantageous for both of you. Take care of the one you love. Don't neglect personal responsibilities.



Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

The focus is on work and money today, so don't waste time on futile pursuits. Dig in and do the best job possible.



Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

A new personal look will pay off in the way others respond to you. Reevaluate what it is you want for the future and what it will take to make it so.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You should be the one asking for favors and not the one always doing for everyone else. Sharing will play a very important role in how far you get today.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

The chances are good that you will do well in the romance department, so make your plans to enjoy something special with the one you love. A belated Valentine gift might be the answer to the cold shoulder you've been receiving.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Money will have a wonderful idea regarding how you can make your investments grow or how you can turn your job around. Start your own business and discover how resourceful you are.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You may be on edge if you haven't taken care of all the odds and ends plaguing you. Someone is likely to make you feel insecure about yourself. Get your feelings out in the open.



Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)

Times are changing and you must prepare to do so as well. If something is no longer working for you, it's time to turn things around. Rid yourself of the things dragging you down.

Apple says it has 100,000 orders for iPod mini

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Apple Computer Inc. said on Tuesday it has received 100,000 orders for its iPod mini digital music player, which goes on sale on Friday at Apple's retail outlets, its online store and through resellers.

The maker of Macintosh computers also said that retailer Target Corp. this week will start selling \$15 prepaid cards for Apple's online music store alongside top-selling CDs and set up featured display areas where consumers can play with iPods at its 1,200 stores in the United States.

The prepaid cards carry a code that users key in when they enter Apple's online music store, iTunes. The slender, smaller iPod mini — about the length and width of a business card, weighing 3.6 ounces and holding 1,000 songs — is Apple's answer to cheaper but lower-capacity flash-memory-based digital music players.

"iPod mini broadens the market for iPod by competing head-on with flash-based players," said Phil Schiller, head of worldwide product marketing for Cupertino, California-based Apple. "(The) iPod mini costs only about \$50 more than a 256-megabyte flash-based player, yet it holds 16 times the music," Apple's iPod mini costs \$249.

The larger iPods, which have been wildly successful, hold 3,700 songs to as many as 10,000. Prices for the traditional iPods range from \$299 to \$499.

Capacity for the iPod mini is 4 gigabytes, while the cheapest normal-sized iPod stores 15 gigabytes of data.

In January at the Macworld trade show in San Francisco, Apple's co-founder, chairman and chief executive Steve Jobs unveiled the iPod mini, along with a new version of its iLife digital lifestyle software and a new music program called Garage Band.

At the time, there was some disappointment that the price was not lower, but Apple says that demand for the device has been strong nonetheless.



Apple Computer Inc. said on Feb. 17, it has received 100,000 orders for its iPod mini digital music player, which goes on sale on Feb. 20 at Apple's retail outlets, its online store and through resellers. Reuters

At Macworld, Jobs said that it had sold 730,000 iPods in the quarter just before the trade show, bolstering its market-leading position among digital music players.

"What we've seen anecdotally is that the iPod mini has been very attractive to the youth market, for an athletic lifestyle, and women seem really to like the iPod mini as well," said Stan Ng, head of product marketing for iPod. "It's been a great validation that iPod mini is expanding the market and iPod sales overall remain strong."

Ng said that it was difficult to compare preorders for the iPod mini with those for earlier iPods, because none of the others had such a long lag between announcement and shipping. Between October 2001, when Apple introduced the original iPod, and the end of that year's Christmas quarter, Apple sold 125,000 iPods.

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في جمع يهيج من الأهل والأصدقاء أطفأت
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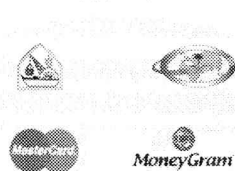
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■ مطلوب: موظفة للعمل في بوفيه الأمانة
الوجبات الخفيفة في مركز ملكة الأملاك
السيدات ومفتحة للعمل.
التواصل : ٤٧٣٠٥.

■ مطلوب: مسوقين ومسوقات في مجال
الاملاآت والملابس في شركة أعلانات
التواصل: ٤٧٠٤٧٠ / ١

**تعلن وكالة الهجرة الدولية ، و كبل
الشركة السعودية للسفريات والسفرات
الأبدي العاملة عن (١) وجود فئيل غير
وصاف لتلجى الخبرات العملية والمهنية
فى كل الناحيات الى المملكة العربية
السعودية وهي قابلة للتحويل الى جميع
انحاء المملكة .
(٢) وظائف مغلقة وسكرتارية للنساء
فقط**

التواصل : المحصبة ، ابراهيم الساعة
هاتف : ٧٦٦٣٨٥٠ ، ٧٦٠٧٢٠ ، ٥٦٠٠٠٠ من
الساعة ٣ صبرا حتى الساعة ٩ .

■ مطلوب: سكرتيرة تجيد اللغة
العربية كتابة ونطق واستخدام
الكومبيوتر ولها خبرة سابقة (٢) مدرس
مدرسة ليلية خبير فى مادة (٢) مدرس أو مدرس
كمبيوتر للعمل فى كمبيوترات فى
٥٠٩٨٠٠ ، ٥٠٩٨٠٠ ، سيار ٧٦٨٥٧٧٢٧٠

(طوبيا) ١: سكرتيرية لها خبرة سابقة فى
محروسون كمبيوتر ، محاسبة ، وما وتقوية
التواصل : ٢٩٩٩٥٤٤ .

(طوبيا) ٢: موظفي بيعيات (٣)
إعمال نظافة ، للعمل فى مركز تجارى
التواصل : إرسال السيرة الذاتية على
الفاكس (٤٤٩٧١٣) (٤٤٩٧١٣) مع
أو الاتصال على رقم (٧٦٨٠٩٧٢٤ (وضاح الحكيم).

■ مطلوب: ١) مدرس مدينة موبيلات
متخصص ليلية خبيرة فى هذا المجال (٢)
مدرس اجنسي (أمريكي) بريطاني ، كندي
للعمل فى المعهد الأمريكى
الأكاديمي التواصل : ٧٦٨٠٤٤٤ / رياض
الزحاجي

■ مطلوب : (١) عني الجنسية
ويوجد الفنى الأكاديمي
وبخبرة خمس سنوات (٢) مهندس كهربائي
عني الجنسية بونغوشتر سعودي

تخبر نحن باعة الجدة التواصل : ارسال السيرة الذاتية على

[illegible]

احذروا
الموجود

[illegible]

الأدوية
ة في الصيدل
الاتحاد
دواء

سيار : ٨٣٢٢٢-٧٣٥ (أحمد محمد علي)

مطلوب للإيجار: بيت (٦-٧) غرف على أن يكون شارع حدة مع حافط للتواصل رياض

الزهراني: ٤٤٢-٧٣٨١.

للإيجار: اللطائف، جميع الخصائص مجمع

مبادات للإيجار لللطائف، ش ٩، متفرق من شارع

ميل، مال سوق الحاف هاتف ٤٠١٦٤٨ ،

٧٣٦٤٥٥-١٠ يوكي صصيلية البدالية.

للإيجار: شقة مفروشة على الخ الساسي مع

وقف للتواصل: ٧١٦٣٧٠-٧١٦٣٧٠

للبيع: أرضية مكونة من أربع ليات على شارع ١٢

متر / الواقعة في صحر جوار مدينتي السنيسر وسعر

٧١٦٣٧٠-٨٤٤٠٠٠ احمد الصصري

مطلوب للإيجار: محل قفحة أو قفحتين في

شارع رئيسي أو على مكان مزدهر كان فيون المحل

في طولة التواصل: لعلى ٧١٦٣٧١٤٠

للبيع: محل حوارات متكامل علك الاتصال على

ت: ٧١٦٣٧٠-٧٢٨٨٧٠، علي الغابري.

للبيع: محل ادوات ج م ٣٠ من عدد من خطوط

الطائف باسعار مناسبة، تخشبية بقالة مع ثلاجة

مطبخة للتواصل: على ٧١٦٣٧١٤٠-٧١٦٣٧٠

مطلوب للإيجار: أيجار محل على خط رئيسي

للإيجار ايجاع على تبيد وسعر: ٨٠٠٠٠

لعمل في مجال التكنولوجية للتواصل: ٧٣٥٠٤٥-٧٣٥٠٤٥

٤٤٥-٧٣٣٢٠ احمد جاد محمد الهادي

للبيع: عماره مكونة من شقق واسع وسعر

٧١٦٣٧١٤٠-٧١٦٣٧١٤٠

يهاجرهم ويوجد فيها تكانكين على شارع التويجيد

في الحصبه ولطوكره من خمس غرف ورحمانين

مطبخ حجر ويوردم وارضى صينيه على مساهمه ماته

علي مسوره وعلى طرقت التواصل: علي محمد

٧٣٣٢٤٧-٧١٦٣٧١٤٠

للبيع: محطه تحليه مياه متكامله طاقاتها

انتاجية ٧٨٠٠٠ لتر يوم اعلم الصنع مارك

(AQUA) العاميه على جميع

لملفحات حديثه وتكنولوجيا وسعر مناسب

٧١٦٣٧١٤٠-٧١٦٣٧١٤٠ ابراهيم

سيارات

مطلوب شراء: كرسيدا ٩٣ الي ٩٥ جمرك

مديدوه وكلاءة محلية) ٢٠٠٠ فترا (٢٠٠٠ فاقو اربع

رواب جديده سعودي اولمخيه ٣) براو في ار كس

مُزَوَّرَةٌ

مُزَوَّرَاتٌ

للمعنى المتجني الأدوية
دي ضمان صحة أولادي

YBRD

تأجير سيارات
 هرزت لتأجير السيارات
 لمؤمّنين لتأجير السيارات
 أوبراش لتأجير السيارات
 صغاء ت: ٢٠٩-٤٤٠٠١
 عن: ٢٠٩-٤٤٠٢٥
 ت: ٧٣٩٢٩٢-٤١٧٣٤٢
 صغاء، ت: ٤١٠٥٩٤
 فوره/مهنداني
 مرسييس-بنز
 نيسان
 اويل جي/ (Opel/GM)
 سوزوكي
 تويوتا
 ت: ٧٩١-٣٦٧
 ت: ٠٨-٣٣٠١
 الحيدوه: ٢٠٠٩-٤٩/٢٠٠٩
 صغاء، ت: ٢٢٦٩-٤٠٠
 ت: ٢٠٠٧٠٠
 ت: ٢٤١٠٠٠-٠٢
 ت: ٢٣/٤٤٩٣٢٢٢٢

معارض السيارات وقطع الغيار
 فوره/مهنداني
 مرسييس-بنز
 نيسان
 اويل جي/ (Opel/GM)
 سوزوكي
 تويوتا
 ت: ٧٩١-٣٦٧
 ت: ٠٨-٣٣٠١
 الحيدوه: ٢٠٠٩-٤٩/٢٠٠٩
 صغاء، ت: ٢٢٦٩-٤٠٠
 ت: ٢٠٠٧٠٠
 ت: ٢٤١٠٠٠-٠٢
 ت: ٢٣/٤٤٩٣٢٢٢٢

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر
 أبنت لتعليم الكمبيوتر(تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة الكترونية)
 ٢٠٠ وما فوق مصنع بترويل جديده، للتواصل
 بمواصفات الش
 موديل من ٩٣ -
 ٩٨ - ٢٠٠١
 أحمد محمد
 ٧٣٨١٤٣٨٢ وبسم
 للبيغسيارةفيتارز(٩٥) مجمركة وبجالة جديده
 ت: ٧٣٥٨٠٨٩٧
 للبيغسيارة شاص موديل ٨٢ للتواصل: كمال
 سنن الصبير هاتف: ٧٣٧٨٧٢١
 للبيغسيارة جلايرون موديل ٩٩ للتواصل:
 جيني، هاتف: ٧١٢٨٢٢١١
 طوبى لشراء: تويوتا كورولا موديل ٩٣ -
 ٩٨ - ٢٠٠١
 حالة ممتازة ٩٥) فيتارز مجمركة ٩٥ -
 حالة ممتازة ٩٥) كريسيدا او كرايوان ٩٥ فما فوق بجالة
 ممتازة للتواصل: حدة/شارع ايران/ ت: ٧٧٨٣٨٨٤
 ووس
 للبيغسيارة لانسر فل اوبوماتيك ٤٩٠٠٠ كلم
 حالة ممتازة، للتواصل: ت: ٧١٤٥٨٨٧
 للبيغ: سياره فيتارا جديده، بأرعة اواباب، كاملة،
 لمواصفات موديل ٩٥ بيون جمرز و أخرى موديل
 ٩٠، جديده و مجمركة، بضاء، ومقص للتواصل:
 بهمي العويدي ٧١٦٦٦٦٦٦
 سياره هوندا موديل ٨٦ نوع اكود
 (خليفة) لونها أبيض شالو،
 ت: ٢٠٠٩-٤٩/٢٠٠٩

التواصل: ٧١٧٧٧١٤ (فهي اقسامي).

للبيع: سيارة سوزوكي موديل ٨٢ و بسعر مناسب. الرجاء الإتصال على : ٧١٧١٦٨٨٢

للبيع: تويوتا، كامري ١٩٨٩، بحالة جيدة، السعر قابل للتفاوض. للتواصل: جمال. ٧٣٧.٦٨٢.

للبيع: فورد اكسيدنيشن حالتها ممتازة، موديل ٢٠٠٠، اللون ابيض، لعدد ٣٥٠٠ كيلو يسعر ممتاز و فرصة لا تفوض. الرجاء التواصل مع عبد الله أحمد محمد: ٧١٣٩٧٨٤.

للبيع: سيارة مرسيدس س واء الـ ٢٣٠ E٢٣٠ موديل ٨٢ بحالة جيدة ونظيفة و يسعر معقول جداً. للتواصل: منصور ٧٣٧.٧٢١١

للبيع: رأس قاطرة فولفو FH١٢٠ موديل ٩٩، وشيول كاترپيلر مستخدم ٧٠٠٠ كيلو فقط حديث

☐ إ

☐ شراء

☐ بيع

تفاصيل الاعلان:

عنوان التواصل:

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USA legalize same-sex marriages in California

San Francisco's gay weddings continue

San Francisco (Reuters) - Hundreds of same-sex marriages kept City Hall offices open and buzzing through the weekend, with gay and lesbian couples waiting hours to exchange vows and conservative activists promising a relentless legal challenge.

By Sunday night, dozens of gay and lesbian couples were lined up outside City Hall, insisting they would camp there all night to be at the front of the line when offices re-opened Monday morning.

Since San Francisco officials began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples last week, hundreds of gays and lesbians have wed, many rushing to California from around the country. City Hall was kept open through the weekend, and on Sunday the line of would-be spouses grew so overwhelming that authorities turned away hundreds of waiting couples.

Despite the President's Day holiday, the controversy was expected to continue — along with the weddings.

The Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund sued to block the same-sex unions, and San Francisco Superior Court Judge James L. Warren has scheduled a hearing Tuesday in the case. A second legal challenge filed by a California group is also scheduled for a court hearing Tuesday. Briefs were due Monday.

More than 1,000 marriage licenses have been issued to same-sex couples since Thursday, although some may choose to wait before actually getting married. Hundreds have already gone before city officials to exchange vows

and be declared "spouses for life," often in ceremonies scattered around the interior of the ornate City Hall.

New Mayor Gavin Newsom touched off the wedding spree by ordering officials to issue licenses to same-sex couples, declaring that he was merely ensuring equal treatment of gays and lesbians. Newsom later officiated personally at the weddings of his chief of staff and policy director, both of whom married their longtime partners.

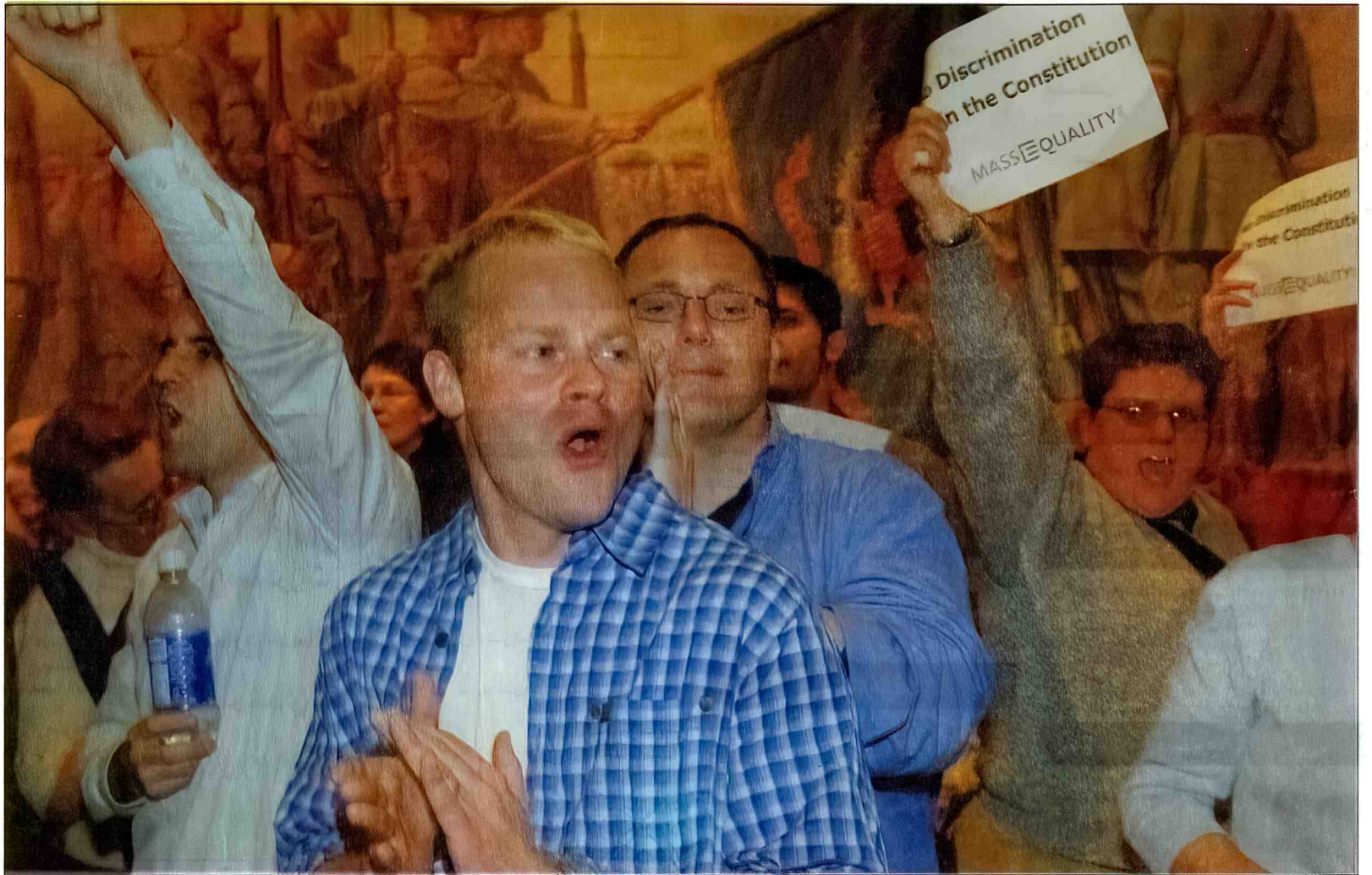
Critics have pointed to a ballot initiative approved by California voters in 2000 that says the state will only recognize marriages between a man and woman. Randy Thomasson, the director of the Campaign for California Families, one of the groups challenging the marriages in court, said last week that Newsom "can't play God."

On Sunday, a small group of protesters stood across the street from City Hall holding signs protesting same-sex unions.

But the critics seemed to make little difference to most of the people inside the building, where the mood was both busy and joyous. Many clerks and sheriff's deputies volunteered their time to work over the weekend.

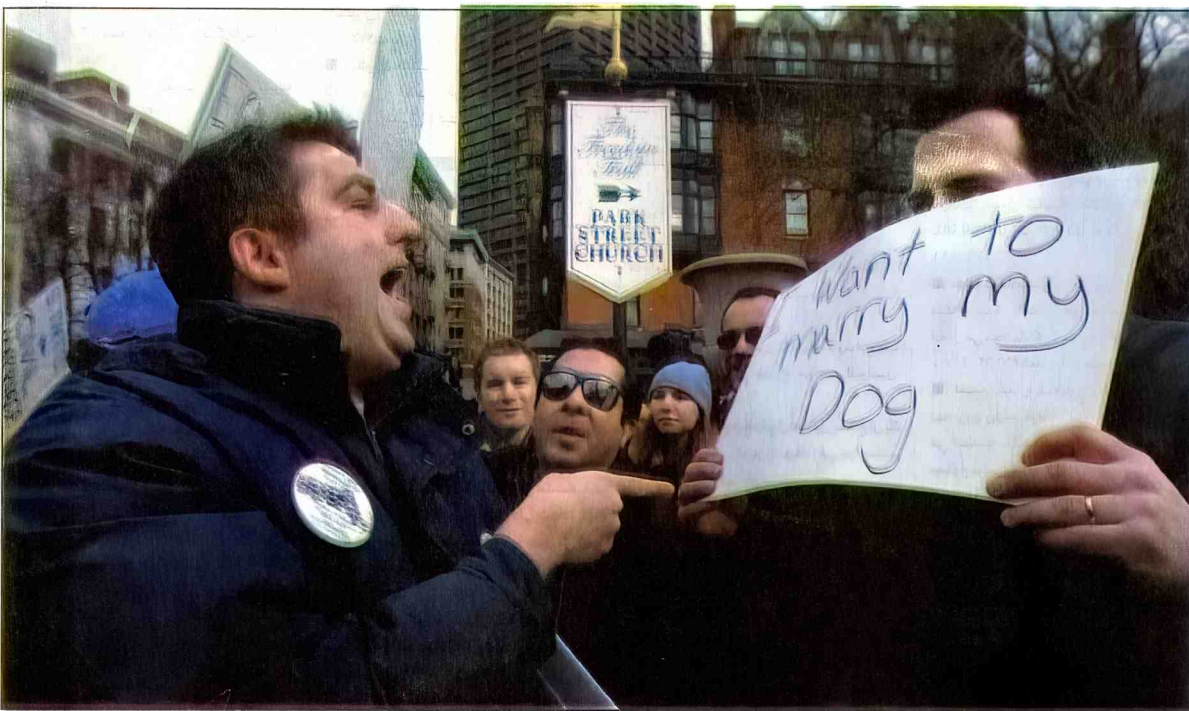
Rich Walker and Brad Chilcoat, who have owned a home together in San Francisco for the last three and a half years, exchanged their vows at the top of City Hall's grand staircase, and said later that the city's recognition of their union added special meaning.

"It's official. It's official," Walker said, displaying the marriage certificate

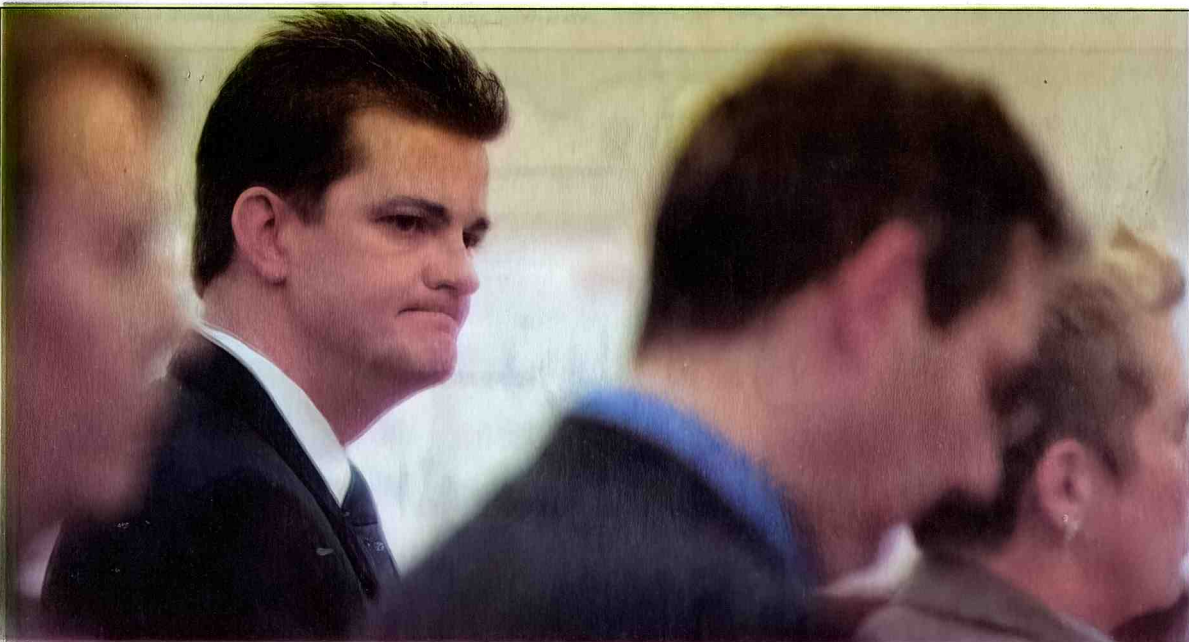


Alexander Westerhoff, of Manchester by the Sea, Massachusetts cheers after learning that the Travis bill was voted down at the State House in Boston, Massachusetts February 12, 2004. Legislative leaders meet today in hopes of reaching an agreement after two other versions of a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage were narrowly defeated during the much-anticipated convention's opening day Wednesday. REUTERS/J Rinaldi

stamped with both their names. The certificate, Chilcoat said, "moves us from second-class citizens to equal status." Walker, 50, and Chilcoat, 41, walked out of City Hall arm-in-arm, cheered by the crowds of people waiting outside.



David Hamburger (L), a supporter of gay marriage from Boston, argues with a man who refused to give his name during a protest outside of the State House in Boston, Massachusetts February 12, 2004. REUTERS/Jessica Rinaldi



Alliance Defense Fund attorney Robert Tyler (second left) listens to San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera (2nd R) and Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart (R) as they give statements to a Superior Court in San Francisco, California, February 13. A judge ruled against an anti-gay marriage group, the Alliance Defense Fund, after they filed suit for a temporary restraining order to block the issuance of any further marriage licenses. REUTERS/Kimberly White

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صنعاً - شارع الزبيري (٣٧٥ ١٠٦) - مركز صنعاء التجاري (٤١٨ ٥٠٤) - عدن - الميناء (٢١٣٣٣١) - المكلا - الديس (٣٠٢٤١٢) - تعز - شارع جمال (٢٤٠٨١٧)