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Thursday, 12 August 2004 • Issue No. 763 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Urgent Need for Addressing Doctrinal Education

Search for al-Houthi Continues

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite the official announcement of the government on August 6th, the major military offensive against anti-US dissident cleric Hussein al-Houthi, in Sa'ada is still going on, local sources told Yemen Times.

The sources said that the house-to-house search for al-Houthi and his main assistants using warplanes and artillery are faced by resisting pockets as supporters of al-Houthi scattered in ten

mountainous villages of the Jabal Mran wherein al-Houthi is believed to hide. Military sources said that tens of soldiers have been killed in the guerrilla fight inside the villages: Ratabah, al-Akeef, All Misbah, All Omali, al-Kaza'a, al-Daos, Malha, All Amer, and Shaeab Salman. There are conflicting reports on the fate of the man which is still unknown; while sources close to al-Houthi expected that the man and his main supporters might have escaped outside Sa'ada, military sources dismissed this and said they are still hiding

inside one of the rugged villages. Government troops intensified their search for the man.

On Friday, chief of staff Brigadier General Mohammad al-Qassimi vowed the army would soon end the rebellion and catch the outlawed preacher who was fighting government troops since June 18th.

However, the military operations against the rebels in areas of al-Ruzamat, al-Shafia'a, and Nihm led by Abdullah al-Ruzami are fierce, as the military forces used warplanes in

shelling these areas.

The military earlier gave al-Ruzami, the second man after al-Houthi in running al-Shabab al-Mumen (Faithful Youth) militant group, an ultimatum to give up.

Even some tribal Sheikhs tried to conduct mediation between the two sides. However, all efforts have failed as al-Ruzami is insistent on fighting until the end. Tens of people have been reported to be killed in the recent confrontations.

Continued on page 3.

Arab League opposes sanctions against Sudan

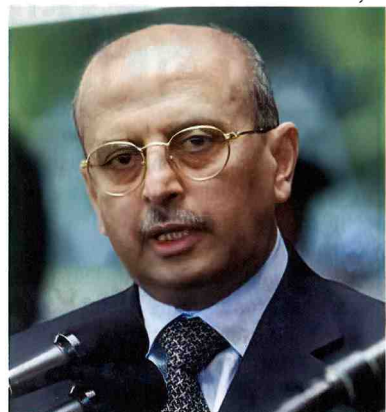
By PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

After an emergency meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers last Sunday, the Arab League said it opposes sanctions against Sudan that might be implemented by the United Nations if the Sudanese government does not disarm militias in the western Darfur region.

The Arab League said sanctions "would only result in negative efforts for the whole Sudanese people and complicate the crisis in Darfur."

The Foreign Ministers also rejected Western interference by sending troops to help bring peace to the crisis area. Australia and Great Britain have said that they are willing to send forces to Darfur if needed.

On July 30, the UN Security Council passed a resolution that gave the Sudanese government 30 days to disarm the Janjaweed, a militant group accused of killing thousands of people in the



Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi

Darfur area, or economic and diplomatic measures would be taken against the country. The Arab League requested the United Nations to give Sudan more time to end the Darfur humanitarian crisis.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr



Locals walk through water as they carry goods across a flooded riverbed known as a wadi near Biltine in eastern Chad August 8.

Al-Qirbi said that the meeting in Cairo showed that Arab and African states are committed to supporting Sudan to deal with the Darfur issue. He also emphasized the importance of preventing foreign interference.

Last week Al-Qirbi urged the international community to support the Sudanese government to "quickly restore security and stability in Darfur."

Continued on page 3.

Saudis abuse Yemenis,

Yemen exempts Gulf people from entry visa

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The Shura Council's Political and Foreign Affairs Committee last week asked the government to take care of Yemeni expatriates in Saudi Arabia who are suffering from bad treatment at the hands of the Saudi government.

"Saudis Arabia has cancelled many privileges that Yemeni expatriates used to enjoy, setting hurdles before them, especially those working in the

field of gold and other professional and commercial activities," said the report of the committee.

According to the report, there are 700,000 Yemenis suffering from the Saudi government's maltreatment.

Whereas there are 60,000 in the EUA leading comfortable lives, along with 8,000 in Qatar, 7,000 in Bahrain, and 4,000 in Kuwait.

The Saudi authorities had deported more than 600,000 Yemenis in the last few months under the pretext that they infiltrated illegally into the country. There are also 1091 Yemenis in Saudi prisons charged with various felonies like possession of arms, drug

trafficking, indecencies, and qat smuggling.

The Shura Council report considered 'saudizing' occupations as targeting Yemenis more than any other community, for it has affected 50,000 Yemenis working in the gold trade particularly.

United Press International, a news agency, had published the report of the committee which revealed that procedures taken by the Saudi government towards Yemeni expatriates aim primarily to put obstacles and remove privileges Yemenis used to have before the Second Gulf War.

Continued on page 3.

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Significance of Children's Parliament

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A workshop on the significance of Children's Parliament's political participation was held in Sana'a, the 3rd August 2004. The workshop was organized by Radda Barnen and participated by twenty persons from governmental establishments, civil society organizations, and the democracy

school, in a number of the governorates and international organizations. The workshop aimed at familiarizing the participants with the current children's parliament experiment, and its comparison with the last experiment in 2004.

A network has been set up by the participating parties to support the project, and facilitate its success, in addition to drawing attention to the

significance of the family's role in contributing towards children and integrating them into different development operations. Mr. Jamal al-Shamy, the executive director of the Democracy School, has disclosed that the experiences of the children's parliament, the obstacles being faced by it, and the means of fortifying the project, provide some of the techniques which will guarantee its continuity in the future.

SAFHR holds a Forum

The Sisters Arabic Forum and Amnesty International for Human Rights are conducting a meeting for a campaign fighting violence against women. This is being conducted alongside representatives of civil community organizations, the Ministry of Human Rights, and a number of male and female activists in the human rights line which comes up within the frame of the international campaign of Amnesty International for fighting violence against women that began worldwide in March 2004 in coalition with previous meetings held by Amnesty International with organizations and human rights activists in Yemen during the last two years ago i.e. to fortifying the efforts and building up effective partnership

with civil society associations to excise violence attempts against women.

This meeting aimed at building up a common understanding and discussing the program for movement and its expenditures within the campaign to stop violence against women. Whilst also identifying the materials and further sources available for various initiatives and introducing the partnership to the founder participants.

Mr. Ismael al-Taj Zain, representative of the British Foreign Secretary, for the Program of Middle East & North Africa, shall participate in this meeting which will take place on Saturday 14th August 2004 in Sana'a.

Youth Killed & Father Wounded in Taiz

BY YT BUREAU
TAIZ

Last Monday, 2nd Aug. 2004, a youth from Wadi Oraiq at al-Heimah in Taiz, called Ali Mohammad Saleh Ahmed Ali, 35 years old, was shot in the abdomen and was killed. The father of the victim, Mohammad Saleh Ahmed Ali, 70 years old, was also shot in the

abdomen by Hamood Ali al-Obaly who shot both the victim and his father. The reasons leading to this event not known yet by the security.

On the other hand, Abdullah Ali Mohammad Saleh, 30 years old, a native of Jabal Hubashi, was killed by a shot directly to the head, by unknown person.

The reasons for this are not known.

Celebrations at the University of Science & Technology

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The University of Science & Technology celebrated last Wed. & Thursday (7th, 8th) Aug. 2004, the graduation of a new class of male and female students for the school year 2003/2004, from the faculties of medicines sciences, engineering, and administrative sciences. During the ceremony attended by a number of officials including; Dr. Abdul Wahab Raweh, the Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research. In his speech he said, "Higher education in Yemen has witnessed a remarkable expansion in many different areas with the number of students in higher studies reaching now up to three hundred thousand of male & female students." He also indicated to the role of the University of Science & Technology in its contribution towards improving the scientific standard of private university education in Yemen. On understanding that the government will afford the necessary support to this university so as to aid its performances and upgrade its capabilities.

Dr. Dawood Abdul Wadood, the President of the university emphasized that the university always attempts to improve its performances by orienting its syllabuses toward new fields in education and science, so as to participate effectively in the task of development. He confirmed, "In the coming few months, several agreements of cooperation with the American and British universities as well as some in Malaysia will be signed, and new departments in the English language training will be opened."

All the graduate students were given their Graduation certificates among their relatives and the other attendees.

UN Millennium Project's Mission to support Yemen

Sana'a (UNDP - 8 August) The ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), with support from the United Nations and the World Bank in Yemen, is organizing a press conference within the framework of the official visit of a high-level UN mission to Yemen. The mission is to support Yemen in developing a scaled-up MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper that is aligned with other national medium and long-term development plans within a unified timeframe. Yemen has been nominated as a pilot country for the Millennium Project, an advisory body of the UN Secretary-General. It is important to note that Yemen's nomination to participate in the Millennium Project gains more importance from the fact that it is the only Arab country to be selected for this project and is one of only eight countries worldwide.

Mr. John McArthur, Manager of the UN Millennium Project, heads the mission to Yemen. The mission is further composed of six senior experts; namely Prof. Tariq Yousef

Ibb Summer Festival opened

BY ISMAIL AL GHABRI-

Events of Ibb Commercial Summer festival have started in Ibb and will continue for the period from 7th-20th of this month. Participating in the festival will be a number of companies from Syria, Egypt, India, Pakistan, and China in addition to Yemeni companies

exhibiting their products alongside to these. The aim of the festival is to activate the commercial sector, which in turn will aid continued developments in the tourism sector in the Ibb Governorate, a region of great natural beauty. This festival is organized under the title "Dhufar al-Suddah 2004" and includes a wide variety of products.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think that al-Houthi would finally surrender himself to government?
- No, I think he would not.
- Yes, he would.
- I don't know.

last edition's question:

Do you think al-Houthi's insurgency has come to its end?

53.9%
No, it has not
34.3%
Yes, I think it has almost come to its end
11.7%
I don't have a definite answer

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Quality system applied to medical institute curricula

The workshop specialized on introducing the quality control system into Yemeni medical institutes was concluded Wednesday August 4 in Sana'a.

It recommended drafting legislation necessary for ensuring quality control application, and preparing standards and performance assessment mechanisms to apply the new lessons learnt.

It also highlighted certain observations recommended to be undertaken by medical institutions to improve quality.

At the conclusion of the workshop,

Dr. Nour Al-Din Al-Jabir, a member of the executive board of the Gulf States' health minister's council, delivered a speech, showing the Ministry of Health's readiness to apply the workshop's recommendations, and strengthen quality control department to be on a similar level as those in the Gulf States.

The Dean of the Higher Institute for Medical Sciences and head of the quality control department highlighted indicated the good relations between medical education institutions and medical service providers.

Workshop on Radio-Journalism

A training course organized by the Sana'a Radio Station in collaboration with the American Embassy was concluded on 4th August 2004. Some 25 trainees from Sana'a, Sai'oon, Hajjah, and al-Maharah stations participated in the course, which was on Radio-Journalism. The course lasted for 5 days during which the trainees received a number of lectures delivered by Prof. Norman R. (Sam) Swan of the University of Tennessee, America. The lectures gave information on conducting radio dialogues, as well as various media reports and news.

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Yemenia

الناقل الرسمي اليمنية

Yemeni-American Community in NYC organizes forums (1-2)

BY SHAKER ALASHWAL
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In an atmosphere of fear, intimidation, and increased bias and prejudice against the Muslim community in the United States, the Yemeni-American League (YAL) has chosen to promote the issue of higher education. The Yemeni-American League, along with the Arab American Family Support Center (AAFSC), the American Association of Yemeni Scientists and Professionals (AAYSPP.org), and the Yemeni American Association, organized a small conference to discuss higher education and the state of Yemeni-American organizations.

The event held on Saturday, July 31st attracted more than 70 Yemeni-American men, women and youth who were introduced to the Yemeni panel and pleasantly surprised by its members. Khaled Anasseri, one of the organizers, indicated that "this is a new experience for our community, we brought successful Yemeni-American professionals to highlight the role education can play in people's lives." The panel included Debbie Almontaser, a successful school administrator, Nasser Zawia, a college professor from the University of Rhode Island, Abdu Subai, an Information Technology consultant working for IBM, Khaled Alamerie, an Engineer working for the department of environmental protection, Dr. Hilal Lashuel, a Neurology Instructor from Harvard University, and Dr. Hamud Alsilwai, the director of the Bronx Muslim Center.

During the first forum, the speakers discussed their own success stories and described how they struggled to reach where they are today. The panelists who come from different backgrounds spoke about varying experiences. Yet, the audience related to all of their stories and understood the struggle they went through. In a community where business success is the focus of every conversation, seeing highly educated individuals who are making a difference in this society was an eye opener for many. The event was attended by other Arab Americans as well. Alaa Alfatiha, an Arab American student who attended the forum, was impressed by the panelists; "the event was inspiring to me and I could relate to some of the stories that were told."

The event became the first to welcome the participation of Yemeni-American women. The women who attended expressed their eagerness to get involved in community issues and organizations. They also expressed their frustration at the misunderstandings of and the mixing between cultural and religious norms. Many are proud of their Muslim heritage and are strong adherents to the faith, but want to maintain their freedom to pursue higher education and employment opportunities. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss many issues openly. In the second forum the attendees criticized the role of the Yemeni-American Association. The discussion revolved around figuring out a remedy to address the problems from a Yemeni-American perspective and not the traditional way of relying on the Ministry of Immigrants. The organizers of the event praised the participation of all individuals, especially the Yemeni American women. Abdulsalam Mubarez, the president of the Yemeni American Association invited the latter to become active members of the organization's board. The group agreed to meet and discuss plans to rewrite the bylaws and organize elections.

The Yemeni Americans who attended the event felt relieved that those educated and professional members of the community are finally taking charge of the community's affairs. There is a new generation of Yemeni Americans who are capable of addressing the issues of the day in an open, inviting, transparent way and all of that was evident during this event.

Dr. Hamud Alsilwai, Imam of Bronx Muslim Center

Dr. Hamud spoke about the importance of education. He explained how the community does not value education and instead focuses on small businesses. He shed some light on the importance of education for the Yemeni-American community, and how parents should play an important role in promoting higher education. He also stressed the role of the



whole community in the process.

Dr. Nasser Zawia, College Professor, University of Rhode Island

"The value of education can not be overstressed. Education is an investment and not an expense. Our community in the U.S. can not measure the value of education because they are not familiar with it. They know how to plan for businesses, but are uncertain that education reaps great benefits. The most advanced and powerful countries have strong educational systems. Education raises the dignity and pride of people. As Arabs and Yemenis, we are falling behind in education and scientific research. We need to establish an association to promote education and science, so that young Yemenis who need guidance and assistance can come to us for help; other communities in the U.S. do this and help each other through networking. A Yemeni Association will have individuals in it that can identify with students at all different levels and could provide a unique support system for students, scientists, and professionals. We could also serve as a bridge to help aspiring students, scientists and professionals to tap into American resources. Given the political climate in the world, the access of Arabs to higher education and research has been restricted. We can help each other without any hesitation or fears."

Abdu Alsubai, IBM consultant

"Parents play an important role in the success of their children. It is up to the parents to make sure that their children understand the significance of a good education. This lesson must be taught at an early age and then reinforced by the parents, by the actions they take towards their children. Parents must create an environment where learning is the norm and the activities that keep children away from focusing on school work (watching TV, playing video games, browsing the internet, and hanging out) are restricted until the work is done. Parents must reward their children for doing well in school, and provide constructive encouragement when they struggle. As children reach their teenager years, the parent must find activities for the children that will keep them preoccupied from all the negative influences in society. Whether it is work, religious activity, or any other positive influence, the parent must keep on top of what their children are doing and with whom they are doing it with. Growing up in an education friendly

environment makes success all the more attainable and rewarding for the children."

Debbie Almontaser, School Administrator

Excerpt of Debbie's presentation - "Every woman has the equal right to education and the pursuit of personal happiness. I was also secure with my identity as a Muslim Yemenia, who knew who her father was, where she comes from, and the importance of maintaining a noble reputation that encompassed 'Sharaf' above all. As the community got used to my working, havoc started again when folks heard I was driving. I recall one day, driving down Court St., where one Yemeni nearly tripped in the street because he was shocked to see a Yemenia driving. These were difficult growing pains our community had to go through to understand there's nothing wrong with education and driving. Because of the respect they had for my husband and I, many eventually began to let their daughters go to school and work."

Dr. Hilal Lashuel, Instructor of Neurology, Harvard University

As a Yemeni American who started his journey on this same street we are gathering in today, I can relate to most of the problems and challenges facing the youth in our community. By sharing our success stories with the community, we hope that parents would recognize their children's potential and that they would be able to see their children in each one of us. Today, they gathered here to celebrate our success and tomorrow we hope to return to celebrate the success and achievements of their children.

I hope that this forum represents the beginning of a series of forums aimed at promoting education and empowering the youth in our community to reach their potential, and achieve educational success.

I am pleased to see members of our community engaged in serious debates aimed at addressing the cultural, social, and economical barriers preventing the educational, economical, and social advancement of our community. We have to work together as a community to create an environment that values and promotes education, by recognizing and promoting educational excellence among members of our community, especially the youth.



Khaled Alamerie, Deputy Chief of Mapping Unit, Department of Environmental Protection

Khaled Alamerie talked about his own

experience as a young graduate, and shared with the audience his success story and climb through the ranks. His story, like the others, highlights the dedication, hard work, and perseverance of

Yemeni-American professionals.

The second forum focused on the future of Yemeni American organizations.

Dr. Nasser Zawia introduced the American Association of Yemeni Scientists and Professionals and explained the role it will play. As an organization, its aim is to build a network of Yemeni American professionals who will unify their resources to help Yemeni-Americans in the U.S., and Yemeni institutions and academics in Yemen.

His presentation was followed by Abdulsalam Mubarez, the president of the Yemeni American Association who discussed the current state of the organization and the difficulties it is experiencing. In his speech, Mr. Mubarez invited the professionals in the community to join the organization's board. The invitation was extended for the first time to the Yemeni-American women in the audience, who accepted the invitation and expressed interest in joining the organization.

Continued from page 1

Search for al-Houthi Continues

Tens of soldiers are brought to Sana'a hospitals on a daily basis. President Ali Abdullah Saleh vowed on Monday to press on with an offensive to crush a revolt as the army's losses continued to mount.

"Confronting this stray group ... is a patriotic and religious duty," Saleh said in an interview with the UAE-based newspaper Al-Khaleej. Saleh said that the rebellion which is violating the constitution and led by radicals associated with foreign parties is "doomed to fail."

The onslaught which was more or less halted for a week resumed after the failure of efforts to broker the surrender of Hawthi and his estimated 3,000 armed supporters.

The latest mediation effort was carried out by a group of ministers, opposition leaders, clerics and tribal chiefs. However, the broker committee set by president Saleh was divided in its view of the clashes in Sa'ada. Some members of the committee accused military elements of undermining efforts to sort out the crisis peacefully. Some of them said they were not given enough time to reach a peaceful solution with al-Houthi. The broker committee whose members met Saleh last Friday was expected to release a report on the events in Sa'ada but reliable sources told Yemen Times that efforts have been exerted to undermine the release of the report and that the committee will present its report only to the president Saleh.

The clashes between the army and Hawthi's supporters have left a total of

nearly 400 people dead. The full toll could be higher as the army has given few details of its own losses.

The Yemeni authorities accused al-Houthi of fomenting sectarian strife in the country through his militant organization the Faithful Youth, and getting foreign support to reach this goal. But, the man has denied such allegations and said that the conflict with the authority was a result of his anti-US stand. During the main weekly prayers each Friday, Hawthi followers chant slogans against Israel and the United States and call for a boycott of American goods. A reward of about \$55,000 has been offered for his capture.

Consequence of Doctrinal Education

The most important consequence of the Sa'ada fight is that it has raised concern that religious doctrinal schools threaten the future of this country plagued with poverty and tribalism.

The cabinet decided in its meeting June 29th to shut down such schools operating without license. The cabinet said in its statement "due to the connection between extremism, militancy and certain curricula that promote deviant and alien ideologies...the cabinet has issued orders for the immediate closure of all schools so as to realize moderation in Islam, preserve national unity, and to increase security and stability." Some of these schools are being supported by the government like al-Houthi. The government plan was to stop funding these schools which will bring about their closure, and for the others which are being financed by people in

Yemen or from abroad, the government will close them down. However, Saleh said in a meeting with security later that these "religious schools will not be closed down but they will be working according to the education law and their work would be organized so they can operate after completion of secondary schooling and under monitoring of the ministry of education." This shows there is a lack of coordination at the power center over such a headache. The stupidity of the ruling regime lies in the fact that it tries to use such schools and religious sects against each other. In the beginning it supported the Salafia and Muslim brotherhood against the socialist party. Then, it supported al-Houthi against the fanatic Salafia. The consequence was the bloody killings of Sa'ada. Now, the political regime is flirting with the Sophists or mystics considering it as a group that presents a rosy and moderate picture of Islam. But, this is not in the interest of Yemen.

These schools teaching different doctrines in a society that is tribal, conservative and heavily armed can pose a potential threat if the government does not monitor and control. There must be control over all these schools including al-Eman University which has become a pain in the neck for Yemen. Even some voices in the Islah party have begun alarming the danger of this university which the US accuses of promoting extremism. Yemen really needs to address doctrinal teaching right now to avoid serious consequences.

Arab League opposes sanctions against Sudan

The violence erupted 18 months ago when minority tribes rose up against the government demanding an equal share of national development and protection for the local population. Arab militias, allegedly backed by the government, are accused of killing over 30,000 and driving at least one million people from their villages.

Refugees have reported that the Janjaweed fighters have slaughtered men, raped women and have looted their villages during assaults.

This week the Sudanese government agreed to work with the United Nations to end the violence. Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Ismail and UN envoy Jan Pronk put together an action plan, which includes the government securing specific villages, routes and convoys and setting up safe areas for displaced

people. The bi-lateral agreement follows the UN schedule that action must be taken in 30 days.

"We plan to implement [the UN resolution]. We think we can do it," said Ismail. "We are not the party that created the problems there. We didn't start the war. But despite this, we feel that we are capable of solving this problem. The main element to solve the problem is the Sudanese themselves."

The Sudanese government also agreed to participate in peace talks in Nigeria later this month. Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigerian President and Chairman of the African Union, offered to host the talks between the government and representatives of the rebels.

Previous talks between the Sudanese government and rebels failed last month.

The African Union has offered to send

up to 2,000 troops as peacekeepers and to protect ceasefire monitors in Darfur. The Sudanese government has said that it would accept African troops to protect monitors but would take on the responsibility of establishing peace with its own troops.

The Arab League asked its African members - Algeria, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia - to participate in monitoring the ceasefire.

Earlier this month, the Yemeni government said that it will not send troops to Iraq to assist stabilizing the country while the US-led coalition forces remain in Iraq. The government's position on sending troops to the war-torn country came soon after Saudi Arabia announced its proposal encouraging Muslim forces to help bring peace to Iraq where violence continues.

Yemen exempts Gulf people from visa

"The Saudi procedures aim to get rid of the Yemeni workforce, and have cancelled the privileges that Yemenis used to enjoy, such as permanent residence.

they have limited free professions to Saudis only, which was known as Saudization of occupations and commercial professions usually practiced by expatriates (8 million)," mentioned the report.

The report indicated that "saudization" does not mean that Yemenis will only lose their occupations, but also

their properties.

"The Saudi authorities had previously given facilitation to some men of distinction and princes to procure Yemenis, even if they were unskilled or unable to work, giving some of them a thousand visas sometimes. One visa would be sold through brokers for 15,000 Saudi riyals, but the price sank as supply increased," elaborated the report.

The Saudi authorities have deported about one million Yemeni expatriates since the crisis of the Second Gulf War,

and forced them to leave the country within 40 days.

The Yemeni government has recently exempted nationals of the Gulf States from visas. Thus, they can enter Yemen without visas given either at airports or border outposts.

The Yemeni authorities had two months ago put new fees on Gulf States' citizens (200 SR or equivalent), but this procedure lasted only one month and was then abolished in order to encourage tourism.



Embassy of India Sana'a INDEPENDENCE DAY 2004

The Embassy of India, Sana'a, cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen, along with their families, to join in the celebrations of 58th Independence Day of India on Sunday, the 15th August, 2004 at the Embassy premises (Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off-Haddah Street, Sana'a). They are requested to assemble at the Embassy at 0745 hours.

PROGRAMME

- 0800 Hours - Flag Hoisting
- National anthem
- Reading of the President's Address
- Patriotic Songs/ cultural events organized by the Indian Embassy School, Sana'a and Shabab band Sana'a
- Refreshments

PS: It is requested that cameras/ bags etc. should not be brought inside the premises. Otherwise these will be kept at checking-point at owner's risk.

Yemenia flies to Bangladesh

BY NASRI ABU BAKR AL-SAQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemenia Airlines celebrated last Friday the inauguration of its flights to Dhaka, Bangladesh. Captain Abdulkhaleq Al-Qadhi, Chairman Executive Officer, in his opening speech explained the phases that Yemenia had gone through since 1997 to now. Yemenia began to modernize its fleet by introducing two new Airbus 310 planes in 1997. In 1998, in an official report, Yemenia was on the verge of bankruptcy and it was expected to fold at the end December of same year.

Then Yemenia, with the support of President Saleh and the Government began to transform from a company that was near declaring bankruptcy into a competing company at the regional level. A project was approved to build a larger aircraft hangar. Two new planes were purchased in November 1999 and four more in 2000. The modernization and the development process of Yemeni continued with the assistance and dedication of the employees and the support of the government. In 2002, three new Boeings 737NG were added to the Yemenia fleet.

Mr. AL-Qadhi explained that the modernization process would continue with two Airbus 330 soon to join the fleet, the first in October and the second in November of this year, increasing the total number of new planes to nine.

As far as the new route to Dhaka, the chairman said due to the connection between Yemen and the region including Bangladesh, the new route would



prove to be of tremendous economic value. He also added that a new service to China would be opened soon. He said that there were several feasibility studies being carried out to possibility operate new flying routes to Manila.

Mr. Al-Qadhi alluded to the ongoing work to develop Sana'a International Airport. He expressed his hope that the Government would complete the construction of the new airport terminals in order for Sana'a International Airport to be of an international standard, especially since the funds for the project had already been allocated.



A delegation from Yemenia Airlines, headed by Captain Ameen Al-Haime, left for Dhaka to officially inaugurate

the new Yemeni office there. The delegation was received, at Zia International Airport, by Mr. Obaid Mugaib, the General Director of Sales Agency of Yemenia. A celebration was held to commemorate the occasion that was attended by a number of Bangladeshi Businessmen.

Captain Ameen Al-Haime, in a statement to Yemen Times, said that the choice of a new route to Dhaka was a service based on a feasibility study, the highly competitive privileges of Yemenia, distinguished services on board the new planes, the number of Yemenis and the size of booking, means that the cost of each flight to Dhaka was estimated between US\$80-90 thousands.

It is worth mentioning that Yemenia hosted a number of Yemeni Newspapers' correspondents at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka where they had a tour to historical sites in the city. The correspondents expressed their gratitude to Yemenia and to Mr. Abdul Qaher, Public relations Director for the cooperation and assistant to the correspondents.



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U.S. forces pound Iraqi militia, urge surrender

NAJAF, Iraq, Aug 10 (Reuters) - U.S. forces pounded Shi'ite militia from the air and ground in the holy Iraqi city of Najaf on Tuesday, and used loudspeakers to urge the entrenched fighters to surrender.

U.S. helicopter gunships pounded positions near the city's ancient Shi'ite Muslim cemetery, a haven for militiamen from firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi Army who have been battling American marines for six straight days.

But in a relief for the cash-strapped government, Iraq is expected to resume full oil exports on Wednesday after it shut one of two pipelines feeding the country's southern terminal as a security precaution, a South Oil Company official said.

A larger export pipeline was shut on Monday after it was attacked, but the damage was minor and the pipeline should be able to operate normally on Wednesday along with the smaller pipeline, the official told Reuters.

Clashes erupted in a poor Shi'ite Baghdad suburb called Sadr City as fighters ignored a curfew order from Iraq's interim government. Insurgents also fired mortars around midday at the Interior Ministry and Water Resources Ministry, witnesses said.

It was unclear if there were any casualties from the mortar attacks.

The radical Shi'ite uprising across central and southern Iraq, the second in four months, has virtually shut down several cities and given Prime Minister Iyad Allawi his sternest test since taking over from U.S.-led occupiers on June 28.

Colonel Anthony Haslam, commanding officer of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit in Najaf, warned the militia to stop using the city's holy sites including the area around the Imam Ali Shrine and the cemetery as a launch pad for attacks.

"We will not allow them to continue to desecrate this sacred site, using it as an insurgent base of operations. There will be no sanctuary for thugs and criminals in Najaf," Haslam said.



U.S. Marines keep watch while patrolling a street in the holy city of Najaf, 160 km south of Baghdad August 10. Fresh fighting broke out in Najaf on Tuesday, with explosions and gunfire coming from the heart of the holy city where militiamen loyal to a radical Shi'ite Muslim cleric are dug in, a Reuters witness said. REUTERS

The Health Ministry said 10 people were killed and 104 wounded in fighting over the past 24 hours in Baghdad, including Sadr City. An official said he had no toll from Najaf.

Defiant sadr

Allawi has ordered Sadr's men to leave Najaf but the young firebrand cleric who appeals to poor Shi'ite youth with his anti-American rhetoric responded with defiance on Monday, saying he would keep resisting and never leave his hometown.

U.S. marines say they have killed 360 of Sadr's loyalists since last Thursday in Najaf, home to the holiest Shi'ite Muslim shrine, some 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad.

Sadr's spokesmen say far fewer have died.

The fighting has buried a two-month ceasefire with U.S. forces and appears to have stalled efforts by Allawi to draw Sadr into the country's political transition.

Citing the deterioration of security, the Polish-led multinational division that had been responsible for Najaf has handed command of the area to American forces.

The latest Najaf clashes erupted just after 8 a.m. (0400 GMT) following a night of intermittent gunfire. Marines later broadcast messages through loudspeakers, urging militiamen to surrender.

Battles in other cities have killed dozens in recent days.

A Japanese defence ministry spokesman said in Tokyo four mortar bombs, said by security sources to have hit the Japanese base in the southern Iraqi town of Samawa, landed "several hundred metres (yards)" from the base on Tuesday.

There were no casualties, the security sources said. It was not immediately clear if the attacks were linked to the revolt by Sadr's Mehdi Army.

In the southern city of Basra, a British military spokeswoman said the streets

were calm after clashes on Monday that killed one British soldier and wounded four others.

A roadside bomb aimed at a U.S. military convoy exploded near hotels used by foreigners in Baghdad early on Tuesday, wounding two soldiers, a military spokesman said.

Insurgents have stepped up mortar and rocket attacks in Baghdad since the Shi'ite uprising erupted, while also appearing to take advantage of the lower U.S. military profile since the handover of sovereignty.

Another burden for Allawi has been a spate of kidnappings aimed at pressuring foreign forces and firms to leave Iraq.

About 20 foreigners remain in the hands of kidnappers, although on Tuesday the family of a Lebanese businessman held hostage said he had been released and was in good health.

On Monday, a Syrian, two Jordanians and two Lebanese were released, their families said.

Iran warns parliament may force enrichment restart

TEHRAN, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Iran said on Tuesday its conservative-dominated parliament could force the government to resume uranium enrichment, a key process in making atomic bombs.

Islamic conservatives who won control of the parliament in February have said they are studying a bill calling for a resumption of uranium enrichment, which Iran agreed to halt last year in a bid to ease concerns about its atomic ambitions.

Washington says Iran wants enriched uranium to make atomic weapons. Tehran says it needs the material to use as fuel for nuclear reactors to produce electricity.

"Parliamentarians are entitled to oblige the government to resume uranium enrichment," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told the official IRNA news agency.

Western diplomats said the proposed bill on enrichment and a threat by deputies not to ratify an agreement on snap inspections of nuclear facilities were designed to dissuade countries from backing U.S. efforts to refer Iran's nuclear case to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions.

Officials from Britain, Germany and France, who have spearheaded a diplomatic drive to encourage greater Iranian cooperation with U.N. nuclear inspectors, came away empty-handed from a meeting with Iranian officials in Paris late last month.

The EU trio tried to persuade Iran to halt all enrichment-related activities after Tehran announced it had resumed the manufacture of enrichment centrifuge parts in July.

But Iran flatly refused and said it would never give up its right to develop a full nuclear fuel cycle.

Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said recent warnings by U.S. officials that Washington would take steps to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons were "an insult to the international community."

"Their plan was clear from the very beginning," he told state radio.

"They do not care whether this (nuclear technology) is for peaceful or non-peaceful purposes. The fact is, it is for peaceful purposes. The International Atomic Energy Agency itself said that there has been no sign indicating that Iran has deviated towards nuclear weapons."

Lebanese hostage freed in Iraq, two still missing

TRIPOLI, Lebanon, Aug 10 (Reuters)

- A Lebanese businessman held hostage in Iraq was released on Tuesday, his family said. Antoine Antoun was kidnapped along with his Syrian driver Issa al-Sheik Awad at the end of last month by gunmen who burst into the Baghdad dairy where he worked. Awad was freed on Monday. Antoun's family in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli said he had called his fiancée from Iraq on Tuesday morning.

"He is fine and he has just been freed," his cousin Tawfiq Abdo told Reuters.

A source in Beirut's Foreign Ministry confirmed Antoun had been released and said he was in good health and in the Lebanese embassy in Baghdad. His family said the 29-year-old expected to return to Lebanon in the next 24 hours.

Many foreigners working in Iraq have been taken hostage in recent months by groups demanding either that their countries withdraw troops or stop supporting U.S. and coalition forces.

Five Lebanese citizens have been taken hostage in Iraq in the past two weeks.

At least three have been released. Relatives of Qasim al-Murqbawi, a truck driver who went missing on a road west of Baghdad last week, told Reuters on Monday he was freed along with another truck driver Nasir al-Jundi.

The foreign office source confirmed Murqbawi was free, but had no information about Jundi.

There has been no news of Jundi's brother Taha nor of Khalidun Osman, another driver in the same convoy.

Istanbul bombs kill two, govt considers PKK link

ISTANBUL, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Simultaneous bomb attacks rocked two hotels and a gas depot in Istanbul early on Tuesday, killing a Turk and an Iranian and injuring 11 others including foreign tourists.

Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu said the government was looking at whether the early morning attacks were the work of a single group, and if they might be linked to recent operations against Kurdish separatist guerrillas.

"Our teams are still investigating at the crime scenes ... and based on the information the laboratories will try and identify what type of bomb was used," Aksu told reporters. Istanbul, Turkey's largest city and commercial capital, has been targeted repeatedly by bomb attacks in recent years.

There was no claim of responsibility for Tuesday's blasts, but Kurdish militants, far-leftists and radical Islamist groups have all carried out bomb attacks in the city.

Violence in the southeast has recently flared again after a lull of several years, and Iranian troops have also battled with

the PKK along the border between the two countries.

PHONE TIP-OFF Staff at the Pars Hotel in Laleli district, where the two men were killed, said they received a telephone warning 10 minutes before the explosion. Most hotel guests were Iranian.

A tip-off was also received before two separate devices exploded at a storage complex for liquid petroleum gas in an outlying area of the city, causing damage but no casualties, state-run Anatolian news agency said. Iranian trader Siamak Jihani, 54, said he was fast asleep at the Pars when the blast ripped through a room two floors below him at around 1.40 a.m. (2240 GMT).

"There was a really loud explosion and the room shook," he said, his foot bandaged after he cut it on broken glass. "The corridor was filled with smoke. It was a scary experience."

Anatolian named one of the dead as Haydar Baydar, 31, from Van in eastern Turkey and the other as Mahdi Pooliki from Iran.

The other explosion happened about three km (two miles) away at the Star

Holiday Hotel in the historic hub of Sultanahmet, only a few hundred metres from renowned Byzantine and Ottoman monuments such as Hagia Sofia basilica and the Blue Mosque.

Television pictures showed emergency services carrying casualties, mostly young foreigners, to ambulances outside the hotel in the heart of Istanbul's tourist district.

The blast ripped away external walls on two floors of the hotel, in a warren of streets popular with backpackers. Aksu said 11 people were injured in total. Anatolian listed seven — two Dutch citizens, two Chinese, a Ukrainian, a Turk and a Turkmenistan national — and the Spanish Foreign Ministry said four Spanish men were also hurt.

More than 60 people were killed in four suicide bomb attacks on British and Jewish targets in the city last November, carried out by a group linked to al Qaeda. In June, four people were killed and 15 wounded in an explosion on a bus in Istanbul, shortly before U.S. President George W. Bush arrived in the city for a NATO summit.

Ahmad Chalabi senses U.S. behind counterfeit charge

TEHRAN, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Ahmad Chalabi, once tipped to lead Iraq after Saddam Hussein's fall, said on Tuesday his former U.S. allies were pulling strings to end his political career, making him unsure of a fair trial on his return home.

Chalabi faces arrest on a charge of counterfeiting money as soon as he returns to Iraq from Iran, where he has been attending a trade conference. He dismisses the charge as ridiculous.

Formerly a darling of the Pentagon, Chalabi has fallen foul of his old paymasters who accuse him of supplying false intelligence over Iraq's supposed weapons of mass destruction and of leaking secrets to Iran.

"The principal motive is to keep me out of the political process or hamper my participation in it," the former mathematics professor and banker told Reuters in an interview in his hotel room in Tehran.

He said the CIA was involved "to a considerable extent".

"This is a classic situation, they have done it in South America... It is not a domestic Iraqi issue," said Chalabi, the scion of a merchant family.

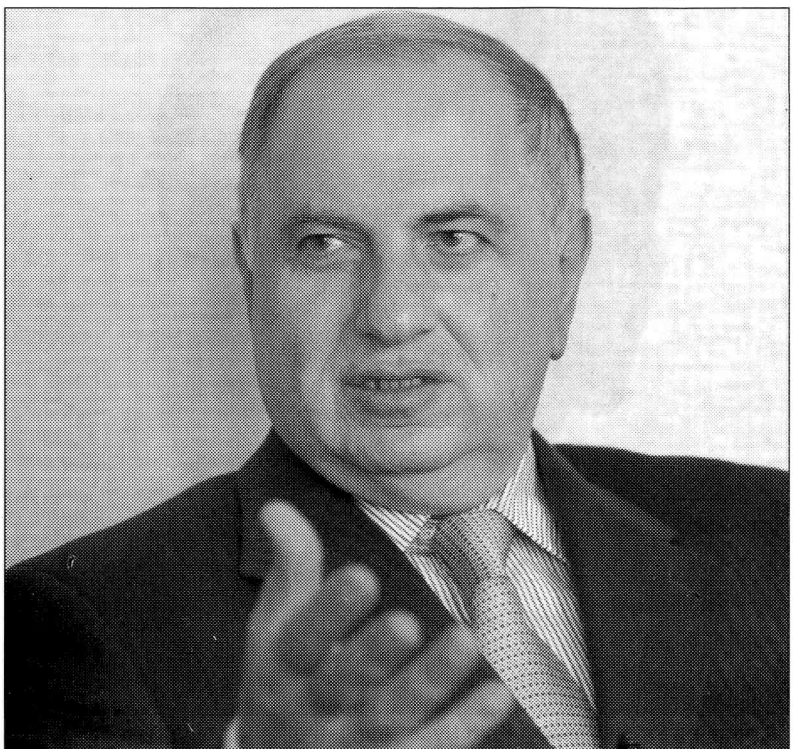
"The Americans create structures in the judiciary and special units in the police and security which are ostensibly part of the government of Iraq which have covert channels to the Americans who direct them to do their bidding."

Chalabi's nephew Salem, the administrator supervising Saddam's trial, also faces arrest after being charged with murder. He is currently in Britain.

The warrants against them were issued by Zuhair al-Maliki, a judge whose independence has been questioned, even by Chalabi's political rivals.

Chalabi says the U.S.-led administration promoted Maliki from junior lawyer to judge after he worked as an interpreter for U.S. forces.

When asked whether this meant he could still get a fair trial in Iraq, he replied: "I do not know."



Former Iraqi Governing Council member Ahmad Chalabi speaks to a Reuters correspondent in Tehran August 10. Chalabi, once tipped to lead Iraq after Saddam Hussein's fall, said on Tuesday his former U.S. allies were pulling strings to end his political career, making him unsure of a fair trial on his return home. REUTERS

Novice judge

Despite this, Chalabi said he would return to Iraq in a few days but declined to reveal the date, adding he was confident he would easily win his case.

"I will not stay here, I will go back to Iraq," he said.

"I am not going to be intimidated by a novice judge. The charges are easily rebutted."

Chalabi also condemned the charge against his nephew Salem as "outrageous".

"It has already damaged the case against Saddam," he added.

Chalabi rejected the idea that his close ties to Tehran had made him enemies at home, as Baghdad's defence minister tuned his rhetoric against the

Islamic Republic to chime with Washington.

"The defence minister is out there on his own, saying unhelpful things," he said.

Defence Minister Hazim al-Shalaan has accused Iran of fomenting unrest among Iraq's Shi'ite majority by sending spies across the border.

"Relations between Baghdad and Tehran are good ... there's a lot of commercial development already," Chalabi said.

He added the reconstruction of Iraq could draw on Iranian expertise, firstly in patching up Iraq's rickety electricity network.

"They construct power stations," he said. "The Iranians have considerable experience."



Turkish police forensic officers examine the damage in front of Star Holiday Hotel after an explosion rocked the building in Istanbul early August 10. Simultaneous explosions rocked two hotels in tourist areas of Istanbul early on Tuesday, killing two people and injuring seven, in what the city's police chief said was an apparent terrorist attack. REUTERS

Karzai faces men with bloody past in Afghan polls

KABUL, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Some of Afghanistan's most notorious so-called warlords will be allowed to contest the country's landmark elections after poll officials announced the final list on Tuesday.

Officials announced 18 candidates will take on incumbent Hamid Karzai on October 9 — including several whose pasts are steeped in violence.

The Afghan-U.N.'s Joint Election Management Body cut five candidates deemed unqualified or unsuitable, but some of the most controversial figures have been allowed to run.

The election commission forwarded objections against three candidates, accused of murder, looting and running private militias, but the election commission ducked the hard decision to axe these candidates.

Karzai has cut a dash internationally since he emerged at the head of a transitional government, to be later confirmed as president in 2002 by Afghanistan's traditional Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly of tribal elders).

For all his educated ways, the 46-year-old is seen by some fellow Afghans, notably among the majority Pashtun ethnic group to which he belongs, as weak and dependent on U.S. support.

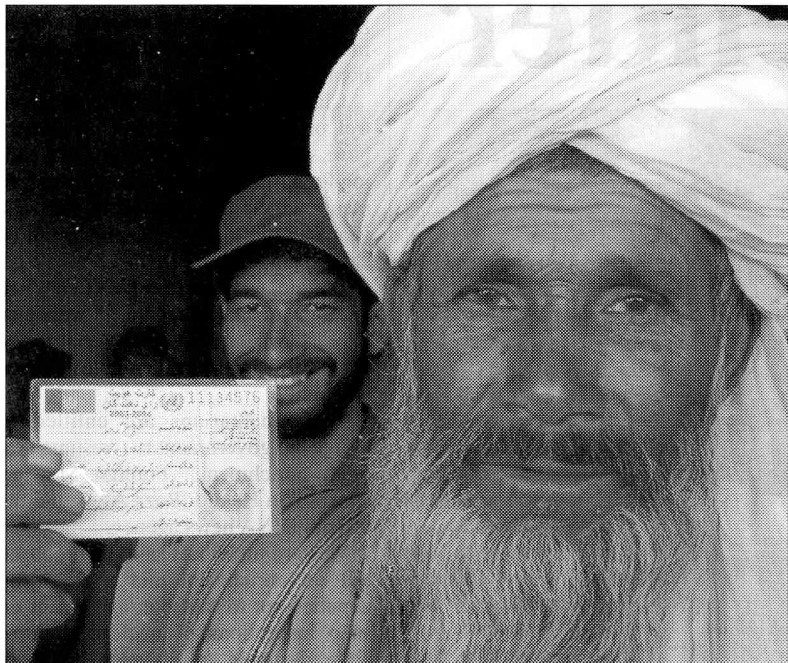
But he remains favourite to win Afghanistan's first democratic election, even after snubbing his militarily powerful defence minister, Mohammad Qasim Fahim, as a running mate.

Fahim has thrown his support behind former education minister Yunus Qanuni, who also has the backing of Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah. All three are Tajiks, the country's second largest ethnic group.

Qanuni is one of the three candidates who had objections raised against his name.

Karzai's chosen running mate Abdul Karim Khalili was also allowed to stay on the president's ticket despite being accused of past crimes.

U.S. envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay



Afghan Gul Mohammad shows his identity card at a voter registration centre in the southern city of Kandahar August 10. Afghanistan's electoral commission announced on Tuesday that 18 candidates will contest the country's landmark presidential election, with incumbent Hamid Karzai facing several rivals whose pasts are steeped in violence. REUTERS

Khalilzad says he has assurances from Fahim that he will honour the political process, but there are still fears that rivalries could turn violent in the heat of elections, especially if the vote is close-run.

Dostum to run

Among the most controversial candidates in the election is Uzbek general Abdul Rashid Dostum, who fought with and against the Soviets in the 1980s, and with the Taliban until he joined the Northern Alliance that with U.S. assistance drove the Taliban from Kabul in late 2001.

Also allowed to run despite objections was Mohammad Mohaqiq, of the minority Shi'ite Muslim Hazaras of central Afghanistan.

The lone woman candidate,

Massouda Jalal, a medical doctor who ran a distant second to Karzai at the Loya Jirga two years ago, was approved as a candidate.

Remnants of the vanquished Taliban and their hardline Islamist allies are fighting a guerrilla war against U.S.-led forces and the young Afghan National Army, mainly in the south.

They have vowed to disrupt elections they call a sham, and close to a thousand people have been killed in the past one year in mounting violence ahead of the polls.

Some 20,000 U.S.-led troops are hunting the Taliban and its allies in the south and east, while a NATO peace-keeping force will be reinforced to total around 8,500 by the time the elections begin.

Pakistan expects militant backlash after crackdown

ISLAMABAD, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Pakistan is bracing for a backlash from Islamic militants after its most successful crackdown on al Qaeda and local allies to date, military and civilian officials said on Tuesday.

Around 20 al Qaeda suspects, foreigners and locals, have been arrested in the past month in Pakistan, leading to a security alert in the United States and the arrest in Britain of man believed to have been plotting an attack on Heathrow airport.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terror, has already been targeted by Islamic militant groups and survived two assassination attempts in December linked by officials to al Qaeda.

"Certainly, there would be some reaction. The government is mindful to that and is prepared to face it," said Major-General Shaukat Sultan, Pakistan's main military spokesman.

"Pakistan is in a very, very tight-rope walk situation in the war on terror," he said. "It is an action and reaction syndrome. We are prepared to pay the price of our decision," he added.

"We have to eliminate al Qaeda, which is (the) ultimate objective," Musharraf said in an interview with The News daily.

But top government officials said some militants escaped the dragnet after a U.S. official named Mohammad Naeem Noor Khan to the press, possibly compromising the computer engineer's role in a sting operation.

Pakistani agencies are chasing four or five mid-level foreign militants in an attempt to smash al Qaeda in Pakistan.

Leaders in firing line

As well as the attempts on Musharraf's life, a suicide bomber narrowly missed Prime Minister-designate Shaukat Aziz during a by-election rally in July. Nine people died in that attack.

Karachi's army chief escaped a gun attack in June in which 10 people died.

Despite the success of the recent

crackdown, al Qaeda remains able to strike, Pakistani officials said.

Several key leaders of the network have been captured, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the September 11, 2001, attacks who was seized in 2003.

But al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, are believed by U.S. officials to be hiding somewhere along the Afghan-Pakistan frontier.

Sultan said the foreign militant who planned an attack on Musharraf was still on the run. He refused to disclose his identity, but intelligence officials have said militant Amjad Hussain Farooqi was the prime suspect in both December attempts.

Major-General Sultan also said Pakistani security forces had scored a major success in smashing two "terror" bases in the tribal region of South

Waziristan, where hundreds of foreign militants and their local tribal supporters were hiding.

"Their activities and freedom of action has been restricted because we have security forces deployed on all roads," he said.

Al Qaeda operatives, many of whom fled to Pakistan from neighbouring Afghanistan when the United States went to war with the Taliban, have linked up with local Islamic militant groups to launch and plan attacks inside Pakistan and abroad.

Musharraf banned five radical Islamic groups following the September 11, 2001, attacks, but was criticised when they re-emerged under new names and their leaders remained at large.

Pakistan's military is widely accepted to have trained, armed and funded several of the groups to act as proxy fighters in disputed Kashmir and Afghanistan.



Pakistan's military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan speaks under the portrait of Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf during an interview with Reuters at his office in Rawalpindi August 10. Pakistan is bracing for a backlash from Islamic militants after its most successful crackdown on al Qaeda to date, military and civilian officials said on Tuesday. REUTERS

Myanmar PM brushes off questions over Suu Kyi



Myanmar's Prime Minister Khin Nyunt August. REUTERS

PHNOM PENH, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Military-ruled Myanmar's Prime Minister Khin Nyunt brushed aside questions on Tuesday over the release of detained democracy icon and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Later, later," he said in response to a question from Reuters about when he planned to release the Nobel peace laureate, who has been in prison or under house arrest for more than a year.

Khin Nyunt, who was on the Cambodian leg of a three-country southeast Asian courtesy trip, told reporters he had had a "very fruitful discussion" with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge soldier whom he described as a "brother".

Hun Sen spokesman Eang Sophalleth said the two leaders did not discuss Suu Kyi's detention or a simmering diplomatic spat between Asia and Europe over the former Burma's accession to the Asia-Europe Meeting

(ASEM) forum in October.

European countries led by Britain, Myanmar's former colonial master, want the junta's leaders excluded from the Hanoi summit because of their repression of political opponents, in particular Suu Kyi.

However, the 10-country Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) insists Myanmar be allowed to join the meeting en bloc with new ASEAN members Cambodia and Laos — the same ASEM accession principle the EU is demanding for its 10 new members.

"The two prime ministers met for about half an hour. They did not talk about either ASEM or human rights records," Eang Sophalleth told reporters.

Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in 1990 general elections, was detained in May 2003 after clashes between her supporters and pro-government demonstrators.

Same faces, different seats after Singapore shuffle

SINGAPORE, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore's prime minister-designate, on Tuesday appointed a new government of mostly old faces to tackle pressing problems ranging from a low birth rate to the loss of jobs to fast-growing China.

His 80-year-old father, founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew, stays in the cabinet with a new title of "minister mentor" while outgoing prime minister Goh Chok Tong will take his place as senior minister — the number two position of power — while also heading the central bank.

The reshuffle mostly swaps existing ministers around without drawing on much new blood, surprising many political analysts and economists who had expected the 52-year-old Lee to usher in a new generation of younger leaders.

Lee, who will be sworn in as leader on Thursday, remains finance minister.

"There are no key changes in the ministries at all. There is a lot of continuity in the change of power. So there will be continuity in policy," said Nizam Idris, an economist at consultancy IDEAGlobal.com. "It is so uneventful."

The elder Lee, who spearheaded Singapore's separation from Malaysia in 1965 and steered the nation from post-colonial backwater to regional dynamo in a generation, has insisted that his son's political rise was based on merit, not nepotism.

The son was formally invited by President S.R. Nathan to head the next government at a meeting on Tuesday after Goh submitted his cabinet's resignation.

"The president has accepted the resignations which will take effect immediately before the new prime minister is appointed on August 12," a statement from the prime minister's office said.

The reshuffle marks one of the final steps in an elaborately scripted succession that has been expected since Goh became prime minister and Lee his deputy in 1990.

Lee, a former brigadier general, has held all the senior economic posts. He was formally endorsed to replace Goh this year by the long-ruling People's



Singapore's Prime Minister-designate Lee Hsien Loong reads a document after receiving it from President S.R. Nathan at the Istana presidential palace in Singapore August 10. Lee, the 52-year-old son of modern Singapore's founding father, Lee Kuan Yew, is expected to name Singapore's cabinet on Tuesday, ushering in a younger generation of leaders to confront problems ranging from a low birth rate to jobs vanishing to China. REUTERS

Action Party, which controls all but two seats in parliament.

Surprising some political observers, Lee re-appointed 64-year-old Coordinating Minister for Security and Defence Tony Tan to one of two deputy premier posts. The other went to long-serving cabinet member S. Jayakumar, who gave up his foreign ministry portfolio but remains the law minister.

George Yeo, a trade minister who led the farm trade talks at the World Trade Organisation's 1999 meeting in Seattle and the agriculture negotiations at the 2001 meeting in Doha, becomes foreign minister.

Opening up

Singapore has been slowly liberalising its social system, including relaxing its infamous ban on chewing gum, in a bid to attract more international companies

and to match the rising expectations of a better-educated, wealthier population.

The new leadership faces a tough initiation with jobs disappearing to the fast-growing economies of China and India while birth rates stagnate at home and the population ages.

However, the new administration inherits fast growth, with figures issued on Tuesday showing the economy expanded 11.9 percent in the second quarter on an annualised basis and is set to grow 8-9 percent in 2004 — neck-and-neck with China.

Most political analysts expect no major policy changes when the younger Lee takes over.

"This is Singapore. The course has been set and everybody knows where to bring the ship," said Song Seng Wun, economist at GK Goh Securities. "We expect implementation of announced

policies and the restructuring of Singapore to continue."

Financial markets barely reacted to the news with the Singapore dollar easing off its highs in late trading as dealers stayed focused on events in the U.S. and the upcoming Federal Reserve policy-setting meeting.

Lee's ascent to premier could stir talk of a concentration of power in the Lee family. With the elder Lee remaining in cabinet and his son as premier, the two occupy two of the top government posts in Southeast Asia's wealthiest country.

The younger Lee's wife, Ho Ching, is executive director of powerful government investment arm Temasek Holdings, which owns stakes in a crop of Singapore firms such as Singapore Airlines and Singapore Telecommunications, whose chief executive is Lee's brother, Lee Hsien Yang.

U.S. denies German 9/11 trial access to prisoners

HAMBURG, Germany, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Washington has barred German judges access to al Qaeda captives in the retrial of the only Sept. 11 suspect ever convicted, a Hamburg court heard on Tuesday, throwing the case into doubt.

Mounir El Motassadeq, 30, is charged with plotting the 2001 attacks with Mohamed Atta and others, and membership of a terrorist organisation.

His first conviction was overturned because judges had no access to a key al Qaeda figure in U.S. custody.

In a letter to the German embassy in Washington, read out in court, U.S. authorities said they had to protect the

sources and methods of the security services.

The letter said "interactive access" to such prisoners could hamper their interrogation and lead to critical secret information, including about terrorist threats, being divulged.

The U.S. decision casts doubts on the new proceedings.

In February 2003, Motassadeq became the first person anywhere to be tried over the Sept. 11 attacks and he remains the only person convicted. He was sentenced to 15 years in jail.

In March this year a higher court ruled the verdict unsatisfactory as judges had no access to testimony from Ramzi bin-al Shaibah, a key

member of the al Qaeda Hamburg cell who was captured in Pakistan in 2002. It ordered a new trial.

The German authorities asked the United States in May to give them access to six key witnesses including bin al-Shaibah, but the U.S. letter said even information on whether a given individual was in custody was classified as secret.

It said it was not possible for the United States to confirm whether the persons named, who also include top al Qaeda figure Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, were in U.S. custody or not.

U.S.-GERMAN TENSION

The issue has led to tension between Germany and the United States, which clearly wants a conviction in the case but is unwilling to allow testimony from the interrogation of al Qaeda captives to be aired in open court.

Washington reacted angrily when Motassadeq was freed from custody in April, describing him as dangerous.

Presiding judge Ernst-Rainer Schudt promised the accused a fair trial independent of the wishes of the government and one that would provide a definitive answer as to his involvement.

"The black hole in the chain of evidence will close. We will certainly not sink into it," he said as the bearded Motassadeq listened intently.

The case largely revolves around bin al-Shaibah, who boasted to an Al Jazeera reporter in 2002 of his role in masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks. He and suicide pilots Mohamed Atta, Ziad Jarrah and Marwan al-Shehhi formed the core of the Hamburg cell.

The successful prosecution at Motassadeq's first trial hinged on his close friendship with these men, on financial transfers he made for al-Shehhi and on his admission that he trained at an al Qaeda camp in Afghanistan.

The defence argued Motassadeq simply followed thousands of others in going to Afghanistan, and his sup-



Moroccan Mounir el Motassadeq (L) answers journalists' questions on his way to the start of his re-trial at the court in the northern German town of Hamburg August 10. Motassadeq, accused of helping to plot the September 11 attacks on the United States, was the first person convicted in connection with the 2001 attacks and was sentenced to 15 years jail in 2003 but was freed on appeal in March.

port for the others was just helping fellow-Muslims in a foreign land.

Manfred Murck, deputy head of Hamburg domestic intelligence, said Motassadeq had renewed militant contacts since his release.

"He met some of his old friends at the mosque. He showed he's still part

of the scene of radical Muslims," Murck told Reuters on the eve of the trial.

But he said Motassadeq posed more of a "general danger" than a direct threat.

"He has good reason to be careful," Murck said.



Moroccan Mounir el Motassadeq (L) answers journalists' questions on his way to the start of his re-trial at the court in the northern German town of Hamburg August 10. Motassadeq, accused of helping to plot the September 11 attacks on the United States, was the first person convicted in connection with the 2001 attacks and was sentenced to 15 years jail in 2003 but was freed on appeal in March.

Porter Goss nominated as new CIA chief

WASHINGTON, Aug 10 (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush on Tuesday nominated as CIA director Rep. Porter Goss, head of the House Intelligence Committee, to replace George Tenet, who quit last month under a cloud of criticism.

Speaking at a ceremony in the Rose Garden at the White House, Bush said Goss — a former CIA intelligence officer himself — was the right man to lead the agency at a time of unprecedented threats against America.

"Porter Goss is a leader with strong experience in intelligence and in fighting against terrorism," said Bush.

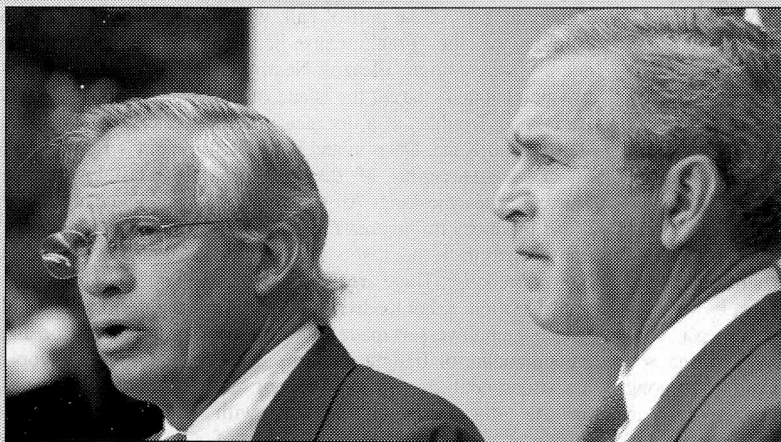
"He is the right man to lead this important agency at this critical

moment in our nation's history. The work of the CIA is vital to our security," he added.

Goss, a Florida Republican, said he was honored to be the president's choice to lead the CIA, which has been criticized for failing to provide enough intelligence to prevent the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and giving false information on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

"What many Americans don't realize is we've got a lot of people around the globe doing very, very hard work — long hours in dangerous situations," said Goss.

Goss, 65, had been considered the leading candidate after Tenet resigned as CIA chief on July 11. The CIA currently is being run by an act-



U.S. Representative Porter Goss (R-FL), chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, makes remarks after President George W. Bush (R) announced that he has selected him to become the new Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, August 10.

ing director.

FLURRY OF ORDERS

His nomination will be joined in the coming days with a number of executive orders Bush is expected to issue for intelligence reforms after recommendations from the commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

When Goss' name was first floated for the position, Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, the senior Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he would not support someone from Congress in that job and complained Goss would be too partisan. The committee would have to hold confirmation hearings for the new CIA director.

Last week, Bush overruled some of his most senior advisors when he called on Congress to create a national intelligence security director, as recommended by the Sept. 11 commission. This post is expected to be more senior than that of CIA director.

At least three members of Bush's national security team, including Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, had argued there was no need for a national intelligence director, saying it would create more bureaucratic layers.

Bush, who initially opposed the creation of the commission, is under political pressure in an election year to respond swiftly to the panel's recommendation amid fears of another terrorist attack.

Attack on Jewish graves stirs outrage in France

LYON, France, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Vandals daubed swastikas and graffiti on 56 graves and a war memorial in a Jewish cemetery in the eastern city of Lyon, the latest in a spate of attacks on Jewish, Muslim and Christian property in France.

President Jacques Chirac, the government and Jewish leaders swiftly condemned the vandalism on Tuesday, following its discovery by a warden on Monday evening.

More than 300 tombs or graves have been desecrated in eastern France since April — many in Jewish cemeteries but also some Muslim and a few Christian graves — despite a drive led by Chirac to eradicate racism and protect France's tolerant image.

"The graves were wrecked, the gravestones had graffiti written on them. It is very symbolic to see graves that bear the Star of David defaced by a swastika," said Richard Wertenschlag, Lyon's chief rabbi, visiting the cemetery.

"It's an indescribable shock," he said, demanding quick arrests and a police crackdown.

Police said they were questioning two people who were in the area when the graffiti was discovered but had no evidence to suggest they carried out the attack. They have failed to identify who has carried out the recent attacks.

Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin condemned the desecration as odious. Chirac said it was cowardly. Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin expressed solidarity with the Jewish community and said France would fight anti-Semitism.

But patience with the authorities is



A police officer inspects graves desecrated by vandals with Nazi swastikas and graffiti on 56 graves and war memorial in a Jewish cemetery in eastern city of Lyon August 10. More than 300 tombs or graves have been desecrated in France since April.

running out and alarm growing among France's 600,000 Jews and five million Muslims — western Europe's biggest Jewish and Muslim communities.

"A crackdown is needed to make these people realise the consequences of their acts," Wertenschlag said.

His words echoed those of Abdellah Boussouf, rector of Strasbourg mosque, after 15 Muslim graves were desecrated in a war cemetery in the eastern city last Friday.

"I can no longer be content now

with the condemnations and solidarity pledges of political rulers. I want results," he said last Saturday. "France's Muslims as a whole have the feeling they are considered second-class citizens."

France has only just ended a row with Israel after its prime minister, Ariel Sharon, urged French Jews in July to emigrate to Israel to escape "the wildest anti-Semitism".

French leaders say they have boosted protection for Jewish schools and synagogues and blame some of the

recent tensions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In a sign of the sensitivities over the issue, a woman who said she was the victim of an anti-Semitic attack on July 9 rocked France with her allegations. She received a four-month suspended jail term after admitting she invented the charges.

Racist and anti-Semitic acts committed in France soared in the first half of 2004, the Interior Ministry says, with 135 physical acts against Jews and 95 against other ethnic groups.

Kazakh opposition leader leaves jail ahead of poll

ALMATY, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Kazakhstan freed a prominent opposition politician from jail on Tuesday but immediately sent him into internal exile, just six weeks before a parliamentary election, his party said.

Two years ago a court sentenced Galymzhan Zhakiyanov, co-founder of the ex-Soviet state's main opposition party, to seven years in jail for abuse of power when he headed the northern industrial region of Pavlodar.

Zhakiyanov, whose Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan (DCK) party has called for President Nursultan Nazarbayev to cede some of his sweeping powers to parliament, denied the charges as politically motivated.

"The administrative court of the Kushmurun prison decided today to send Zhakiyanov to a confined settlement," DCK activist Gulzhan Yergaliyeva told a news conference.

Confined settlements are Soviet-era areas used to house low-security prisoners. The Soviet Union often sent dissidents to such settlements to keep them away from the public.

Zhakiyanov's imprisonment, which had prompted the European Union to express its concern, could have become an embarrassment to Nazarbayev during the election on

Sept. 19. Under the terms of his release, Zhakiyanov, 41, will remain under close police supervision at the settlement in Pavlodar and will be forbidden from voting or taking part in anything deemed a public event by authorities.

Analysts expect the DCK to make little headway in the election, likely to be dominated by Nazarbayev's Otan party and his daughter Dariga's Asar party.

Kazakhstan, which has seen its economy boom thanks to oil, has not held an election deemed either free or fair by foreign monitors since independence in 1991.

Nazarbayev has ruled the vast country of 15 million since 1989. He has won praise for maintaining peace in a multi-ethnic society, attracting massive foreign direct investment in the oil sector and fast market reforms.

DCK leaders say they hope Zhakiyanov may be completely freed in a year and two months when half of his sentence has elapsed. But their hopes are soured by six new criminal cases against Zhakiyanov launched while he was serving his current term.

"I personally fear that ... they (the authorities) may hurl him into a new detention centre," said activist Yergaliyeva.

Words of Wisdom



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

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



OUR OPINION

Malaysia Boleh!

If Malaysia did it, why can't we?

In a fascinating experience in Malaysia - which is now quickly developing to hopefully become the first developed country with a Muslim majority - I learnt that the spirit that drives the country is their willingness to prove that Malaysia can achieve, as demonstrated in the famous Malay slogan "Malaysia Boleh!"

In my opinion, this small sentence has indeed made a great difference between what Malaysia is and what it can be.

In a meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi, we came to realize that Malaysia's spirit is high, and ambitions to become a developed country are definitely on the rise. "We are a developing country, which has gone so far. We will continue our dedication and hard work for our country so as it becomes a developed country that can be a model for many developing countries throughout the world," he said during the meeting.

Meanwhile, it is important to note that among the good habits of Malaysians is the preference of action to talk. This is a key point to their success in driving the economy forward and achieving so much in such a short period of time.

Even though Malaysia can indeed serve as an example for many Muslim and Arab countries, not only are those Arab and Muslim countries not learning from Malaysia, but on some occasions they work to disrupt its efforts to establish a better position for the developing world. One example is the way Malaysia's ambitious and forward-looking plans were rejected by the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). The aim was to make the OIC an active organization in the scope of framing common positions and strong opinions on international issues.

Looking at the conditions of Muslims today, I feel shame at the level of deterioration we have reached in all aspects. This has led to the unprecedented humiliation of Arab regimes, which continuously scream and crying for 'justice' in Palestine whilst doing nothing to achieve it in any way.

Mr. Badawi had clearly said during the meeting that Israel should not go as far as demolishing the Aqsa Mosque. "This would infuriate anger and hatred of Muslims throughout the world and could lead to devastating consequences," he affirmed. But taking things logically, Arab countries are unable to defend their territories or holy sites. They are busy with poverty, oppression, inefficiency, and other negativities in their societies. I don't believe that even demolishing of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem would wake the conscience of Arab regimes, which has already been long dead and buried.

Malaysia has demonstrated that it can achieve great things and make the impossible from the viewpoint of our countries, possible. Today, the country has the finest industries of the world, one of the top petroleum companies (Petrobras), the largest industry of palm oil, a flourishing tourism sector, a land of great investments and opportunities, and a life of peace and security.

I believe that "Malaysia Boleh!" did mean a lot for Malaysians because they believed in this fact. Their belief was translated to actions, and they are now quickly growing and soon will probably be recognized as a developed country.

Malaysia is far behind the Arab world in natural resources, geographical advantages, population, and yet they have achieved greatly.

This makes me ask the question over and over again, "If Malaysia was able to do it, why can't we?"

The Editor



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Country in Education, and more particularly in Humanities. (I)

BY PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD SHAMSADDIN
MEGALOMMATIS

Education plays a preponderant role in our global world. It has however always been the basic instrument of progress as, as is very well known, knowledge is power. One must truly have great expectations from Education in the years ahead, and even the boldest hopes will truly be met in this regard! The reason is that the globalization of the world brings about the globalization of knowledge, creating therefore, serious problems to countries and educational establishments that seek to prevent the diffusion of selected knowledge. In this respect, the simple question 'why would countries and educational establishments want to prevent the diffusion of selected knowledge?' gets the immediate response that there have always been efforts to prevent the dissemination of knowledge that damages 'interests' built on a false or unjust basis. Ignorance is the mother of inaction, and this reality is always what illegitimate interests are based upon.

What is the change brought in by the factor of globalization? Well, this is two-fold: firstly, there are strong interests of academic establishments and countries which conflict. This means that they may use all sorts of means to damage the opposing interest, even the disclosure of a previously hidden part of knowledge. The second factor is the dynamics of globalization itself. Either the past secret has lost its importance because of other developments, or the country that did its best to keep that part of knowledge hidden, no longer has the power to conceal it.

Self-knowledge and proper understanding of one's own identity, characteristics, and past, was always of primordial importance. Nothing can be expected from countries and academia that disregard the study and the reassessment of their own past, or from political establishments that do not initiate themselves into the deep and permanent characteristics of their country's historical identity.

As far as the history of Yemen is concerned, the Periplus of the Red Sea is a valuable source of information - among many other similar sources - written in Ancient Greek by an Egyptian captain and merchant of Alexandria in the second half of the 1st CE. The text offers no less than 19 of its 66 paragraphs to the area of the then Yemenite states and of their colonies on the Eastern Coast of Africa. If we only count that the text starts with the description of the Red Sea coast of Egypt and goes down to the coast of today's Tanzania, only to go back and continue with the narration of details about the coast of Arabia, and - after Yemen - the Persian Gulf, the coast of Persia, Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka, finally ending with a brief account of the way to reach China through Indochina, we deduce that the significance of Yemen within the East - West trade and navigation must have been seminal.

One perhaps may contend that this was the anonymous author's interest or knowledge, but there is no point in this. The author knew all the details the then leading figures of the Trade between East and West, captains and merchants, knew; furthermore, his text was meant to be a sailor's and a merchant's guide! It should be accurate and objective. Otherwise, it would become obsolete very soon. What is even more fascinating with the Periplus of the Red Sea is the fact that it gives a historical frame of the trade between East and West, which lasted for about a millennium (approximately, since the end of the 1st Ptolemaic century down to the beginning of Islam). Of course, there were various turning points during this long period, namely the rise of Ptolemaic interest for trade and political relations with India, the end of Qatabani control, the end of Sabaeen - Himyarite control, the rise of Sassanid Iran, and its involvement in the

Horn of Africa area, the rise of Christian Axumite Abyssinia, the Eastern Roman - Axumite coalition against Iran, the temporary Abyssinian invasion of Yemen, the Persian occupation of Yemen and expulsion of the Axumite armies, etc. However, during all this period the major outlines given by the text of the Periplus of the Red Sea regarding the navigation and the trade in this vast area remain almost unchanged!

A. The Hadhramout state, 'the Frankincense-bearing Country' of 'Periplus'

1. Eleazos, king at Shabwa, the capital of the 'Libanotoforos Khora'

In previous features, we translated integrally and analyzed the excerpts of the text relating to the navigation throughout the eastern coast of the Red Sea, and through the Bab al Mandeb straits up to Aden. We focused on references to Mouza (al Mokha), Okelis, Diodorus' island (Perim), and Felix Arabia (Aden), an entire area that belonged to king Kharibael, who was ruling 'by law' the two peoples, namely the Sabaeans and the Himyarites. Today, we will visit another ancient Yemenite state, Hadhramout, which is called by the author by a purely narrative but a most attractive named, the Frankincense-bearing Country (in Greek: 'e Libanotoforos Khora'). The text covers three and a half paragraphs (27 to 30), and reads as follows:

"Immediately after Arabia Felix is located a long coast and a gulf for more than 2000 stades length. The Nomads and the Ichthyophagoi (Fish-eaters) inhabit these areas, gathered in small towns. Beyond the end of the gulf is located Kane, another coastal port of call, which belongs to the Frankincense-bearing country, where reigns Eleazos. Nearby lie two uninhabited islands, the island of the Birds, and Troullas, in a distance of 120 stades from Kane. Deep inland is located Saubatha, the capital of the kingdom, where resides the king. All the frankincense produced throughout the country is transported to Kane that serves as the main storehouse. There are many ways of transportation, either loaded on camels, or laden on small vessels made out of leather paraphernalia, or fraught on ships. Kane has strong contacts with the ports of call on the other side of the sea, with Barygaza, as well as with the harbours of Scythia, Omana and the neighboring Persia".

In this text, we get valuable details about the area at the east of present day Aden. As it comes out, we realize that the kingdom of Kharibael, who joined Sabaeans and Himyarites under his scepter, was extended at the area of the modern Northern Yemenite state, encompassing in addition the area around Aden. As we are going to see later on, a similar land expansion towards the east was characterizing the neighboring state of Eleazos, the Frankincense-bearing country, i.e. the second Yemenite state of those days. That state comprised most of the surface of the 20th c. South Yemenite state (but not the area of Aden), and in addition the entire area of Dhofar, therefore including a large part of present day Oman in its territories.

Very interesting information is given through the sentence that Kane has strong contacts with the harbours of Omana (i.e. the eastern area of the present day Oman), Persia, and Scythia. By this name the author identifies the Scythian state that was formed after the collapse of the Hellenistic state of Bactria, at the area of today's Afghanistan and Pakistani Baluchistan, since the area of Gedrosia, i.e. the Iranian part of Baluchistan, belonged then to the 'Indo-Parthian' state, a small tributary state to the Arsacid Iran. The Periplus names Minagar as capital of Scythia, and Barbarikon as main harbour and port of call, at the area of present day Karachi, not far from the estuary of Indus river, 'Sinthos' according to the author of the text. As far as Barygaza is concerned, the last port of call with which

Kane had strong contacts, it is identified with Bharu Katzha of the Sanskrit texts, in the north of present day Mumbai, at the estuary of Narmada river that divides India into the North and the South (Dekkan). Barygaza/Mumbai belongs already to the Ariake, the Indo-European state of Manbanos, and with this state 'starts' India.

It is interesting to note here that the author refers again to Kane, when describing Barygaza (paragraph 57), in order to give insightful details about sailing straight from Kane to Barygaza and crossing the ocean, in order to save time and to avoid various coastal dangers.

However all these contacts signify the involvement of various kingdoms in the Yemenite Frankincense. Iran, the Indo-Parthian, the Scythian, the Indian states, the tiny Omana state were all interested in purchasing frankincense for their royal, sacerdotal and social use. It was not only Rome and Iran, the two big states, that were concerned in this regard, although we have reason to believe that the Roman acquaintance with the Oriental royal courts' formalities changed to such extent their customs and habits, that a very great Roman interest was expressed towards incense use.

2. Kane - Husn al Ghurab, the source of the frankincense trade network

Through the text we realize that the two main ports of call in the southern Yemenite coast, Felix Arabia (Aden) and Kane (Husn al Ghurab), belonged to two different kingdoms, but yet they were separated by a small buffer area, 2000 stades long that was inhabited by the Nomads and the Ichthyophagoi (Fish-eaters). Similar cases we meet several times in the text of the Periplus with references to Ichthyophagoi and Moschophagoi (lamb-eaters), as for instance in the coast of today's Egypt and Sudan, in the south of the last Egyptian port of call, Berenice, and in the north of the Egyptian Ptolemaic and Roman colony Ptolemais Theron (today's Suakin, 50 km in the south of Port Sudan). The terms are absolutely socio-anthropological and not ethnic - linguistic. It would be an aberration to consider that the Ichthyophagoi in the north of Ptolemais Theron - Suakin, and the Ichthyophagoi in the east of Arabia Felix - Aden, have any sort of interconnection or relationship.

The two islands referred to by the author, the island of the Birds, and Troullas correspond to the major two of the four islands at the west and at the east of present day Bir Ali, the city near Husn al Ghurab. At this point we should refer to an earlier publication of the Yemen Times (Issue 08 - Thursday 23rd February 1998, Vol VIII) under title 'Qana reveals its secrets', in which Ismail Al-Ghabry gave insightful information about the recent French - Russian excavations and findings. What the author calls 'island of the Birds' corresponds perhaps to the Halaniya island.

Suddenly and unexpectedly we come across a high place of one of the most valuable commodities of the Antiquity, the Frankincense, at the very epicenter of the Incense Maritime Road, Kane. The importance of the place is counterweighted only by that of the capital, where Eleazos dwells. Saubatha is no other than modern times Shabwa, a major Hadhramout city. As the text states that the frankincense is transported to Kane via land or sea, we understand that we arrived at the very area of frankincense cultivation, the coast and part of the inland of Hadhramout. Certainly, within the text of the Periplus we have references to other ports of call where frankincense, myrrh or other types of incense were available in the market, but none is referred to in the way Kane is. The name of the country adds to this feeling as well. Although the adjective 'Adhramotites' existed in Ancient Greek, the author of the Periplus prefers to name Hadhramout after its main agricultural commodity, frankincense.



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Bad Guys Can't Stand the Truth

Bad Guys Can't Stand the Truth "All this talk about wanting to spread democracy in the Arab World is no more than hogwash", said Mamdouh as he and a couple of Yemeni journalists were heading for the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Meeting of their local branch in Taiz.

"Come on now, Mamdouh", said Ali, continuing, "We have really come a long way in Yemen from the early days of the Revolution, when all you had was the official version of every event that occurs in the country and the rest of the world".

Fatima, a television reporter did not fully agree: "But have we really got all the press freedom we need to make us at par with the western countries or even some of the Arab democracies, like Lebanon, which enjoys considerable press freedom? Of course not. Most of the Arab countries have very few private and independent television or radio stations or none at all. Most of the independent newspapers are subject to control by 'voluntary' censorship."

Ali still felt things were getting better on the press freedom side: "Yeah, but most of this kind of censorship is really for the purposes of morality. We don't want the press to get carried away and start showing photographs of nude people, do we?"

Fatima was not impressed with that argument: "What about the so called red lines that the authorities constantly keep telling us not to cross? The problem here is that these red lines transcend all subject matters. You can't speak against certain officials or bring out the details on corruption. So, how can you say that it is morality that the government is only concerned with? If they were so concerned about morality, isn't corruption and repression of public opinion and the right of the people to know immoral?"

Mamdouh went further: "You can't even get carried away with jokes about government ineptitude or follies. If you become too sarcastic, then you are ruining 'our image' and misrepresenting the true bona fide picture of the government. Come to think of it, you can't even take pictures of government buildings or facilities, because you would be construed as giving away national secrets." Fatima recalled an example: "One of our camera men was once picked up for photographing the employees of one government building as they were rushing to get on the bus, which only allowed 10 employees to get on. The rest of the employees had to find other means of going home; although the bus driver is supposed to come back to pick up the other remaining employees, which he doesn't, because he is not given enough petrol. The security staff of the building took the camera from our man and tore out the film, because they said he was photographing the luxury car of the big boss, which implies a security risk for the big boss". He was not arrested for too long, but it took a lot of convincing to get the security to see the truth of the matter."

"Look Fatima", said Ali, elaborating, "the Arab free press is being challenged everywhere. Just to show how democratic Iraq is turning out to be after the 'handover', the Iraqi government rushed to close down the Al-Jazeera Office in Baghdad, because they were showing the tapes of the hostages the insurgents are holding. Wouldn't it be better if the Iraqi government went after the insurgents to get the release of those hostages, and made as much use of the films supplied to Al-Jazeera or any of the other media channels for clues? Surely it wasn't Al-Jazeera that kidnapped the hostages. Besides Al-Jazeera is exercising all due restraint in not showing any offensive photos or footage of an excessively violent nature. If Al-Jazeera did not show them, the insurgents will certainly find someone else to show them anyway."

Mamdouh wanted to really show the real reasons behind the Al-Jazeera closure: "Look you guys, Al-Jazeera has simply managed to get the kind of audience attraction that rivals the major right wing press organs, which are distorting the picture in Iraq to satisfy the neo-con-Zionist establishment in the United States. Their reporting has, on the whole achieved a respectable credibility, even among western audiences, who look to Al-Jazeera or other Arab channels; because they know that they are not getting the full picture from western embedded news sources. The fact of the matter is that lies are easy to discern and if you get a whole different picture from Arab journalists, especially with the kind of professionalism shown by Al-Jazeera people, this renders western embedded sources questionable."

"What about Al-Manar?", asked Ali, continuing, "The European elements of the international Zionist establishment are working diligently to block European satellite broadcasting of Al-Manar satellite channel, so that Europeans never get to see any of the Arab side in the Arab-Israeli dispute."

Fatima had more clarification on this: "the European polls have shown that European public opinion has on the whole not looked too favorably to all the media whitewash the Zionist establishment is rigging out in Europe and notwithstanding the funding and the scope of the effort, the Europeans are scrutinizing the facts on the ground in the Holy Land. They know that the Israelis are committing atrocities and have no taste for the Zionist violations of human rights, notwithstanding all the bogus about terrorism the Israelis and their Zionist supporters sing out. Al-Manar is also proving to be a credible professional media organ, with a well proven capability in projecting a reasonable factual presentation of events. Yes, Al-Manar is anti-Zionist, but who should not be anti-Zionist, if they truly believed in human rights and equal justice for all. No, the problem for Al-Manar is that Hezbollah is proving to be an astute adversary of Israel on the ground and in the airwaves, and that is really what is bugging the Zionist establishment. Too put it simply, bad guys at home and abroad just can't stand the truth!"

Letters to the Editor

Dear editor

I was impressed by the short story of aspiration called "will she continue?". I share the same feelings of Fatheah Abdulkareem regarding her impression issued on 29th July 2004 in the culture page. I take those lines written by her to heart and

they remind me of many sores. What a compassionate moment embracing your child is. What happiness, when I hug with open arms a little child. It is just gladness. It may not be accurately portrayed by words as it is an ecstatic gushing powerful feeling. That is why we may lose our mind to see those children carrying their heavy

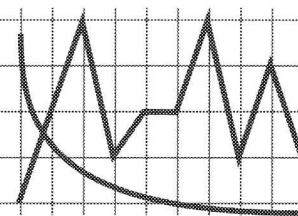
Letters to the Editor

school bags and walking in heavy traffic. Some of them cannot take a bus to go to school, they walk to school in the burning sunshine because of poverty. Others ask people to give them ten rails for the bus. I wish I had a son or a daughter; I would not only carry them on my shoulders to school, but also will buy an umbrella to

keep them under shade. Unfortunately, they have not come to me yet. I am still waiting for them however old I am, when will they come? Allah knows. I can not but wipe my tears and Allah's will be done.

By Abdulwahab A. Al-Sofi
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YT Business



Prices increase... poverty rate increases

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALY
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Economists estimated that the rates of most recent price increases, on some commodities and major consumer goods, range between 60%-150%.

The wave of high prices has reached a peak, to the point consumers have lost confidence in their ability to buy food stuffs. While the price of a ton of construction steel rocketed from 62,000 Riyals to 112,000 Riyals before it has settled during last few days to 105,000 Riyals.

This wave of high prices has instigated discontent and dissatisfaction amongst citizens who have considered it as a direct result of the tax dose the government has recently imposed on several consumer goods.



Shop shelves packed with consumer goods, but high prices hinder majority of people from buying

The Yemeni Consumer Protection Association, in a statement it issued, confirmed that the price increases represent a serious development, which is of major concern to society.

It categorized the price hikes as an exploitation of sales law by some merchants, who caused the increase in prices, and who are exploiting the needs of the general public and ignoring the difficult financial condition many of them face as a result of the increased poverty rate in Yemen.

The Association urged the adoption of a firmer and more responsible stance by the related authorities that would prevent the deterioration of the situation. It has demanded the related authorities, once again, to react promptly to put an end to the unprovoked price increases on several commodities, so that consumers would not be victims of price escalation.

The Yemeni Local Production

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.7100	184.8900
Sterling Pound	341.5700	341.9100
Euro	227.6600	227.8800
Saudi Rial	49.2500	49.3000
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.5600	627.1700
UAE Dirhem	50.2900	50.3400
Egyptian Pound	29.8600	29.8900
Bahraini Dinar	489.9400	490.4200
Qatari Rial	50.7400	50.7900
Jordanian Dinar	260.5200	260.7800
Omani Rial	479.8000	480.2600
Swiss Franc	147.6600	147.8000
Swedish Crown	24.7000	24.7200
Japanese Yen	1.6704	1.6721

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Promotion Association board, the related governmental apparatus, bears full responsibility for what the local market is currently witnessing of chaotic prices.

The Yemeni Consumer Protection Association called on them to bear their duties and responsibility, and to urge local Yemeni producers to reconsider the prices of several commodities and consumer goods that were recently subjected to price raises.

The association urged local producers to avoid mimicking the behavior of importers, since that would not serve the national goals. The association is seeking to promote, encourage and develop consumer confidence in national products.

The WTO requirements for Yemen's Accession process

By ECONOMIST TAUFIK AL-DOBHANI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In an earlier article, published in the first half of 1999, we presented the World Trade Organization (WTO) as integrated part of the currently applied international economic order. Like the WB and the IMF, the WTO was dealt with as an international complementary tool or instrument (an integrated Organization within the UN- system) participating in leveling the path for a new Era.

In this context, WTO was discussed in terms of its contribution towards the creation of a rather uniformed global system and in relationship with the WB and the IMF. In that article (refer to Yemen Times March/April 1999), many effects and world wide implications were outlined with some consequences indicated being currently apparent. By referring to the overall common concept of all three originations, including the WTO, one observes that their performances are based on the application of classical, neo-classical and post neo-classical economic theories, including all related and evolved concepts, thus, their operations and progressive performance have a rather complementary and an accumulating effect on any given economy, despite the fact that they seem to be operating in different fields and / or at different levels.

As this article will focus on the WTO, it is important to have indicated this operational overlapping and interrelationships between the WTO and the WB and the IMF as this will be useful for, and have implications on, any applicable qualitative or quantitative argumentations. Initially, the aim here will be to, briefly, outline the evolutionary process of the WTO creation and to translate the main issues related to its operation into rather simplified economic aspects.

In a further discussion, the main official steps undertaken so far by the Yemeni government towards its accession into the WTO will be addressed. On this basis, it is further intended to review the most important requirements that must focused upon by the assigned authorities, while working for the accession process and after getting WTO membership.

Taking into account these issues, the actual practices necessary for Yemen's accession into the WTO, including their deviation, will be qualitatively assessed in order to enable decision makers to intervene and adjust accordingly where applicable.

The WTO, the WB, and the IMF, were all proposed to be established under the economic and social organization of the UN-system, as part of the reform undertaken after the WWII, aimed at creating more adequate conditions and better

frameworks for managing and controlling international relations.

Due to various political disagreements, unlike the WB and the IMF, the WTO could not be established.

Instead, it was replaced by the General Agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT) which was created in 1947 as a voluntary institutional frame and where countries join to negotiate for reciprocal tariff reduction based on the application of certain principles, i.e. non discrimination, mutual trade concessions, transparency, disputes settlement procedures and the provision of pre-defined agreed exceptions.

The GATT framework has operated with the overall objective of eliminating trade distorting measures, and towards the achievement of trade liberalization between member countries (ie contracting parties). Some 23 countries initiated GATT round talks in Geneva in 1947, nevertheless, a further 7 rounds were held until 1993, with an increasing number of countries joining this agreement. At the last GATT round (the URUGUAY round) which was signed by more than 120 member countries in Marrakech in 1994, it was agreed that the replacement of the GATT by the WTO was to be enforced from 1995 on.

All previous GATT rounds, trade related rights and obligations of respective member countries, that have accumulated, were to be forwarded to become part of the new WTO system.

Beyond this, negotiations were conducted under the WTO umbrella. The introduction of all trade related rules and regulations applied under the WTO regime, including the basic principles employed, have been formulated in accordance with the interests of major supper economies which have more economic bargaining power, and have adjusted their long term local economic policies in favor of trade liberalization. Consequently, small economies and in particular the majority of developing countries, including the least developed countries among them, were, as individual GATT or WTO members, in weak positions to represent their interests. Instead they were integrated within the system as given, hoping to acquire short term gains and the benefit of some provisions and exemptions applied under the WTO system, at the cost of terminating other preferential treatments applied through other bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements and arrangements.

This particular phenomena of developing countries, in general, has been acknowledged by the UN and other WTO members, resulting in the creation of UNCTAD during the 1960s as a permanent origination attached to the UN organizational structure, aiming at representing developing countries, assisting them, and protecting their interests in trade relat-

ed issues.

This very brief descriptive review of accumulative events and dynamic developments has been presented here to highlight the complexity of the WTO regime, its rather multi-dimensional consequences, and hence the wide scope of the topic under consideration. The overall objective of WTO refers, basically, to the promotion of liberal trade activities among member countries in almost all economic and economic related fields justified by the possible gains generated through liberal trade, and based on more efficient resource allocations and the freedom of market competition.

However the path to achieve these rather long term (and ambitious) results, implies that each member country has to reform and adjust its local based economic policies, measures, and procedures, so as to comply with WTO rules and regulations. This is the core of the issue. However, the resulting implications for any given country will differ, being largely dependent on the prevailing economic and socio-economic circumstances of that country, and on how it was prepared for the accession process, as well as on how it is performing with regards to understanding related rules and regulations and their macro economic short and long term implications.

In this context, some important questions can be raised, e.g. what are main rules and regulations applied under the WTO? What does this imply for any given WTO member? And how should a country act to accede into the WTO and to gain from its membership? The answer to these and other related questions will be explored with reference to Yemen, hereunder, including a qualitative assessment of all the main related and applicable issues.

As it will be beyond the scope of this article to cover the entire WTO- system, focus will be given to the main aspects related to the underlying rules and regulations applicable for Yemen, and present them in terms of their overall, direct and indirect, implications for the Yemeni economy.

Undoubtedly, the WTO is functioning to facilitate and promote the application of free international trade activities and to ensure the movement towards liberal trade among its members. This is done through its official HQ based in Geneva and its underlying specialized committees and bodies. Since liberal trade is based on liberal trade policies and policy measures, it is obvious that WTO members are enforced, in the long term, to adopt transparent economic policies and measures. This may be an easy task for some countries that have a well defined, predictable, open economy - which is applicable for the majority of developed countries. In contrast, for the majority of developing

economies and in particular for the least developed countries (of which Yemen is one), the application of liberal economic policies implies major changes in their economic and socio-economic characteristics, both on macro and micro levels.

Therefore, Yemen's accession into the WTO is being made subject to series of macro economic adjustment measures, which consequently result in the obligation to change many applied legal frameworks, including the termination of some traditional legislative concepts.

On the other hand, liberal trade means that WTO members have eliminated and / or terminated all economic and non-economic measures that are considered to have a trade distorting impact. By converting the main rules and regulations of the WTO- regime, the accession process will, eventually, have the following main rules for any given country including Yemen:

(1)-application of free market mechanisms based on market information which implies generally the creation of powerful local monopolies and the gradual elimination of government interventions in key economic activities.

(2)- increasing dependency of local economic industries on fluctuations occurring in international markets and hence the loss of control over food security issues through expected rises in the price level of basic food stuffs (with the most impact being expected on least developed and net food importing countries).

(3)-the shifting of investment towards limited and selected economically profitable activities, based purely on apparent comparative economic advantage and independent from any other social, environmental, traditional or other local characteristics and considerations.

(4)- widening up the poverty gap, which is expected to occur in particular within the rules society.

(5)- increased foreign investment at the cost of local based environmental resources.

(6)- decreasing representation of local governments to reflect the interests of the local population, and the creation of increased protection of the environment for rather large local based and international monopolies.

(7)- despite any likely efforts made in favor of income redistribution or other compensatory measures, the overall trend will be featured through unequal income distribution and the evolution of powerful minority social groups, which is likely to result in political instabilities.

(8)- any likely created local industries will represent, generally, an additional burden (and source of income for internationally based monopolies through WTO regulations imposed under intellectual property rights, and the protective meas-

ures provided for patents and inventions).

These and many other expected results on macro level will, consequently, have further implications on micro and sub-sector levels which are expected to be vast and more complicated than any one can imagine, however, it is beyond the scope of this article to go any further in this direction.

Obviously, the ultimate aggregated consequences will have different impacts on each country depending mainly on individual development status, the composition of individual economies, and on how each country acts prior to WTO accession, during the accession process, and thereafter. Based on this, it may be interesting to review, hereunder, the Yemen case.

Officially, Yemen applied in the year 2000 for WTO membership and it is currently still working for the accession procedures and the fulfillment of all prerequisites to the satisfaction of WTO arrangements. Among the procedures and requirements applied by the WTO, Yemen has responded outwardly through officially establishing a coordination and communication office, under the Ministry of industry and trade as the lonely official canal between Yemen and the WTO.

In addition many decisions have been made by the government to support the accession process, by means of establishing the required committees at ministerial levels headed by many respective deputy ministers. Through its authority, the nominated office has worked throughout the last period with line ministries and its underlying committees and technical staff members to gather all the necessary required official documents, resulting in the presentation of the details applicable to the Yemeni foreign trade regime (YFTR) which contained all trade related Yemeni policies, measures and procedures, and deliver it to the WTO.

The latter has replied upon the YFTR with further questions on some unclear aspects made by major WTO members. Accordingly, Yemen, has responded with the necessary answers to those questions.

So far, this has been a one- sided game, i.e. during the last 4 years Yemen has responded to the requirements of the WTO accession process and it has been considered as a major priority by the concerned authorities. However, this is a purely administrative and routine responsibility of the officially assigned office.

From an economic point of view, more attention should have been given to assessing and quantifying the expected implications of Yemeni membership, and measurement of the consequences of the WTO regime on Yemeni economic sectors and sub-sectors, based on certain priorities.

This vision seems to have been largely neglected. Based on past performance,

assigned management has focused on coordinating administration and documentation activities with line ministries and other official national institutions involved with trade and trade legislation issues. An equally important aspect in this regard for Yemen should have been to concentrate on following up on (and the acquisition of) all possible technical assistances guaranteed to Yemen, as a least developed country, by leading Donors and by the WTO, and utilizing them in the most efficient way possible through enhancing sector and sub-sector capacities.

Again, this has been largely omitted, (though some limited acquired assistance and donations have been either partially utilized or used in an efficient way). As many consequences are likely to effect the agricultural sector, high priority should be given to this sector, and its underlying sub-sectors, while assessing the implications of Yemen's membership into the WTO.

The first thing which should have been done by any given authority, (preferably prior to the application of accession ie prior to 2000), is to have developed and constructed an applicable conceptual economic model, reflecting the strengths and weaknesses of the Yemeni economy and its various economic sectors, relative to other countries and the rest of the world, so that any further adjustments and / or analytical activities can be based on it.

Even this was not done aside from one exceptional activity executed in 2002 which resulted in producing a rather inadequate and unclear descriptive modeling proposal. There are many aspects with regards to the performance of the official authorities, represented mainly through the MIT, which have to be assessed and re-adjusted towards making a more appropriate operation, and functioning for the interest of all economic sectors rather than just to lobby for certain narrow interests, based on a biased technical vision.

Currently, one of the main issues related to Yemen's assistance for its WTO accession, is an ongoing project under the MIT. It was due to start activities during the second half of 2003 but was actually initiated at the beginning of this year. Despite this delay, this EU funded, 7 million Euro, project is still unknown in terms of its contribution to different economic sectors - which seems to be due to biased management.

If well executed, this may help a lot in covering and assisting many to overcome and clarify technical aspects, helping towards maximizing benefits and minimizing risks during the ongoing accession process and thereafter - if allocated project funds (local and international) are utilized fully and used efficiently for prioritized purposes. Nevertheless, this remains subject to the further performance and follow up of assigned authorities.

Marriage: Emotions and responsibility

BY NAWAL ZAID
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

With regards to marriage, we can detect a poignant contradiction between emotions and responsibility. One reason for that is high dowry. Having paid too much money for their wives, some husbands feel entitled to treat their spouses as maids, practicing violence against them and delegating to them all the burdens of children and the household, they even attribute to them all domestic problems with the result that quite often emotions get drained between them.

Some wives, attempting to show love and affection towards their husbands, find them cold and indifferent to their advances, thinking that peaceful mindedness at home comes only from satisfying his needs in a good and orderly manner. They do not understand what love, affection, and understanding are, nor do they see the importance of these concepts, which are the fundamentals of a happy marriage.

Besides, many husbands are not satisfied with their wives. They agreed to marry them just to please their parents. This breeds continuous strife, taxing their affections towards their domestic liabilities. In such a situation, how can they make a compromise between emotions and responsibility, and how would their life proceed? Such a discrepancy makes things much more complicated, and ends up with a vapid and meaningless life. Parents encourage the couple to stay the course, especially the girl, since it is socially

unpleasant for a woman to be divorced. They force the girl to try to love her husband, after having forced her to marry him! This is a big mistake.

Suppose parents can force their children to lead their chosen lifestyle, surely they can not give them marital love, affection, and mutual understanding, because these things only come through the couple's contentment with each other and not their parents'.

Unfortunately, some husbands (justifiably and unjustifiably) practice violence against their wives. They mistakenly think that they are responsible for everything, and every act, done by their wives. With violence, they believe, they can protect their families and children from delinquency.

Some husbands do not show responsibility towards their children. A father may put the entire burden on his wife, under the excuse that he is busy at work, or needs to while away his time with his cronies at Qat sessions. The wife becomes solely responsible for the home!

However, if the couple have affections for each other, one of them may willingly shoulder all the liabilities. The woman may show readiness to tackle the responsibility, because she loves her husband. Whereas, if their hearts are barren, and they cherish no love for each other, each would try to avoid responsibility, and start accusing the other.

There is a set of solutions to these problems, which facilitate good relations between married couples, and set the proper way of dealing with married life. First, we should choose the proper spouse, and identify the factors that may influence our future. Then, we should differentiate between love and



A Yemeni family celebrates a wedding party

responsibility, because they are two distinctively different things. We should fully shoulder our responsibilities because they are mandatory. If one party neglects his responsibilities to the other, or has no feelings for him/her, there will be one-side responsibility and love, with the consequences that their lives would contradict and breed resentment.

Moreover, nice meanings and affectionate feelings must be hosted by the

couples because they reinforce the love bond between them, engender the feeling of security and provide them with strength enough to endure and survive the hardships and responsibilities.

The parents' selection of a spouse for their offspring contributes to making marital life more susceptible to problems. This issue has been discussed many times, because it is a principle reason for the responsibility-love contradiction.

Why isn't this decision left to those who are about to marry? Youths should bear the burden, and choose their life partners by themselves, so as to be satisfied with and able to tackle his future duties, face the consequences of his decision, and settle his own problems away from parental intervention.

Many people, including youths, don't think love is necessary. Some, especially in our society, regards it as taboo. If they have it, they try to con-

ceal and repress it as something shameful and destructive. It is a negative view and things need to be ameliorated.

Husbands must avoid violence and maltreatment of their wives, because such practices bury love alive.

If love, respect and understanding are present between couples, they can efficiently organize their lives, and strike a balance between their responsibilities and their emotions.



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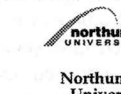
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REPUBLIC OF YEMEN GROUNDWATER AND SOIL CONSERVATION PROJECT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES

The Republic of Yemen has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) to assist in financing of the Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project (GSCP) and intends to apply parts of the proceeds for consultant services for:

(i) survey, designs and predation of bidding documents for small and medium spate diversion works spread in ten FUs; (ii) carrying out a base-line survey in the project area for M&E of the future project performance in regard to key monitoring indicators; (iii) Establishing MIS system at PCU, MAI field offices (17 IAS) and at CWMU; and (iv) Satellite Imagery/Data Analysis Study for Monitoring of Changes in Irrigated Areas and Cropping Pattern for some selected sub-basins.

The project is geographically spread country wide in fifteen governorates.

The period for carrying out any one, or more or all of the four studies together will be 4-6 months except for the study at number (iv) in which case the period of study shall be in two spells during 2004 and 2009.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) represented by the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of the GSCP, now invites eligible consultants to indicate their expression of interests (EOIs) in providing the services for carrying out any one, or more or all of the four studies together, as indicated above. The interested consultants must provide, for each of the four studies separately, their approach and methodology, in brief, to undertake the above studies and other supporting information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in the most personnel and specific information regarding their relevant qualifications, description of their experience in similar assignments etc.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Expression of interest must be delivered, in a sealed envelop, to the address below by at or before 2.00 p.m. on September 8, 2004.

Firms submitting EOIs will be considered for short-listing, and a formal Request for Proposal (REP) will be provided to the short-listed firms.

Engr. Hamoud Al Rubaidi, Project Director,
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Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,
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Grave consequences of over-population in Yemen



BY ISMAIL ALI AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ever-increasing impact of rising population in Yemen is influencing many aspects of life, resulting in lower living standards, and a rise in the number of cases of poverty due to unemployment. Not only that, but there is also a high mortality rate among babies, children and mothers because of low levels of healthcare, and the spread of fatal diseases including malnutrition and infections.

Population increase thwarts illiteracy eradication efforts, and strongly shakes the public education system with the effect that it produces an output of poor theoretical and practical capabilities. This paralyses the scientific and scholarly thought process of the society at large.

The consequences of the population problem are so far reaching that it threatens Yemeni food security and forebodes the perils of a real crisis in drinking water, and water security in general. Ecological health is also decreasing, as man-made pollution infiltrates and spoils the environment.

Hence, the consequences begotten by a population rate exceeding available resources, will set almost insurmountable hurdles before the process of social and economic development. Internationally speaking, they also confine Yemen to the group of the least developed nations.

Therefore, the population problem has been at the top of the government's priority list since the Reunification of Yemen, and is still one of the priorities to be addressed on the government's main agenda.



Due to the dire consequences of the problem, its treatment was originated within the framework of a national strategy, so as to be well established, for it is a national issue that concerns both the government and society. This process was mechanised by the establishment of a specialised institution, the National Population Council. It has formulated the population policies outlined by the national strategy, as well as activating and vitalizing them, so that partnership is achieved among all governmental and non-governmental

organizations in addressing the problem.

In a nutshell, we can say that it has drawn significant attention towards this issue. It discerned the problem, identified its reasons, consequences, alternatives, and made suggestions to resolve it. Its efforts have been reflected in a strategic national plan featuring unity and integration between governmental and societal efforts to achieve the population strategy's objectives.

A great deal of information per-

taining to the problem has been collected, and many plans have been introduced. But they are still mainly theoretical. Application is, to a large extent, conditional to raising society's awareness about the grave consequences of the problem. Actually, the responsible authorities are taking this fact into account, propagating through all media means and mosque preachers, and undertaking awareness-raising activities, as well as training the personnel of population organisations.

Report discussing biological safety

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The National Biological Safety Committee discussed in its meeting held Tuesday August in Sana'a the draft of the national report on biological safety and the type of dealing with bio-technology.

The committee, headed by Eng. Mahmoud Shidiwah, chairman of the Environment Protection Authority, listened to an explanation of the draft report.

The report, to be presented to the Carthage Protocol Secretariat, is part of the program being conducted by the committee to fulfill conditions of joining the Protocol. At present, the awareness aspect of the program expected to last for 18 months is being focused on.

The report includes details on the current situation of biological safety,

and how specialized scientific and research centers deal with biological technology.

The report pointed out the plus points of bio-technology, and the type of systems to be needed to manage it, which can be achieved partly by establishing an active department to improve it.

The report defines Yemen's requirements in this field including support for scientific research centers, training and qualifying the specialized national cadre, and introduction of programs pertaining to biological technology along with developing laws that provide a legal frame for dealing with it.

Other requirements include establishing an information exchange room and a coordinating national network for biological technology as well as improving curricula, and starting relations with regional and international research establishments.

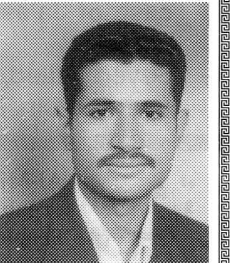
الف مبروك

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نهدىها للأستاذ

هشام علي محمد السنباني

بمناسبة الخطبة وقرب الزفاف
المهنتون:

خالد محمد السنباني، أنور السنباني، جمود
السياعي، عادل الحيمي وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء
بجامعة صنعاء



In order to meet the requirements of a rapidly changing and dynamic environment we are seeking to fill the following position in Yemen (Sanaa):

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Reporting to the Regional Director, the incumbent will be responsible for the operation and development of all aspects of the IATA Settlement Systems in Yemen.

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- Lead and supervise the local field office team with a strong focus on building team spirit ensuring effective customer service in Yemen.
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- Ability to interact effectively with people from different levels and cultures within and outside the organisation.
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IATA offers internationally competitive salary packages and benefits.

Candidates should be people and team oriented, focused on results, embrace innovation and change, and demonstrate leadership and personal integrity.

Interested candidates who meet the above requirements are invited to submit an application, specifying the position with a detailed curriculum vitae in English to the Regional HR Manager by e-mail to HR-AfricaMiddleEast@iata.org not later than 19th, August 2004. We thank all candidates for applying, but can only acknowledge those under consideration.



Yemeni Press.

A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

Main headlines

- Al-Houthi disappears, his deputy resorts to a stronghold in Razamat Mountains
- Mediation committee in Sana'a got divided, military hostilities terminated
- After failure of mediation, al-Houthi divulges his intentions
- UNICEF report: During one year, 9 thousand children trafficked to neighborly countries
- A citizen killed in a powerful explosion in Sana'a
- Three Palestinians met martyrdom in Rafah, resistance retaliate with Nasser-3 rockets
- Because of smuggling it outside, Tihama farmers inflicted with damage due to diesel shortages
- East Secretariat Court prosecutes "Al Shoura" newspaper
- Yemeni students in Iraq threatened with expulsion
- Lands of citizens and investors in Aden confiscated
- Huge gas leakage in Mareb threatens with ecological disaster
- Yemeni lawyers ready to defend in the case of Ja'ashan against the Iraqi prime minister
- Seven killed, 8 wounded in a suicidal operation in Taiz
- The President visits Britain the end of this month
- To discuss consolidation of bilateral relations, Chinese foreign minister visits Yemen next month
- Comoros president visits Yemen
- Sudanese president: We appreciate Yemen's stands and support for Sudan's issues
- GCC citizens exempted from entry visas
- Italy supports Yemen's efforts of hosting refugees
- Document by al-Houthi discloses he had planned insurgency long time ago
- Receiving the visiting delegation, the president praises Yemeni-European relations
- National Council for Education to be declared soon
- Palestinian PM expresses concern about the Jordanian king's criticisms of the Palestinian authority
- Iran's ambassador to Yemen denies links to al-Houthi ideology in Sa'ada
- Yemen Mobile service to begin on 1st September
- Arab-American Organisation on Press Freedom denounces threats against journalist Arafat Mdbash

الميثاق

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of General People's Congress 9 August 2004.

Main headlines

- Annual report of Social Development Fund issued,
- PM expresses satisfaction over results of financiers and development achievements the Fund has achieved
- A document on major directions for organisation of sea fishing
- Arab League chief denies evidence on ethnic cleansing in Sudan
- Plastic artist Hashim Ali's exhibition opened in Sana'a
- Agricultural and fish agreements concluded by Yemen and Syria
- PM opens the symposium on Sheikh al-Hakeemi anniversary

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Makaleh says no rational person can deny that unlimited power now has become at the disposal of the White House administration is the factor that corrupts members of this administration and allures them to not to re-shape the middle East only but the whole world as well. This is no longer a secret plan and with absence of another competing pole the tempt of unlimited power is increasing and pushing its owners to committing more evil acts characterized by stupidity and folly.

الجمهورية

Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, in Yemen 4 August 2004.

Main headlines

- Four people killed in armed clashes in Shabwa
- "Al Manar" satellite TV closure, before the French Higher council on August 19
- Iraqi resistance halts oil exports in the north
- Israel sets the stage for attacking Al-Aqsa mosque

Columnist Dr Abdulkader Nouman says in his article that has happened recently in Yemen is not separated from the general scene in the Arab national arena, though the events in Sa'ada appeared as if an internal happening.

For the first time the bloody events in Sa'ada may recall the disaster of the civil war in 1994 to shed light on fragility of the social, economic and political structure of the country. Despite the severity of the scene we can point the finger to the close rela-

tionship to the bloodier scene across the Arab region. The abundantly flowing blood in Iraq and the Sudan has its imprint of connection to an American-Zionist plot to re-arrange the situation in the Arab region. Those overseas owners of the plot push for civil sedition and wars in order to justify interference and impose hegemony in the end. It is imperative for us to read that one of the components of this reactionary flourishing is the dereliction in the state performance in dealing with the people's concerns and their interests in balanced development, and cementing foundations of the infrastructures of development in economy, health, education and media.

الشورى

Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces of Yemen, 4 August 2004.

Main headlines

- Amidst fire, the mediation committee meets al-Houthi in Mran
- Lifting immunity from Judge Lukman unconstitutional
- Researcher Azzan still detained in the political security prison

On the necessity of abolishing the ministry of information, columnist Mohammed Farie al-Shaibani wrote saying we are now at an age deeming the state possession of media tools as incompatible with democracy because we are at an age considering authority as employees for the people and the people would assess their extent of performance and achievement in the tasks they are entrusted to do. Out of this concept, the authority has not the right to possess media instruments to make publicity for its members or influence in their interest the people's viewpoints and opinions. The people are having the right to publish newspapers to express their points of view and watch the government they have chosen for their serving them. Those the people have chosen have no right to spend the people's properties for propaganda for themselves and to give cosmetics to their images, so how the people would react to expend the people's money for their own publicity? This is considered among the taboos in the democratic countries. We and our rulers in Yemen do not claim that we are a democratic state, but our rulers say they are exerting efforts for the establishment of democracy and making necessary reforms for that end. If we really mean and want to effect reforms the abolishment of the min-

istry of information and privatization of the state-owned media is the right path from where reforms to begin.

الوحدى

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 3 August 2004.

Main headlines

- Relatives of senior officials continue seizing pieces of land in Aden
- Yemeni students in Iraq stage a sit-in

Columnist Ahmed Saeed says in his article that the Arab policies have changed in rubble of a tragedy due to the scramble for saving the American administration from any defeat that may be inflicted on it with the approach of elections next November. What Saudi Arabia has carried out recently by taking an initiative for sending Arab and Islamic troops to Iraq has no other goal than defending the occupation, serving it and protecting it from blows of the resistance and it is a way appeasing the United States in order to ease its pressures on it (Saudi Arabia).

For a long time the Arab League has sensed that stances of the Arab regimes towards this issue and deemed that each state has its own viewpoint on how to deal with the Iraqi issue, especially after its conviction of those regimes non-commitment to its decision of not sending troops but after defeating the occupation and under the presence of an Iraqi elected government making such a request.

The ill-fated initiative has represented a victory for the American policy that wants to make the battle in Iraq as an Arab-Arab while the U.S. administration can devote its efforts to plundering the Iraqi people's oil wealth under blessing of regimes willing to fight in defence of occupation. Those regimes find in this stance an outlet for keeping their crumbling seats.

الأمم

Al-Umma weekly, organ of Al-Haq party, 5 August 2004.

Main headlines

- Planes shell al-Hakmi mountain
- Cole explosion incident suspects demand transferring them to the Central Prison
- Cancer threatens employees of cinematography department at Aden TV channel
- Smuggled medicines seized at Sana'a airport and Hardh border crossing

SKETCHED OPINION

By Samer A.



The newspaper political editor says in his article there are some who try to blackmail the country, its sanctities, values, present and future in an oppressive totalitarian tendency taking from the course of events in Sa'ada a cover to display trends against concepts of political, ideological and social pluralism. Moving side by side with the ferocious war campaign in Sa'ada there are other campaigns of security suppression, terror and chasing individuals and groups in many a Yemeni city and governorate in addition to arbitrary closures of religious schools and institutes.

السياسة

26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces 5 August 2004.

Main headlines

- Vice president in his meeting with officials and social personalities in Mahara:
- Security and stability the basic factor for pushing development wheel
- Chaired by PM Bajamal, Trustees Council affirms the necessity of putting technical and technological arrangements for the realisation of interconnection of the national network for information
- Developing projects and modern systems for internet services

The newspaper says in its editorial Yemen's keenness on peace and stability in Sudan stems from a vision where bonds of fraternal relations connecting the two countries peoples and the future importance formed by geopolitical factors in the Red Sea region. This region bears under climates of stability the stamp of economic partnership and enhances their role in stabilizing the security and peace in the Horn of Africa region. Sudan with its area and demographic structure represents a reciprocal Arab and African depth and this means that the situations in Sudan and the Arab world in their positive and negative trends are reflected on both the Arab-Sudanese relations and the Arab-African ones.

Yemen under the leadership of president Ali Abdulla Saleh has been and would remain in its stands towards Sudan as supporting whatever is leading to peace, stability and territorial integrity of this country and pours in interest of the people of Sudan so that they would devote their time and effort to development and construction.

Out of this comes Yemen's interest in courses of peace and conciliation between all the sons of the Sudan people represented by the peace negotiates between the government and the popular movement in the south. The peace that the Sudanese welcomed as a good omen suddenly evaporated into mirage by opening the file of Darfur province to the west so that to begin a new war of another kind. It is more than a

Sudanese crisis but rather a war launched by international parties and not to stop at the borders of Sudan but in its agenda surpasses them to regional dimensions related to the nature of the interests of those forces at both Arab and African levels. This means it is an introduction of direct interference in Sudan's internal affairs.

الانسان

Annas weekly, 9 August 2004.

Main headlines

- The threat of dissolving the "Al-Haq" and "People's Forces" parties, what does that mean?
- Rumours about the mobile phone
- Campaign of changes and arrests of mosque preachers, the Endowments denies it to be a governmental pursuit
- "Houthism", a charge entering PM's dictionary in criticizing his government's officials
- Journalists Syndicate discusses recent threats against journalists
- Woman criticisms of political parties' stances, woman activists demand for "quota"
- Yemeni students boycott Barcelona activities because of Israeli participation
- Fire shots exchange between security troops and saboteurs at qat market in Ibb

Justice Minister issues a circulation on refugees agreement and their relationship to human rights

On political parties organs, columnist Tawakul Abdulsalam Karman says in the societies that have known and experienced genuine democratic practices and experienced the freedom of press, politics and competition and multi-party systems, they say "Give me a journal, I give you a party." As for our (Yemeni) society we do not have enough examples to say so. Except for one or two newspapers that managed to have a listened to voice, more audible than the voice of big parties that do not have an organized mass presence except those papers. Other than that and despite of the big number of press publications, they remained as they had begun distributing hundreds of copies that are ineffective with regard to politics and decision making. The big parties, in government or opposition, did not give us that amount of courage or confidence to say so as despite of great capabilities we have not seen newspaper of so effective role. The reason is that those newspapers remained exclusive to adoption of the viewpoints of the influential in the party they represent.

مبروك الزفاف

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات معطرة بأريج الورود والنزود

مكللة بباقات الفل والياسمين نزهة للشباب الخلاق

الكابتن نبيل مطهر العذري

وذلك بمناسبة زفافه الميمون ودخوله القفص .. فألف ألف مبروك

المعشون:

منيف محمد سلام الأصبجي، وجدي الأغبري، عبده المسقري، محمد محمود الصلوي، صادق مرعي، ظرار الحناني، توفيق الحمادي وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

افراح آل السعيدى وآل مراد

نهنى ونبارك لأسرة السعيدى وأسرة مراد

بمناسبة زفاف نجليهما

مجاهد و أميرة

« متمنين لهما حياة زوجية سعيدة »

المعشون:

سفارة دولة فلسطين، اللجنة العلمية، آل عون وأسرة يمن تايمز

Mets' Glavine to miss start after taxi accident

NEW YORK (Sports Network) - New York Mets starting pitcher Tom Glavine suffered a lacerated lower lip and lost his two top front teeth Tuesday after being involved in a car accident.

Glavine was traveling in a taxicab from LaGuardia Airport when, at approximately 2:15 p.m., the cab was involved in an accident on 94th St. on the Grand Central Parkway overpass.

Glavine was transported to the NYU Medical Center in Manhattan and received stitches for his cut lip. He is expected to be released late Tuesday night. The lefthander will miss his scheduled start on Wednesday while he recuperates.

The Mets will have Matt Ginter make the start Wednesday against Houston.

Glavine had spent Monday, an off day for the Mets, in Atlanta with his family.

In 24 starts this season, Glavine is 8-10 with a 2.92 earned run average. In 18 seasons with the Mets and Atlanta, the lefthander owns a 259-167 record with a 3.41 ERA.



New York Mets starting pitcher Tom Glavine suffered a lacerated lower lip and lost his two top front teeth after being involved in a car accident en route from LaGuardia Airport to Shea Stadium, August 10, 2004. Glavine was taken to a hospital and is expected to be released Tuesday night, but will miss his scheduled start on Aug. 11. Reuters

Charlton sign Jeffers from Arsenal

LONDON (Reuters) - Striker Francis Jeffers has joined Charlton Athletic from champions Arsenal for 2.6 million pounds.

The 23-year-old, who signed a two-year contract with Charlton, moved to Arsenal from Everton for 8 million pounds in 2001 but never tied down a regular first-team place.

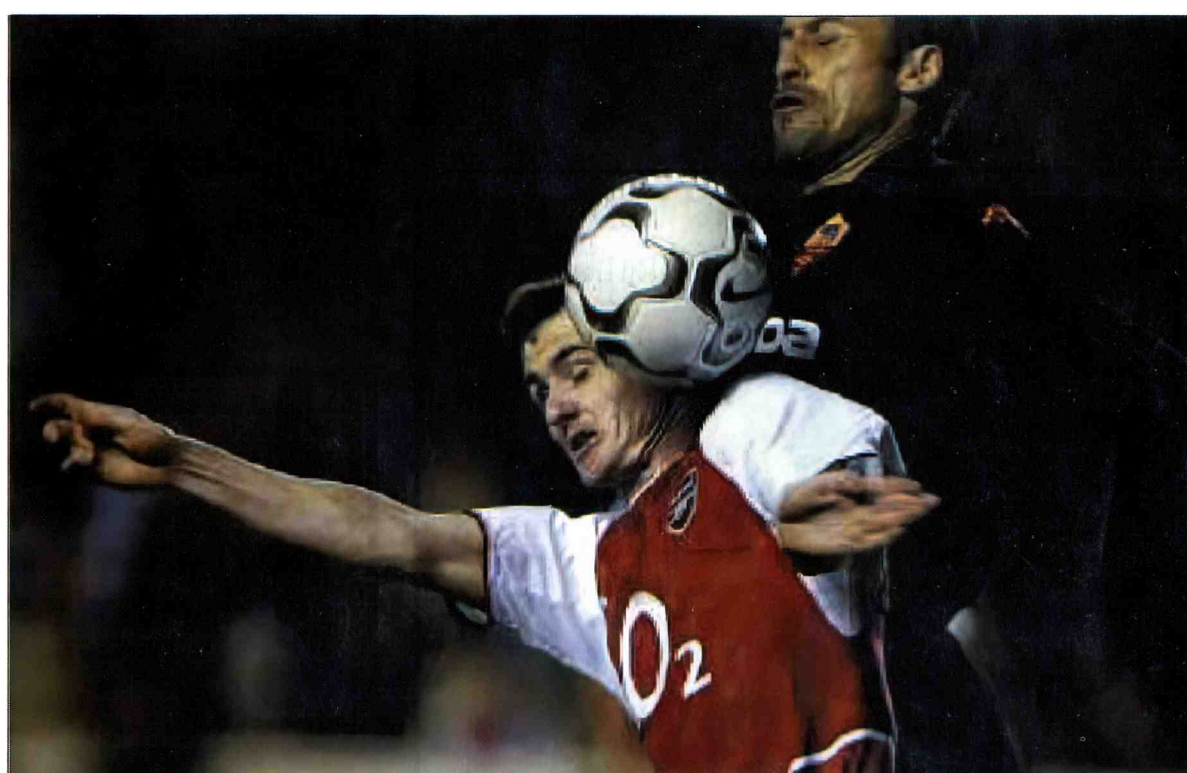
The player dubbed the 'fox in the box' made 39 appearances, including only four league starts, for the north London club and scored eight goals before returning to Everton for an unsuccessful loan spell last season.

"Arsenal paid a lot of money for him a few years ago but he found it difficult to claim a first-team place because of the competition at Arsenal," Charlton manager Alan Curbishley told the south London club's website on Tuesday.

"He needed a change and he's exactly the sort of player I like to sign because I feel he's angry and hungry after the last couple of years," he added.

"I'm hoping that we can put his career back on track."

Jeffers is Charlton's second signing in 24 hours after the arrival of England midfielder Danny Murphy from Liverpool for 2.5 million



Striker Francis Jeffers has joined Charlton Athletic from champions Arsenal for 2.6 million pounds. Jeffers (L) is challenged by AS Roma's Francisco Lima during their Champions League second phase Group B match at Highbury in this 2003 file photo. REUTERS

pounds.

Jeffers was a regular in the England

under-21 side before his only senior cap in a friendly against Australia in

February 2003, in which he scored the only goal in a 3-1 defeat

Big names gather for olympic games, drugs strike again

ATHENS (Reuters) - Former U.S. President George Bush began a gathering of political heavyweights for the Athens Olympics but doping was again the talking point for sports on Tuesday when a Kenyan boxer was thrown out.

Patrolling NATO warplanes and troops and police on the ground kept the threat of terrorist attack in view, but worries about half-finished stadiums and transport chaos faded into the background three days before Friday's opening ceremony.

ing ceremony.

Bush's arrival in Greece followed hard on the heels of expressions of confidence from world leaders and Olympic officials that Greek authorities had done everything possible to ensure the world's biggest sporting extravaganza is safe.

Bush, father of President Bush and head of the official U.S. delegation to the Games, boarded a yacht owned by Greek billionaire Spyros Latsis in the

northern port of Kavala. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Jacques Chirac are among other world leaders due to attend the opening extravaganza.

Patriot air defense missiles and thousands of surveillance cameras have been deployed in the biggest security operation in peacetime Europe to guard the first Summer Games since the September 11 attacks on the United

States three years ago.

PALESTINIANS REASSURANCE

Marwan Abdelhamid, diplomatic representative in Athens for President Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, said no true Arab or Muslim would carry out any violence against the Games.

"We...declare that any possible action against the Athens Olympics, by anyone invoking the name of Palestine will be considered by the whole of the Palestinian people as an action against Palestine itself," he said.

While U.S. team nutritionists itemized chocolate chip and cheeseburger diets of 5,000 calories per athlete, the lumpier mixture of sports and politics prompted visa bans on sports ministers from Myanmar and Zimbabwe on human rights grounds.

Belarus's man, told last week he would also not be welcome, announced he would direct the team from the benches, at home.

But Japan displayed the gracious face of diplomacy, helping Iraq return to the Olympic family in style with a donation of uniforms and shoes for Baghdad's team of 31 athletes.

"We have arranged with our sponsors to donate uniforms, windbreakers, socks, shoes, shirts and bags," said Japanese Olympic Committee President Tsunekazu Takeda.

DRUGS FLOOR KENYAN BOXER

Kenya's only Olympic boxer was



expelled from the Games after becoming the first competitor to test positive in Athens for a banned drug.

"David Munyasia has been excluded from the Athens Olympic Games after testing positive for cathine, a prohibited stimulant," IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies told reporters.

The substance derives from the leaf of the qat plant, commonly chewed as a recreational drug in East Africa.

It was the first positive case among more than 200 dope tests conducted in Athens since late July among athletes arriving for the Games. Six others have been barred in the past few days for failing pre-Olympic tests elsewhere.

But amid the talk of politics, doping and terrorism, Olympic 100 meters champion Maurice Greene kept his focus firmly on timings and his place in history as the Athens Games moved closer to the sporting challenges at their heart.

One of the biggest names in Athens, Greene dismissed consecutive recent defeats by Jamaican rival Asafa Powell as irrelevant to his hopes of another gold medal and talked up his claim to be

the greatest sprinter of all time.

"It doesn't matter what you do before the Games," said the American. "It doesn't matter what you do after. It only matters what you do on the two days of competition."

Retaining his Olympic crown will bolster Greene's claim to historic supremacy. But the man himself is already in no doubt.

Of forerunners such as Carl Lewis and Jim Hines, he said: "I don't think any of those people can stand up to my stats."

One Games highlight is sure to be the battle between the United States and Australia in the swimming, where first-time Australian Olympian Lisbeth Lenton burst into tears when she saw the pool where the contest commences on Saturday.

"But they were tears of joy," the 19-year-old said.

Senior Athens Olympic Committee official Marton Simitsek said organizers were confident of selling all five million tickets for the two weeks of events.

But ticket sales may be small change if the Games triumph. Olympics chief Gianna Angelopoulos predicted they would transform Greece into an "A-class" nation.

McDonald's hamburgers, Heineken beer, Visa credit cards and Coca-Cola are among multinational sponsors paying big bucks to boost their brands by association with the globally televised exploits of 10,000 athletes from 202 countries.



A swimmer passes under a sign during a morning training session in the Olympic Pool in Athens August 10. Swimming competition at the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad begins August 14. Reuters

Kenyan fails first Athens drugs test

ATHENS (Reuters) - Kenya's only Olympic boxer has been thrown out of the 2004 Games after becoming the first competitor to test positive in Athens for a banned drug.

"David Munyasia has been excluded from the Athens Olympic Games after testing positive for cathine, a prohibited stimulant," IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies told reporters on Tuesday.

The substance derives from the leaf of the qat plant, commonly chewed as a recreational drug in east Africa.

But IOC medical director Patrick Schamasch said it was unclear how the 24-year-old bantamweight came to absorb it. "There was no explanation in defence," Schamasch said.

It was the first positive case among more than 200 dope tests conducted in Athens since late July among athletes

arriving for the Games, which begin on Friday. Six others have been barred recently for failing pre-Olympic tests elsewhere.

Tested last Friday, Munyasia's Olympic accreditation had been withdrawn and the IOC had contacted the international boxing authorities to consider further measures, Davies said.

Athletes who fail a drugs test can expect to be banned for at least two years. The Athens Games is the first Olympics following the introduction of a global anti-doping code.

"It is never pleasant to announce a positive drugs test, but that we have found an athlete, not playing by the rules, is a confirmation of the IOC's determination to stamp out doping in sport," Davies said.

"YOU ARE GOING TO BE SUR-

PRISED"

Munyasia, who had been training in Cuba, was the only boxer left in Kenya's 40-strong Olympic squad after flyweight medal hope Suleiman Bilali dropped out due to injury.

"I am travelling as an underdog but you are all going to be surprised," Munyasia was quoted as saying before heading for Athens. Kenyan officials could not be reached for comment.

The IOC is testing for stimulants such as those detected in Munyasia's system out of competition for the first time at the Athens Games. In previous Olympics, only steroid-use was probed before competition actually started.

"We are testing for every banned substance on the list for the duration of the Games," chairman of the IOC's medical commission Arne Ljungqvist

told reporters. "We analyse for the full range of substances."

So far, 224 doping tests had been carried out of a total of 3,000 to be completed by the end of competition on August 29, Davies added — 25 percent more tests than the Sydney Olympics.

Irish distance runner Cathal Lombard faces a two-year ban after he confirmed on Tuesday that he took a banned performance-enhancing drug during his pre-Olympic training.

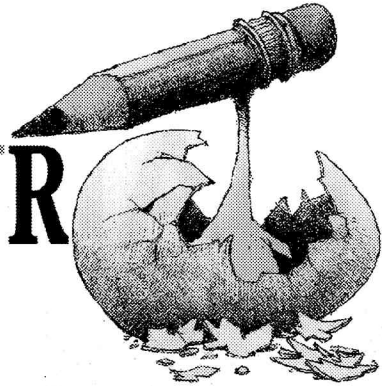
Lombard, 28, said he made a "grave error" and would not appeal against his failed test for erythropoietin (EPO), a blood-boosting substance which enhances endurance.

"I have caused a lot of hurt," said the lawyer, who had slashed 10 percent off his 10,000 metres time in the past year.

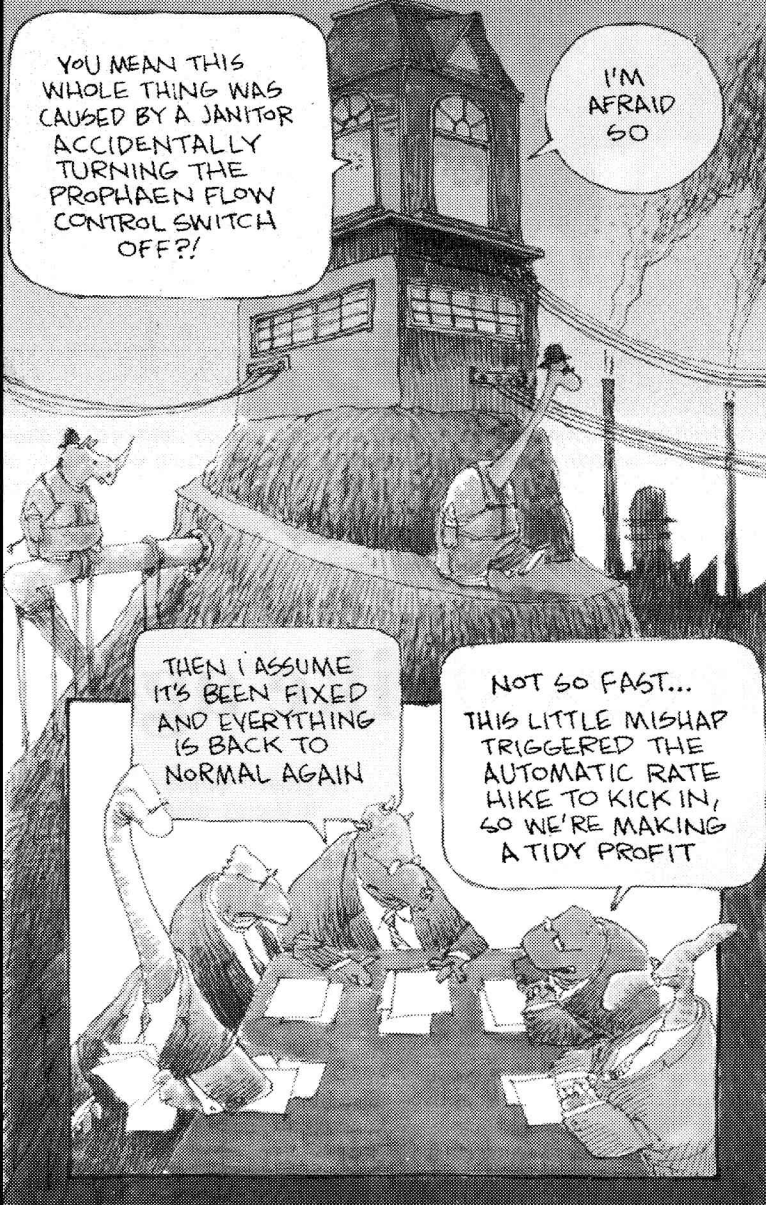
ملاك في بيت الكاهلي
أجمل الثنائي والتبريكات مكللة بأريج الفل والياسمين نهديا الأستاذ
أنور الكاهلي
بمناسبة إرتقاؤه مولودته البكر والتي اسمها
سلوك
«جعلها الله قرة عين والديها وأنبتها نباتاً حسناً وبارك فيها»
المهنون: أكرم عبدالرحمن السقاف، بسام أحمد السقاف،
هياف عبدالرحمن السقاف، وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

Non Sequitur

by Wiley



File... in the time before Man
An emergency meeting of Bullemia's prophane producers has been called to address the sudden energy crisis...



WE'VE BACKED INTO A WHOLE NEW ECONOMIC PRINCIPLE HERE OF DEMAND AND SUPPLY... THE ENERGY DEMAND IS INSATIABLE AND WE CONTROL THE SUPPLY.
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YES, BUT THEN AGAIN, THERE'S THE ETHICAL QUESTION OF OUR CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITIES...



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- A alarm (.....)
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- O option (.....)
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- K kind (.....)

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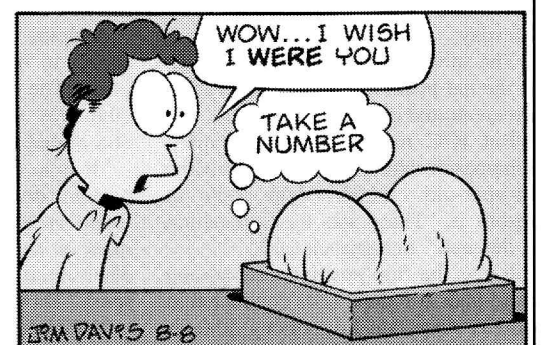
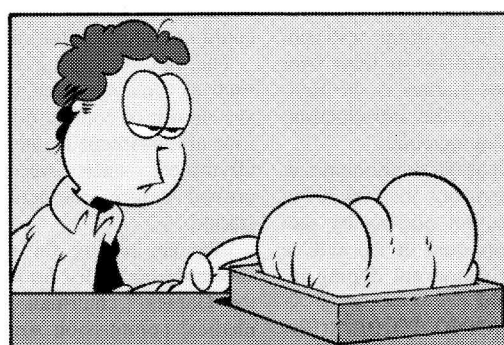
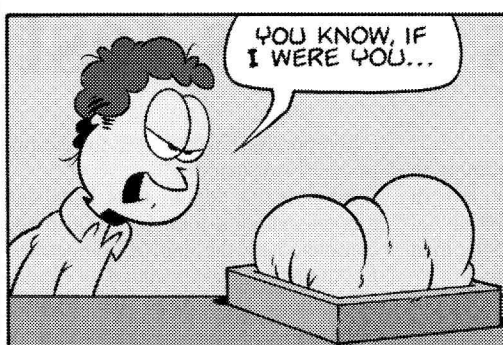
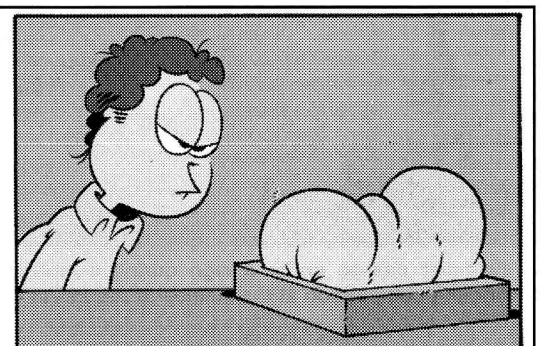
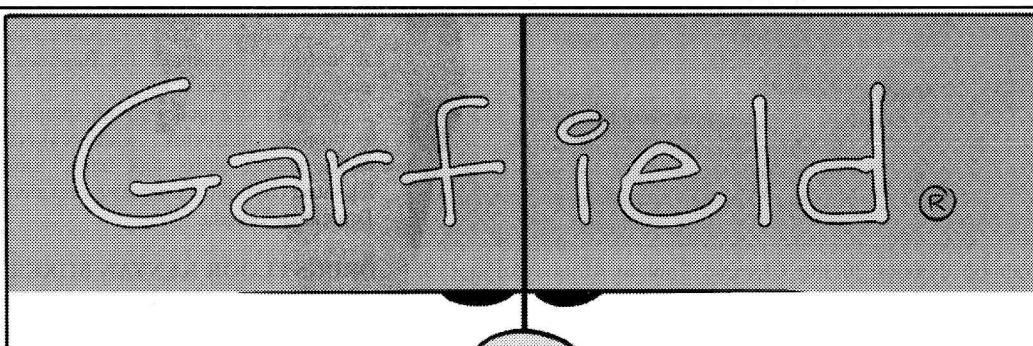
اقطع كوپون المسابقة وارسله عبر الفاكس مع بيلاتك كاملة . (معهد الفاروق صنعاء - تلفاكس ٢١٣٧١١ شارع هائل المدخل الفرعي مقابل مجوهرات الجابري) * آخر موعد لاستلام الاجابات هو يوم الثلاثاء من كل اسبوع

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



BY Eugenia

- Aries** (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Someone is trying to slow you down by causing you grief. Get involved in activities that will allow you to blow off steam. Be true to what you believe is right.
- Taurus** (Apr 20 - May 20)
There may be changes regarding acquaintances or a partnership you are involved in. It looks positive in the long run if you are patient and wait until the dust settles.
- Gemini** (May 21 - Jun 20)
You may feel restless and in need of a change. Assess the direction your life has taken. Consider taking a creative stab at doing what you feel in your heart is right for you.
- Cancer** (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
You may be a little tearful today if things aren't going according to plan. Try to be tolerant of someone who is trying to get you to do everything his or her way.
- Leo** (Jul 23 - Aug 22)
This is a great day to look at real estate or to take on a project that will raise the value of something you already own. Change will bring you a new lease on life.
- Virgo** (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Love and friendship will be in a high cycle today, so get involved in something that will lead to new connections. Favors will be granted, so don't hesitate to put in a request.
- Libra** (Sept 23 - Oct 22)
You may feel a little rattled by all the commotion going on around you. Take your time and don't get involved in a discussion that deals with issues you feel strongly about.
- Sagittarius** (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Love will evolve through travel, education and just hanging out with people you meet under unusual circumstances today. The more you give, the more you will get in return.
- Scorpio** (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
There is money to be made, but don't be silly by being greedy. Building a strong base will be far more satisfying. Take care of family matters that concern older relatives.
- Capricorn** (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
You will find yourself in an emotional predicament if you haven't been paying enough attention to the people in your life who count. Be completely honest about the way you feel.
- Aquarius** (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
Refrain from ruffling feathers with officials or institutions. You will be taken the wrong way if you aren't precise in your explanations. Focus on work.
- Pisces** (Feb 19-Mar 20)
You will be sensual, loving and in the mood to spend time with someone who rocks your world. Make plans to do something that will enhance your looks or build your confidence.



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Yemen, rich in biodiversity



By ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

According to an initial survey, it contains more than 2810 plant species, which belong to 1006 genera and 173 families. Out of these plant species, 415 are endemic and do not occur elsewhere. Yemen's rich biodiversity may be attributed to the following reasons:

Yemen has a unique position in the Arabian peninsula where a mixture of tropical African flora and plants from the Sardinian geographical region can be found.

The large diversity of species is the result of the considerable climatic changes, which have taken place over time. This has enabled different species to survive in the large variety of habitats offered by Yemen. Yemen is also characterized by steep mountains dissected by narrow wadis, this has created many highly isolated habitats, that favor the formation of endemic species.

The large diversity is also the result of the large climatic variation



Jabal Bura'a protect area

found within Yemen, varying from desert conditions to sub-humid tropical conditions.

A. Jabal Bura'a

Jabal Bura'a woodland, covering approximately 4,100 ha, is located in a mountainous valley near the Tihama plains, along the west coast of the Red Sea near Hodeidah. It is a natural reserve, rich with plant species, housing more than 22 vegetation types, representing 58 families and 124 species, some of which are endemic.

The Jabal Bura'a pilot area represents

a unique combination of ecological conditions favoring a rich ecosystem with great biodiversity (due to its height precipitation) and human management factors that have so far avoided massive destruction as characteristic for the region (the religious property land ownership of Wagfi). Within the western part of Yemen it is probably the largest area with relatively dense vegetation. The plant and animal diversity has been studied and shows very high biodiversity, among which are a number of endemic and endangered species. The insects

and bats of Jabal Bura'a have not yet been studied in detail. This area with high biodiversity plays a central role as a center of genetic diversity within the entire mountain zone of Yemen.

The Jabal Bura'a pilot area is surrounded by several villages, both of the lowland Tihama people (The Tihamis) and the highland mountain people (the highlanders), which makes its location precisely in the intermediate area between two different cultural zones. Both make use of the pilot area, but the Tihamis make most intensive use of the woody plant and grazing resources.



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