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Issue No 254



The Leader of the Revolution (R) receives a gift from Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko during her official visit to Libya her official visit to Libya on May 25-26, 2009.

Libya, Ukraine Sign Nuclear Power, Military and Agriculture Cooperation Deals

Tripoli- Secretary of the General People's Committee Al-Baghdadi Al-Mahmoudi announced on Tuesday that Libya had agreed to increase Libyan investments in Ukraine by establishing an oil refinery and gas stations in this Ukraine.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Ukraine Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, he also said agriculture projects are to be undertaken in the Ukraine Republic.

A Libyan investment center is to be set up in Ukraine to

oversee the expected rise of Libyan investments which will include oil, gas and agriculture projects. "The establishment of such center is an evidence that Libya intends to expand its investments in Ukraine,"

Continued on page 2

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Secretary Hillary Clinton

Israel Slams Washington on Illegal Settlements in West Bank

Israel defied a blunt US demand that it freeze all building in illegal West Bank Jewish settlements, saying Thursday it would press ahead with construction. It remains to see how Washington will do with

such Israeli ingratitude.

This is in spite the fact that US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told Israel Wednesday that President Barack Obama wanted Israel to

Continued on page 4





NEWS

Libya, Ukraine Sign Nuclear Power, Military and Agriculture Cooperation Deals

Al-Mahmoudi said.

The two countries also agreed to cooperate in healthcare higher education.

Libya will also enable Ukrainian companies to take part in the huge infrastructure projects that are taking place in Libya.

Al-Mahmoudi said "Agreement was concluded on cooperation in military filed by signing of a number of accords on technical military cooperation, confidential information and in the peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Ukraine would witness a new phase that is based on mutual trust and a movement in the direction of increasing the size of cooperation and simplifying of visa requirement between both countries.

Accordingly, the parties agreed to upgrade the level of the Higher Joint Commission to become chaired by the Prime Ministers and it will hold its meeting in July.

Tymoshenko, addressing her cabinet on Wednesday after returning from Tripoli, said the draft farmland deal showed her government was fulfilling promises made by previous Ukrainian administrations but never carried out.

This, she said, was the start of a new relationship. "Promises were made and financing was even provided, specific steps taken to work jointly on 100,000 hectares of agricultural land in order to supply grain to the African continent,"

"Libya is a bridge to African countries. Africa can be a great consumer

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Job Opportunity

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Reports to: Head of LCIC

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of Ukrainian grain and food. We worked out a draft agreement which is to be signed," she added

She said Libya to supply of 600,000 tonnes of oil to Ukraine's Kremenchug refinery, which has suffered a disruption in supply of crude from Russia due to an ownership dispute.

However, farm Minister Yuri Melnyk said any farming deal would be subject to finding attractive terms for landowners.

"The land would have to be provided for leasing by its owners. Any investor, The bilateral cooperation with Ukrainian or Libyan, would have to produce a proposal of interest to an owner," Melnyk told reporters.

> He said investment of about \$700 per hectare was needed to make the project a success. Ukraine now exports its milling wheat at about \$200 per tonne FOB.

Libya last year was considering

Ukranian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (R) and Libya's Health Secretary Mohamed Hijazi look at the portrait of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's mother during a visit to Gaddafi's home, which was attacked by the Americans in April 1986.

leasing 300,000 hectares of Ukrainian million hectares and last year farms farmland to grow 1.5 million tonnes of wheat. Ukraine planted wheat on 7

harvested 25.9 million tonnes against

Ukraine to Deliver Antonov Planes to Libya

Ukraine is to supply two ambulance versions of the Antonov An-74 aircraft to Libya within a year, CEO of the Antonov state aircraft-building corporation Dmytro Kiva told journalists in Tripoli on Tuesday.

The first An-74-TK-300 aircraft (VIP version) arrived to Libya on May 22, right before the visit made by Ukraine Prime Miniter..

"This is the first aircraft supplied by the Kharkiv state aviation manufacturing company in two years,"

Libya has fully paid for this airplane, he said. An-74 is worth around \$15 million, Kiva said.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko Kyiv on Wednesday former Ukrainegovernments as to the way they dealt with Libya and mentioned the case of the purchase of Antonov airplanes deal.

"In fact, the Libyan market was closed for us after Libya paid for the three airplanes and the previous government transferred this money to offshore zones, and in fact the airplanes

were not supplied, and Libya was neither returned the money nor given the airplanes," the premier said.

At the same time, she said that the accused during a government meeting in Cabinet of Ministers would make every effort to rectify the situation

She said that prior to her official visit to Libya on May 25-26, Ukraine supplied one aircraft to Libya. Meanwhile, the premier promised to

quit smoking. deliver another aircraft to Libya by the Brochures, stickers and special issues end of the year, whereas the third one by local newspapers will be distributed on will be delivered to Tripoli by the end of the people. There is also a program of lectures in schools and universities that will be made by specialized professors in

Central Bank of Libya CBL

Job Title: Functional Analyst

Reports to: Head of Operations and Customer Service

Job Opportunity

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- Highly Communication Level

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1th CEN-SAD Summit Focuses on Ending Conflicts in Africa, View the Future Positively

Focusing on reviewing political International Cooperation. issues of concern among the 28 members of the community, the 11th Cen-Sad's two-day summit (Community of Sahel-Saharan States) began yesterday as it viewed the future of the continent in a

Saturday (Al-maa-Al-Sayef) May 30-June 5, 2009

The venue of the summit is the city of Sabratha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, 70 kms west of Tripoli.

Meanwhile, the Executive Council of CEN-SAD Community concluded on Wednesday its 18th ordinary session held in Tripoli and chaired by Mussa Kussa the

Sponsored by the GPC for Social Affairs, a 'No Smoking' awareness

campaign is to kick off tomorrow Sunday

31 May 2009 at the Green Garden across

from the Grand (Al-Kabir) Hotel in

of the harm results from smoking on the

health and the economic wellbeing of the

individual. The campaign as in other parts

of the world will demand individuals to

The objective is to make people aware

downtown Tripoli.

Start Tomorrow in Downtown Tripoli

The 18th ordinary session of the Executive Council of the Community of Sahelo-Sahelian States (CEN-SAD) in Tripoli on Wednesday strongly condemned renewed fighting in Somalia after hearing the report presented by the Somali minister of foreign affairs, Ali Ahmed Jama, on the situation in his

CEN-SAD members commended the improvement of the political situations in Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

But the council condemned the Secretary of GPC for Foreign Liaison and assassination last March of Guinea

psychology, sociology, religion and medical sciences that will highlight the

harm smoking could inflect on the

The Libyan government banned on 14

May 2009 smoking in public places, and

media advertising of all tobacco products.

The new policy also prohibits selling

cigarettes to any person less than 18 years

The Libyan government also banned

producing any kind of sweets that are

shaped like cigarettes and banned

manufacturing, importing or marketing

any products that carry titles and logos of

tobacco products, such as clothes, shoes

individual, family and society.

Also discussed a report on the productivity of the CEN-SAD investment and commercial bank and the report on 'No Smoking' Awareness Campaign to economic, social and cultural affairs were

The second session was devoted to political issues, such as the situation between Chad and Sudan, Somalia, Guinea and the other African countries.

case to the summit of leaders, heads of

state and governments of CEN-SAD

which will be held late this week in

reviewed the usual technical issues and

others related to a agriculture, the free

movement of people within the CEN-SAD space and the eradication of

The Executive Council meeting also

Peace between Chad and Sudan is regarded as essential to any lasting

Bissau's president, Joao Bernardo Vieira. On the tension between Chad and Sudan, the council decided to submit the

Mr. Kussa praised the efforts made by the Council's members which he said contributed to the success of last week's session with its positive consequences. He praised the frankness and cooperation during discussions and hailed the constructive spirit and the wonder morale that prevailed during the

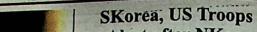
All leaders of the 28 Cen-Sad member untries arrived for the summit that would also discuss the state of the African Union

The organization groups Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia.

Don't Smoke!



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South Korea and the United States ordered their forces on higher alert in the Korean peninsula Thursday after North Korea said it was ending a truce in force for half a century and warned of a possible attack.

Seoul's defence ministry said air and ground forces were keeping a closer watch on the tense land and sea border with the communist North after Pyongyang announced it was abandoning the armistice signed to end the Korean War in 1953.

Tensions have risen sharply since the North Monday tested a nuclear bomb believed to be about four times more powerful than the one it detonated in 2006. It followed up by test-firing five short-range missiles.

The United States Wednesday stressed its resolve to defend Japan and South Korea amid what it called North Korean "sabre-rattling and bluster"

Nations said leading powers were committed to a new Security Council resolution ordering tougher sanctions



Israel Slams Washington on Illegal Settlements in West Bank

Continued from page 1

halt all settlement construction including "natural growth."

Secretary Clinton was reacting to statement made by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he told his cabinet on Sunday, "it makes no sense to ask us not to answer to the needs of natural growth and to stop all

The showdown between Netanyahu and the Obama administration may

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Israel not a state of peace and that it would easily even undermine American interests in the Middle East

"With respect to settlements, the president was very clear when Prime Minister Netanyahu was here," Secretary Clinton said, referring to the May 18's summit between President Obama and Netanyahu

"He [President Obama] wants to see

reveal to the American people and the a stop to settlements, not some world in general the extent to which settlements, not outposts, not natural growth exceptions. We think it is in the best interests of the effort that we are engaged in that settlement expansion cease. That is our position. That is what we have communicated very clearly, not only to the Israelis but to the Palestinians and others. And we intend to press that point."

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Obama's administration has been more explicit in its criticism of Israeli settlement policy than its predecessor.

The US and much of the world consider the settlements an obstacle to peace because they are built on land the Palestinians claim for a future state.(see opinion article 'Netanyahu's New Ouest: The Game is On'on page 7)

More than 280,000 Jewish settlers live among more than 2 million Palestinians in the West Bank.

The West Bank is still considered an occupied territory since it was taken over by Israel in June 1967.

While Israel could flout US opposition, it is wary of picking a fight with its closest and most important ally.

Israeli officials proposed a compromise earlier this week. In exchange for removing some 22 outposts, they would ask the US to permit new construction in existing settlements. Clinton's remarks followed that proposal.

According to the Associated Press "the new Israeli and the US leaders have strikingly different approaches to Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Netanyahu refuses to endorse Palestinian independence, a notion supported by Obama, his predecessor and the previous Israeli government.

Obama told Netanyahu at the White House that the US sees stopping settlements as key to a peace deal that would see a Palestinian state created alongside Israel

We think it is in the best interests (of the peace process) that settlement expansion cease. That is our position. That is what we have communicated very clearly. ... And we intend to press that point," Clinton confirmed.

on Alert after NKorean **Nuclear Test**

A Western diplomat at the United against Pyongyang.

"I want to underscore the commitment the United States has, and intends always to honour, for the defence of South Korea and Japan," said US Secretary of State

Secretary of GPC Receives Credentials of New Ambassadors of Yemen, Sweden, Bahrain and Australia

Undergo Naming and Numbering

ECOWAS Countries's to Slowdown

from an average growth of 5.1% in the need for the 15 members of 2008 to 3.7% in 2009 due to the impact ECOWAS "to discover and hold each

challenge".

The Secretary of the General People's Congress received the credentials of the ambassadors of Yemen, Sweden, Kingdom of Bahrain and Australia to Great Jamahiriya. The ceremony was attended by top Libyan officials.

Saturday (Al-maa-Al-Sayef) May 30-June 5, 2009

Yemen's new ambassador presented his credentials as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. He expressed the appreciation of the

Yemeni people for the leader's historic role in realizing unity of Yemen.

He asserted that Yemen and Libya were tied by relations that are based on

Tubruq-As part of the reorganization

of Libyan cities and villages that has

been taking place for sometime now, the

commission that reviews name

proposals in the city of Tubruq, over

1400 km east of Tripoli, held a meeting

last Monday to follow up the ongoing

naming of the streets of the Manara

district in Tubruq along with all

member countries is projected to fall

of the global economic crisis, according to the President of the ECOWAS

Commission, Dr. Mohamed Ibn

the projection for 2009 is even a far cry

from the average growth of 6%

recorded in the years preceding the

Dr. Chambas said on Thursday that

The commission finalized the

Economic growth in ECOWAS crisis

work in this regard.

buildings in the same area.

benefit and mutual interest and are tied by authentic Arab relations that go back in

"The people of Yemen highly appreciate accomplishments realized by Al-Fateh Revolution in the different domains and are proud of the leader's major role in promoting common Arab actions to confront challenges facing the Arab world, with the Palestinian cause at the forefront.

Then the ambassadors of Sweden, Bahrain and Australia presented their

the Libyan news agency Jana reported

Mukhtar and Al-Hurriya districts.

The commission also reviewed the

Other cities in the country including

name proposals for the downtown, the old

airport, Al-Andalus, Al-Hadaiq, Al-

the capital Tripoli are undergoing similar

naming and numbering of the so many new districts and suburbs along the

numbering of the huge number of new

The crisis had further accentuated

other to stand together to face the

He said the crisis should also re-

invigorate efforts at regional

integration, trade, free movement,

adding: "No West African country

standing alone can weather the storm.

We need to stand together.'

The General People's. Committee for Industry, Economy and Trade (GPCIET) has announced that 183 foreign companies operating in Libya need

to contact the authorities or their

licenses to do business in Libya will

be terminated The announcement which was published in local newspapers on Thursday listed the names of the Streets, Buildings in Tubruq companies and their countries of

The announcement said the ended on 31 March 2009.

It said all these companies should contact the Department of Companies and Commercial Registration at GPCIET and set a deadline of 4 June 2009 as the last day for these companies to do so.

The GPCIET warned that these companies' rights to operate in Libya would be terminated if failed to contact the authorities.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

183 Foreign Companies have Until 4 June

to Contact Authorities or Their Operating

Rights in Libya will be Revoked

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Dutch Liberal leader: Holocaust Denial should Not be Crime

Holocaust denial should not be a crime in the Netherlands, the leader of the Dutch liberal party said on Wednesday.

Mark Rutte, head of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), said Dutch law should instead only prosecute people who incite others to commit violence, not when they incite people to hatred.

Claiming the Holocaust did not occur "should be possible" in the Netherlands, Rutte added

Reacting to Rutte's remarks, public prosecutor spokesman Evert Boerstra said: "Offensive remarks, such as Holocaust denial, are only punishable by Dutch law if it equals discrimination of a particular group, in this case the Jews.

"Then such remarks fall under the prohibition against discrimination," he

The liberal VVD party also revealed it will present a bill to parliament proposing to abolish all restrictions to the freedom of expression in the Netherlands.

"Indirect offences - for example if I make a remark about your jacket which you perceive as a personal offence should not fall under the prohibition against incitement," Rutte said.

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Netanyahu's New Quest: The Game is On

by Ramzy Baroud

"We've accomplished quite a few things, and I think the most important one is to cement the principle that the path to peace is through negotiations and not through vio-

These were the 'encouragwords modestly uttered by aeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during a joint press conference with the US president. The President was then Bill Clinton, and the date was October 2, 1996.

In the occupied Palestinian territories, the situation then seemed incredibly grim. But there was no Israeli wall. The settlements were smaller in size and in population. Gaza was besieged, but not to the point of

total suffocation.

Recently, Prime Minister

Netanyahu paid a highly anticipated visit to the White House,
on May 18, 2009, this time

meeting with Barack Obama.
"I share with you very much process forward. And I want to start peace negotiations with stinians. I would like to broaden the circle of peace to include others in the Arab world," said Netanyahu.

One need not emphasize the

Palestinian people during those years. The violence, which Netanyahu seemingly decried in '96, visited Palestinians countless times. Starting December 27, 2008 and for 22 frightening days, much of Gaza was decimated by the Israeli army, using US weapons, killing and wounding thousands.

There is now a giant wall, hundreds of miles in length, snaking around the West Bank, separating Palestinians from their land, livelihoods and any possibility of a true statehood. There are Jewish settlements, joined by Jewish-only roads that hopelessly fragment the occupied West Bank.

They all are illegal under international law, as is the so-called Separation Wall, as are Gaza, as is the Israeli military

We are told that Obama is serious about peace in the even such assumed seriousness might not be able to change the disturbing pattern that forced Clinton before him, according to former top Middle East Advisor, Aaron David Miller, to utter the following words: "Who the f*** does he think he is? Who's the f***ing super-

In recent meetings between the two leaders, Obama clearly harm inflicted upon the highlighted his country's com-

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"We've accomplished quite a few things, and I think the most important one is to cement the principle that the path to peace is through negotiations and not

through violence."

- Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu told
US President Bill Clinton on 2 Oct. 1996

and, surprisingly, made men-tion of "Gaza" during the press conference. But the words of praise of Israel's greatness were at an all time high. "Obama talked about the 'extraordinary relationship (with Israel), the special relationship ...the stal-

mitment to a Palestinian state, wart ally ... the historical ties, emotional ties (and) the only democracy in the Middle East . a source of admiration and inspiration for the American people'," observed commentator George Hishmeh.

Following his meeting with Obama, Netanyahu made a visit

"I share with you very much the desire to move the peace process forward. And I want to start peace negotiations with the Palestinians. I would like to broaden the circle of peace to include others in the Arab

- The same PM Netanyahu as he told US President Barack Obama on 18 May 2009

to the US Congress, where he conferred with the "great friends of Israel". On his visit to Capitol Hill, he met House House Minority Leader John

Continued on page 7

Towards an EU-Libyan Agreement that Serves the **Interests of Both Parties**

by Dr. Mustafa Abdalla Kashiem

Due to political, economic and cultural factors, the Euro-Libyan relations are the focus of politicians and scholars alike. The contemporary Euro-Libyan relations have taken new directions since the European Union (EU) adopted a decision on October 11, 2004 to lift the trade and arms embargo on Libya. Since that date, the Euro-Libyan relations are developing dramatically in terms of mutual contact at higher levels, and in terms of speeding the process of institutionalisation of their relationship.

Despite the historical Euro-Libyan relationship, many would be surprised that there exists no contractual relationship between both parties until now, except with some southern flank countries such as Italy. This reality reflects a problem that requires further research by concerned ana-

A framework agreement constitutes a means to institutionalise the existing relationship between Libya and the members of the EU. On November 12, 2008, both sides declared the beginning of a negotiations process in Brussels. The second round of negotiations was held in Tripoli, Libya on February 10 this year, and the third round was due to be held in Brussels this

Although the title of the future framework agreement indicates the distinctiveness of such an arrangement between Libya and the EU, a preliminary evaluation of the available information demonstrates that the proposed EU's agreement is, by and large, identical to the Euro-Mediterranean association agreements that have been concluded with seven Arab Mediterranean

countries, such as Tunisia in 1995, and Algeria in

If that is the case, three baskets or pillars will be included in the EU-Libya framework agree-ment, namely, the political and security basket, the economic and financial partnership, and the social, cultural and human pillars.

Regardless of the contents of the potential

framework agreement, the examination of the EU's documents show that there is enthusiasm to conclude the agreement since it benefits both

sides simultaneously.

In this regard the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy

Ferrero-Waldner once stated, "Libya has the potential to become a key partner for the EU in the Mediterranean as well as in Africa. We share common interests in important areas such as trade, energy and the development of the African She added, "The flux of migrants reaching

Libya and the EU is a cause of increasing con-cern for both sides." Since the dilemma of migration is a sensitive issue to both parties, according to Ferrero-Waldner, it requires, the most appropriate form of cooperation between both sides.

Theoretically, the framework agreement

reflects the interests of both sides simultaneously Practically, one might need more data and information in order to evaluate the outcome of such an arrangement. But, since we expect the similarities between the future framework agreement and the Euro-Mediterranean agreements, one might utilise advanced methodological technique in order to conclude some future positive and negative results upon Libya.

Taking the length of process for concluding a framework agreement, Libya may need more time in order to prepare itself and, therefore, there is no reason whatsoever to speed up the process of negotiation.

Libya needs more preparation and effective coordination and cooperation among its involved different sectors in such arrangement. Seminars and think thank and brainstorming sessions will help Libyan decision-makers to negotiate effectively with their European counterparts.
The launching of Brussels and Tripoli's ses-

sions of negotiation indicate that both parties are finally determined to institutionalise their relationship, possibly by the beginning of the next decade. Thus the negotiation process is not expected to be an easy task for both parties, and ny attempt to ignore the weaknesses and threats mentioned earlier will further slow the process of concluding the future framework agreement as it

It remains to say that any successful efforts by the concerned parties to change the weaknesses into strengths, and the threats into opportunities will lead to the conclusion of an effective and a beneficial framework agreement for both parties

The writer is a professor of political science at Al-Fateh University. He contributed this article to The Tripoli Post.

Private Sector can Help in Finding and Creating Jobs

A controversy has been rumbling on over the last couple of months. It started when the National Centre for Vocational Training and Development (NCVTD) was closed down by GPC decision No. (192) 2009 of 2nd

Saturday (Al-maa-Al-Sayef) May 30-June 5, 2009

The NCVTD was created by virtue of GPC decision No. (188) 2007 on the advice of the old GPC for Manpower as a result of new policy efforts to reduce the bloated state sector. As a result, all state sectors were encouraged to send unwanted 'excess' labour to this centre for retraining and re-distribution. The idea was to either reassign or redistribute ex-state sector employees to other expanding state sectors. Better still, the hope was to encourage them to enter the private sector by offering various incentives such as lump sum payments and voluntary early retirement and pension packages.

However, the centre was quite evidently not succeeding in either retraining ex-state employees for the private sector nor was it able to place them in other state sector jobs. In fact, instead of becoming a temporary stopping point for employees en route to real employment, the centre suddenly exploded in size with thousands of 'floating' employees and files of applicants seeking new jobs. The centre failed to move and process employees on, and became an employment destination itself. This off course, defeated the whole point of the creation of the centre

In view of this failure of the centre to fulfill its function, the GPC took the bold and unprecedented decision to close the centre down. Not surprisingly, the numerous floating employees who were still receiving a salary, were not pleased and feared that the closure of the centre would mean that they would lose their salaries and be made unemployed. The GPC has assured all those concerned that all salaries will continue to be paid until long term solutions are found. A committee has been set

The point that I am trying to highlight from this episode is that it is very difficult for a historically socialist or welfare-leaning government to sack people in Libya. People who have been groomed for decades on a dependency mentality and have grown used to the central authorities making all their major decisions on housing, purchasing, shopping, etc etc for them-find it difficult to do otherwise.

The executive branch namely the General People's Committee is now caught in a very difficult position. On the one hand it is trying to be and act as the new change agent pushing for modernization, privatization, market economy, reducing bureaucracy, inefficiency, corruption and central subsidies. Yet on the other hand it is having great difficulty shedding its old clothes of the central provider of all and everything; acting as the final social security net, the welfare provider, the employment creator, distributor and re-distributor of wealth, etc etc.

With the example of the training centre, there is a tension in the GPC's role of keeping people off the unemployment list by giving them any job so that they can feed and clothe themselves or their families on the one hand, and creating new real creative, competitive jobs in a new competitive and efficient market place.

Yet it is this very old style practice of paying people to keep them off the official unemployment list that the new thinking is trying to get away from. The state does not want to be seen as the evil bad boy - the sacker of people, the unemployment creator, the breaker of homes etc. But I have a solution for the government. Free the

private sector. Stop fearing the private sector and seeing it as a threat. The private sector could be the solution to But if only the state would allow it. Make the

business environment in Libya better. Let business flourish. Remove boundaries, reduce bureaucracy and the paper-chase and let business - small business at least-

Give loans, develop the newly launched banking credit bureau faster so that banks can have data on loanseekers. Speed up the numbering of buildings and naming of streets so that banks have a better chance of locating defaulting debtors. Tighten up the judicial system and especially the enforcement system so that banks can execute judicial rulings in their favour against defaulting debtors.

Hasten the establishment of business parks and industrial zones with special cheap, subsidized or even free sections for SMEs, start-ups and university graduates. Accelerate the incubator and whole SME program that failed to take-off in 2008. Get the National Economic Development Board (NEDB) to actually start doing some economic development on a large national

Where is the GPC going to hide three or four hundred thousand excess state sector employees? You can only shuffle them round and round so much and for so long. Meanwhile, Libya's birth rate means that every year another few thousand citizens need new jobs! I hope that the GPC has learnt the lesson from this training centre episode that real problems need real, long term, well studied and planned solutions.

I appeal to the GPC to see the private business sector as its ally, its friend and its solution provider - and not as its competitor or even enemy. I appeal to the GPC to useexploit - the private sector in a positive way as a tool for SME and private sector can be a huge employment

Only when both the private and state sectors in Libya work together as honest partners will we be able to find real, genuine long term solutions to Libya's deep and long term problems - such as that of over

Netanyahu's New Quest: The Game is On

The Israeli leader also met members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Jewish legislators. He was given the same exceptional treatment enjoying by other Israeli leaders. Committee chairman Senator John Kerry was "encouraged by a number of things" Netanyahu had said.

Following meeting with Congressional leaders, Netanyahu observed, as if breaking some unexpected news: there is "an American consensus" regarding "the special relationship we have between Israel and the United

The game is on. Netanyahu will once again try to overwhelm the President of the United States by rallying the Congress behind him in preparation for any possible confrontation with Obama's administration.

Obama, on the other hand, will attempt, however bashfully, to assert a new direction in US foreign policy through tempting Israel by embracing harsher Iran policies and pressuring the Arabs to normalize with the Jewish state in exchange for Israel's mere promise of moving the peace process forward.
In 1996, Netanyahu spoke of the

immediate danger facing Israel, in reference to Iraq. Now Iraq - which had no weapons of mass destruction, after allis no longer an "existential threat" to the

And now the Israeli leader has set his sights on Iran. "The challenge is the potential arming of Iran with nuclear weapons capabilities. That is a great danger to all of us.. We have to do this in tandem .. I was very encouraged to learn that this is the American policy. We're going to try to do it together, because if we do it together we'll get a lot further, a lot

It might not take thirteen more years before Netanyahu's wishes come true, before getting a lot further, a lot faster, i.e. unleashing a war against Iran. But mark my words, Netanyahu, as well as those before him, as well as those after him, have no intentions of making peace with the Palestinians. He is simply waving a carrot before Obama to get what Israel wants, an attack on Iran. It's as simple as

If Obama hesitates in confronting the new Israeli agenda, and if the Congress continues to treat Israel's security obsessions as top American priorit there is no telling what the Middle East will look like the next time Netanyahu arrives in Washington to meet the new American President

- Ramzy : Baroud (www.ramzybaroud.net) is an author and editor of Palestine Chronicle.com.

Amnesty: Israel Violated Laws of War in Gaza

war during its assault on Gaza last winter, a new report from Amnesty Interna

charges.

"Israeli forces repeatedly breached the laws of war, including by carrying out direct attacks on civilians and civilian buildings and attacks targeting Palestinian militants that caused a disproportionate toll among civilians, the group said in its annual report on the state of human rights worldwide.

The report comes less than a week before a UN fact finding mission arrives in Israel and Gaza to investigate allegations of war crimes and crimes

The report notes, however, Israel's stated rationale for the war, which was to stated rationale for the way, when the stop Palestinian armed groups from launching "rockets," actually homemade projectiles fashioned from sewer pipes, from Gaza.

'In 2008, seven Israeli civilians were killed by these mostly homemade, indiscriminate rockets or in other attacks by Palestinians from Gaza; three Israeli ivilians were killed during the threeweek conflict that began on 27

By its count, "1,400 Palestinians were killed," in the three week Israeli bombardment, "including some 300 children, and some 5,000 were

Amnesty also said, "The sudden

Israel repeatedly violated the laws of conflict followed an 18-month period in which the Israeli army had subjected the inhabitants of Gaza to an unremi blockade, preventing virtually all movement of people and goods in and out of the territory and stoking a growing

> In the words of one Palestinian man who spoke to Amnesty's investigators when they visited Gaza in January, "What should we do? If we rebuild they may destroy it again. And there is no cement in Gaza, no building materials to

Gaza brought the enclave to the brink of a catastrophe, Amnesty International said on Thursday, also lambasting the two main Palestinian factions for human

Amnesty also criticised the blockade Israel imposed on Gaza in June 2007 after Hamas, a group pledged to the destruction of the Jewish state, seized

power in Gaza.

The blockade 'exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation, health and sanitation problems, poverty and malnutrition for the 1.5 million

'Seriously ill patients in need of medical care not available in Gaza and hundreds of students and workers wishing to study or travel to jobs abroad were among those trapped in Gaza by the blockade.

Note: The views and opinions of authors or individuals expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of The Tripoli Post.

NOC: Total Led-group Agrees to Cut Stake in Two Libyan Oilfields

French oil major Total-led European consortium has agreed to slash its stake in two Libyan oil blocks to 27 percent from 50 to give a bigger share to Libya's state National Oil Corporation, NOC said in a statement early last week.

"Under the renewed contract, it is also agreed that the share of the foreign May in Tripoli.

50 percent previously to 40 percent and then to 30 percent in a future stage," NOC added in statement posted on its website.

The deal converting existing contracts, which involves C137 and al-Jurf blocks was signed on Thursday 21

Al-Jurf oilfield has an output capacity of 45,000 barrels per day.

Germany's Wintershall and Norwegian major Statoilhydro are the partners in the Total-led consortium, according to the NOC statement.

"The deal is a part of NOC's policy to renew existing accords to expand the

increase productivity of oilfields and exploration capabilities," the statement

The renewed accords also aim at "developing fields, transfering technology and sharing management and winning upfront payments for signing deals," it added. It gave no details on the payment of signing bonus by Total in the renewed deal. Libyan officials have said that bonus would amount to \$500 million.

Libya earned \$5.4 billion in additional oil revenues from changes to contracts with four foreign companies last year, NOC said in report made public

Shokri Ghanem, Chairman of NOC. said that Libya, encouraged by soaring oil prices in 2007 and early 2008, began negotiations with oil firms to change existing contracts into a new deal called Fourth Type of Partnership Agreement to increase Libya's stake in oil operations and cut shares of foreign firms.

Libya plans to invest up to \$40 billion in oil investments within the country aiming to raise its oil production to over 3 million barrels per day. The Libyan General People's Committee, the highest office of the executive authority. discussed this plan last week and recommended that it should be implemented as soon as possible.

Workshop on Medium and Small Projects in Benghazi Calls for More Bank Loans for Individuals

A workshop on Development and activities in the country must be made economically productive and take part Medium and Small Projects available and easy to obtain. organized by the National Planning recommended last week that attention balances mechanism that makes sure must be paid to providing more loans that those who obtain these loans do to individuals and private companies not use them for purposes other than for establishing small and medium those earmarked for.

Administrator at our Tripoli offices.

MAIN AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

It also demanded that the loans Council in the Benghazi Sha'abiya should be controlled by checks and

The newly appointed Secretary of The workshop which was the National Planning Council, Dr. organized last Monday stressed that Bashir Zembil, has made it clear that services and goods production loans individuals should be encouraged by that support the overall economic all available means to become

in the increasing of the production of goods and services in the country.

He maintains that the Libyan economic philosophy itself is based on the very idea that every individual must take part in the production of goods and services and hence the Libyan oil wealth should be redistributed in a way to allow every Libyan to take part in the economic process in the country.

The workshop in Benghazi demanded that Planning Councils at the level of Sha'abiyas (districts) must establish and industrial map in each city according to which loans are granted to various individuals and companies.

OPEC Decides Not to Cut Output

The main purpose of this job is to deal with recruitment, delegation and performance management. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: Plan recruitment activities in the most effective way * Prepare contracts for new hires and maintain contractual information for

*Ensure that job descriptions, job specifications and organization charts are

periodically reviewed and updated
*Take responsibility for the delegation of national staff to other Wintershall

*Assist with the development and administration of the performance

staff, prepare promotion, salary increase and bonus letters.

management system
*Assist in the administration of all annual bonus payments for national

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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Wintershall Libya invites applications for the post of Senior Human Resource

*Degree in Human Resources or Business Administration or equivalent

*At least 2 years of related experience

*Assertive, well organized, friendly and enthusiastic, with excellent communication skills

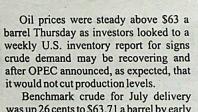
*Results oriented individual who values teamwork and taking initiatives *Fluent written and spoken Arabic and English

*Strong computer skills in particular Excel and Word

To apply for this position please send your CV in English to jobs.libya@wintershall.com. Please note that you should state the position you are applying for in the subject line of your email. Closing date for applications is June 07, 2009.

Unfortunately we will not be able to acknowledge applications, but will contact those selected for interview directly.

Wintershall is a subsidiary of BASF AG, the largest chemical company in the world, and has been active in the exploration and production of oil and gas in Libya since 1958. Our main office is located in Tripoli and our production



was up 26 cents to \$63.71 a barrel by early afternoon in Europe in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Wednesday, the contract rose \$1 to settle at \$63.45, a six-month high.

In London, Brent prices gained 38 cents to \$62.80 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

As widely expected, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries decided to keep output levels unchanged at a meeting Thursday in Vienna.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali Naimi predicted that oil prices will likely reach around \$75 a barrel by the end of the year on the back of growing demand in Asia.

"OPEC is trying to get the world more conformable with the idea of \$75-80 oil," said Jonathan Kornafel, Asia director for market maker Hudson Capital Energy in

Oil prices have rebounded from below \$35 a barrel as investors anticipate demand will improve later this year. Traders, concerned that a massive U.S. fiscal stimulus package will eventually weaken the dollar, have also used crude oil as a hedge against inflation.

"As long as money is being printed left and right you're going to see it flow into the commodity markets and crude keep going higher," Kornafel said.



OPEC Secretary General Abdullah

Investors will be watching for the weekly petroleum inventory data from the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration on

Analysts expect an increase of 1.8 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

Stocks have dropped the last two weeks after rising for the previous ten.

In other Nymex trading, gasoline for June delivery fell 0.87 cent to \$1.8830 a gallon and heating oil was up 0.99 cent to \$1.5716 a gallon.

Natural gas for July delivery was down 4.5 cents at \$3.593 per 1,000 cubic feet AP

Salaries in Middle East IT Sector Dive by 40%t

Salaries in the Middle East technology sector have dropped between 20 and 40 per cent over the past year due to the global downturn and are not expected to return to previous levels until 2010, say analysts.

The sector was previously one of the best in terms of employee perks but there have been cutbacks in this area as well, they added.

"In our experience salaries for new hires have gone down by approximately 20 per cent for the same role between last year and recent months," Peter Spaans, Human Resources Manager at Hewlett Packard ME, told Emirates Business.

"We do not foresee a change this year and it will most likely be 2010 before rates improve. The economic downturn and subsequent correction of rental prices have caused a decrease in remuneration for job seekers. It is better to have a job with lower pay than no job.

"The IT industry was offering aboveaverage perks. Because of the economic downturn, some companies have revised their benefits but the IT industry is still offering above-average packages."

The timing of a return to previous salary levels will depend on market conditions, according to Paula Leech, HR Director of Microsoft Gulf.

The overall reaction to the downturn has been to stop giving pay increases," she said. "A return to last year's remuneration levels will be determined by how quickly the external environment recovers.

"Additionally, improvements in pay levels are very closely linked to productivity gains in an industry as well as supply and demand in the talent market for that industry."

A senior consultant from Dubai-based Lobo Management Services said salaries and perks had declined up to 40 per cent and would not recover before next year.

However J Trivikram, HR Manager at Acer Computer (Middle East), said salaries had not fallen and the major impact of the downturn had been on recruitment.

"Remuneration has remained the same but what has changed is the availability of positions. If there were 10 people being recruited by an IT company last year, now that has reduced. This scenario has made the whole market look like less attractive in terms of remuneration. On the regional level, salaries are still stable but there may not

"Salaries and recruitment are directly dependent on the gross domestic product of a country. In the last two quarters, conditions have not been attractive but the third and fourth quarters may see some hiring. If the government and public sector started spending, it would show optimism in the market as they are the biggest customers for IT.

"After speaking to HR departments and job agencies it is clear that IT companies in the Middle East were previously increasing the workforce by 15 to 20 per cent a year but now it is less than five per cent.

"IT was one of the highest paid sectors because many professionals were being poached by the real estate and financial sector in 2007-08. But now there is a correction going on and it has affected the

steps to control costs and improve profitability - and this has affected staffing levels and salaries.

Leech added: "In general the greatest impact has been on basic pay. Most of the companies have stopped reviewing annual salary. Some of them have even reduced salaries to a certain extent. Furthermore, some companies have cut certain benefits and short-term incentives as well. Considering the fact that the external environment is mostaffected, the industry's relative pay levels remained stable. However, the long-term effects are yet to be seen."

As employees get laid off, the IT market is increasingly becoming an employers' market as those seeking jobs are ready to take moderate nackages.

Spaans said: "For people changing jobs now and in the near future supply and demand factors are defining new ground rules which will result in lower packages. For employees, who are not changing jobs, remuneration remains

The Lobo consultant added: "Consider the business scenario that Dubai has been in for the last seven months - there has been no increase in salaries for employees, there has been a reduction in the incentives and bonuses and new recruits have been taken on at market was offering in 2008."

Redundancies in the US and Europe have made job seekers look towards the UAE, which has increased the supply of talent and put pressure on salaries. A source at the Clarendon Parker IT

team said: "Due to the increased number of jobseekers in the market, salaries and benefits for IT sector have decreased. Large number of candidates who are coming to the UAE or are already based here are seeking immediate work.

"However, we are also seeing a significant decline in the cost of living, especially rents which are much lower than a year ago. So in spite of the lower salaries, jobseekers are not necessary in a much worse position than before."

Clarendon Parker is expecting a shift in the situation as the summer progresses. This is mainly because many of the people made redundant will leave the country during the summer holidays when children are no longer at school and families have time to relocate back to their home countries.

The source added: "More competition for top quality candidates will drive salaries back up in this kind of a situation. Whether they reach the same levels as a year ago will really depend on the cost of living hitting the same heights as the months before the credit crunch."

UAE technology companies stayed on top in terms of remuneration while Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain were on the lower side. Saudi Arabia is still attractive in terms of savings and therefore has a lot of potential for job seekers.

The Clarendon Parker source said:

Libya Will Match China National's Offer for Verenex

Libya will match China National Petroleum Corp.'s \$443 million offer for Verenex Energy Inc., with the objective to retain a larger share of its oil wealth.

BUSINESS/NEWS

"The government is now arranging the funds to buy Verenex," Shokri Ghanem, chairman of National Oil Corp., told Bloomberg in a telephone interview last week from Tripoli.

China National, the nation's biggest

oil company also known as CNPC, agreed in February to purchase Calgarypased Verenex for C\$10 a share in cash. "CNPC's offer is final," Ghanem said.

"It cannot increase it because it's not like an auction: we will match it." Verenex, whose shares more than doubled after the company put itself up for sale in November following four

straight years of losses, rose 5.6 percent to

Ghanem said in a March 16 interview that Libya wanted to purchase Verenex for "commercial reasons," and not to limit the access of China National to its national oil reserves.

Verenex has assets in Libya that are worth "hundreds of millions" of dollars, he said at the time. In a statement on March 18. Verenex reiterated that the proposed sale of the company to China National was subject to "certain consents" from Libya's National Oil.

oil in Libya in 2005. Verenex had agreed to pay the Chinese company a C\$15 million breakup fee if the company scuttled the deal. (Bloomberg)

United Fiber to undertake S\$1.23b construction project in Libya:

SINGAPORE: Mainboard-listed infrastructures.

Unifiber says it has agreed with forestry and construction firm United Fiber is entering a joint venture to undertake a construction project in Libya worth up to S\$1.23 billion.

Its unit, Unifiber Holding, will team up with TSG Asia, an affiliate of US firm The Sandi Group, to build a social

nousing project in Libya.

The project consists of 5,000 housing units, a hotel, administration buildings and the related

TSG to take a 40 per cent stake in the project. Both sides have also agreed to work on future projects in Libya and Egypt on an exclusive basis.

Unifiber says the contract is expected to contribute positively to its earnings. The company will make further announcements on the financial impact when the terms of the contract are finalised. CNA/yt

"Some countries in the region have not seen the same dip in salaries as the UAE. Saudi Arabia is still investing heavily at the moment and the salaries for quality professional and technical personnel are still high."

Leech said there was no global salary standard as each market was unique and had its own local

"One cannot do a meaningful comparison of salaries and packages by converting them into a common denominator, such as the US dollar, and draw conclusions," she said. 'Additionally, the impact of the recent downturn has not been the same in each country. Therefore we cannot talk about a global standard."

Salaries and perks at HP are based on local markets.

Spaans said: "We have a global methodology to evaluate roles and responsibilities to ensure global equity. Our salary structures and some of the benefits, however, are always benchmarked locally against market practice and are competitive for the IT

"For example, it is uncommon to have pension schemes in the Middle East but France or Germany do have end of service benefits or gratuities."

Trivikram said multinationals had

to maintain a balance between different offices by participating in global salary

"Employees will continue moving from one country to another," he said. 'Companies need to have awareness by participating in such surveys. It is ssential to have a global view and understand salary structures in all

In terms of salary structures in the technology sector, many software and service companies operate nmission-based systems.

"Every technology firm is different but at networking or high-end software companies up to 60 per cent of emuneration is variable and 40 per cent fixed. Variable mainly focuses on incentives and commissions and are therefore linked to performance."

Spaans agreed that multi-nationals generally had competitive remuneration strategies but said software companies also tended to offer competitive packages.

"However, sometime small companies operating in niche markets can afford higher packages as they do not have large workforces."

For technology companies, positioning among peer group ompanies is an issue

Leech said: "In any given local context, companies determine pay levels based on how they want to position themselves among a number of peer group companies and what they can afford. Therefore we cannot isolate a certain subgroup of companies and say they are paying more or less than others."

"When there is less recruitment you want to hire the best. In a downt even the best can lose their jobs and therefore it is a good time for companies to hire these professionals. Now companies have different hiring and interview procedures, making it all

very stringent," said Trivikram.
© Emirates Business 24/7 2009

NEWS Wahda Bank Signs Contract with Path

Solutions to Gain Access to iMAL

the agreement with Path Solutions, Antoine Sreih, Chairman, Wahda Bank,

"We are happy to continue partnering with Path Solutions in this strategic initiative. Our decision to implement iMAL has been influenced by our old relationship with Path as we have unparalleled value to banks. It is also previously implemented iMAL at EAB scalable and customer-centric and London and Path's reputation as a successful and committed software house in providing true Islamic software solutions. We view this partnership as a key component of our overall business strategy. We are confident that with iMAL, we will be able to launch new products to our customers with reduced time-to-market, become more efficient in our operations and decrease our costs".

iMAL is an Islamic competitive banking suite providing a broad range of solutions".

products to various functions within the organization including Core Banking, Investment, Treasury, Funds Management, Trade Finance, Fixed Assets, Profit Calculation, CIF and Risk

iMAL is a centralized, multi-lingual, multi-currency solution that delivers unparalleled value to banks. It is also addresses Retail, Corporate and Investment banking requirements.

Naji Moukadam, President of Path Solutions stated:

"We are delighted to partner with Wahda Bank as their preferred IT partner. This win will enable us to further consolidate our leadership position as the core banking provider of choice for forward-looking banks in North Africa, a key market focus for our banking

Adding further, Moukadam said: "Due to ever increasing customer requirements, it is necessary for Wahda Bank to have an effective operating system in order to support the increasing number of transactions as well as the bank network expansion in the next few years. Path has offered solutions that best meet the current and future needs of Wahda Bank. We believe that, with this cooperation, we will help them achieve successfully their business targets".

Wahda Bank is a Libyan Shareholding company, established in 1970, with a paid capital of 108 million LYD. The Social Economic Development Fund owns 54.1% of the stocks, the private sector owns 26.90% and the Arab Bank (strategic partner) owns 19%.

Wahda Bank has 74 branches and agencies spread all over the country (theasianbanker)

First Arab uranium exploration firm launched

A UAE based private business group has launched the first independent Arab uranium exploration company.

Arabian Uranium Ventures, a unit of Thani Holdings which has a diversified business in oil and gas, mining, real estate and trading, was launched on Tuesday and will be extracting the radioactive metal from the Middle East and Africa.

"With growing energy needs, everdecreasing oil and gas reserves and environmental concerns, I believe the business case for Arabian Uranium Ventures is sound," Rishard Camball, chief executive officer of Thani Holding, told the news agency Reuters.

Airbus chief questioned over insider trading

Thomas Enders, has been questioned by French police as part of the corruption probe against the planemaker's parent company EADS, a spokesman told AFP

Enders, who was co-president of the European defence giant EADS in June 2006, was neither charged nor placed in custody after his questioning in Paris on May 20, the spokesman added.

In total, 17 French and German current and former bosses or officials of

MoneyGram

Airbus chief executive, German EADS and its main subsidiary, Airbus, are suspected of insider trading between 2005 and 2006 by the French financial market regulator, AMF.

These include nine of French origin, four Germans, two Americans, a Finn and

According to AMF, Enders sold 50,000 stock options in the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company in 2005 for a pre-tax profit of more than 700,000 euros (970,000 dollars).

Central Bank Allows Local Banks to Seek Foreign Partners

The Libyan Central Bank has said in a directive sent to the heads of nine local banks that it has set up regulations for its commercial banks to seek "strategic partnerships" with foreign banks.

It has capped the stakes foreign

"The participation of the foreign partner should increase the capital of the local bank by at least LD70m (\$55m)," the Central Bank said.



Libya's Reserves to Reach \$136 Billion in 2009

Libya expects foreign currency reserves to reach \$136 billion this year from

round \$100 billion in the previous year.
"Foreign currency reserves are likely to reach \$136 billion this year," Libya's Central Bank officials told reporters last week.

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Libyan Foreign Bank to Increase Its Stake in HSBC Unit to 70%

to hike its stake in HSBC affiliate British Arab Commercial Bank to 70 from 25 percent and plans to raise its capital 10 times to \$10 billion, the Oea daily

Saturday (Al-maa-Al-Sayef) May 30-June 5, 2009

reported on Tuesday.
State-owned LFB has held a 0.56 percent stake in Italy's second-largest bank UniCredit since 1997 and bought another 3.67 percent together with the Libyan Investment Authority sovereign wealth fund last October.

"The planned capital increase to \$10 billion is part of a long-term strategy. The (LFB) General Assembly would meet in mid-June on that. Libya Central Bank has the last word as it owns the bank," Oea quoted LFB bank Chairman Mohamed

ILO: 2009 Jobless Førecast Up to 239 Million

The ILO on Thursday raised its global unemployment forecast, saying that up to a record 239 million people could be jobless this year amid a deteriorating labour market.

"The labour market situation has continued to deteriorate since the start of the financial crisis." Juan Somavia director-general of the International Labour Organisation, told reporters in Geneva. "In March, we estimated that global unemployment would increase in between 24 to 52 million in 2009 as compared to 2007. Our current projection suggest that the range will be between 39 to 59 million," he added.

This means that 220 to 239 million people would be jobless this year.

The more optimistic scenario translates into a global unemployment rate of 6.8 percent, while the higher figure translates into a rate of 7.4 percent.

The rate also surpasses the 6.5 percent global unemployment posted in 2003, the highest level reached since 1991 when the ILO first began keeping records.

In its previous forecast this year, the ILO said up to 230 million people could be unemployed by year-end.

According to the latest ILO report, the bulk of the newly unemployed would come from developed economies and the European Union.

The region is likely to account for 35 to 40 percent of the total global increase in unemployment, despite accounting for less than 16 percent of the global labour force," said the report.In central and southeastern European states that are not part of the EU, as well as in former Soviet republics, unemployment numbers could rise by up to 35 percent this year.

Somavia said there were "signs of initial impact" from stimulus packages launched by governments to lift the world economy out of the slump.

But he warned of a "serious job situation that could last for six to eight years if no actions are taken," urging countries to sign up to a "global jobs

The pact is a commitment to put employment creation and preservation at the heart of policies to stimulate the economy. It is to be discussed at the ILO's annual conference in Geneva which is scheduled to take place from June 3 to 19.

"LFB eyes the increase of its stakes in 35 acquisitions across the world. The bank will hike its share in the British Arab Commercial Bank to 70 percent from 25 percent currently," he said.

Oea quoted Elmal as saying "LFB will increase its stakes in two banks in Paris" but gave no details.

Elmal was quoted by Oea as saying LFB is looking to expand its investments in North Africa, South and Eastern Africa

"We are making efforts to invest in Brazil because it is a promising market,"

LFB, which has subsidiaries in France and Spain, will also inject more capital into Rome-based Banca UBAE, in which it holds a 49.9 percent stake, according to its website. The bank also plans to do business in the Libyan market to tap growth and an increased need for banking

and to deal in Libyan dinar because we use U.S. dollars in our operations currently," El Mal said.
"We seek to reach an adequate capital

level to create a bigger enterprise and then achieve a good return," he said.

As a result of the world economic wnturn, LFB saw its net profit shrink to \$113 million last year from record-high level of \$305 million in 2007, Oea said.



Rentokil

شركة رينتوكل - الخبراء من مكافحة الآفات

recruiting now...

Rentokil Pest Control is a core division of Rentokil Initial PLC.

Rentokil Initial PLC is a Global Business Services Company employing over 80,000 colleagues in more than 50 countries around the World and has an annual turnover of c. US \$5 Bil. The company's headquarters are in London, UK.

Our Pest Control division are market leaders in many of the countries they operate in. Pest Control Services focus on deterring, excluding and eliminating pest species from our customers premises. The pests treated include:

- · Rodents such as rats and mice
- Flies and Mosquitoes · Cockroaches
- · Wasps

AND MANY MORE ...

Rentokil are the only UK Pest Control company with in-house Research & Development laboratories. We develop the most technically advanced, innovative pest control products, systems and services in the market place.

Since the company's formation in 1927, Rentokil has built up an unparalleled reputation for service excellence and market leading innovation. This is all down to the huge emphasis placed on training, rewarding and continuously investing in the development of our colleagues.

If you are successful in joining the Rentokil team in Libya, you can expect a rewarding career with excellent training and development opportunities.

Rentokil Libya has been formed to support a substantial contract awarded to it by the General Corporation of Housing & Utilities. The contract is for the control of rodents and covers the whole of GSPLAJ. We will be opening branch offices in Tripoli, Misratah and Benghazi as well as supporting two mobile teams who will cover other cities. Approximately 100 people will be required to support this contract.

Pest Control Technician - Benghazi

Key responsibilities of this role include:

1-To formulate and carry out a concise and successful treatment programme against rats in a specified area, making use of the full range of techniques available.

2-The ability to provide advice to the general Libyan population on matters affecting pest prevention, hygiene, waste disposal and all other issues which may affect the successful eradication of rodents.

3-Producing accurate and concise reports on current rodent activity within specified zones, along with detailed plans for eradication of these rodents

Essential criteria:

Excellent customer service skills

Conversational English skills (written would be advantageous)

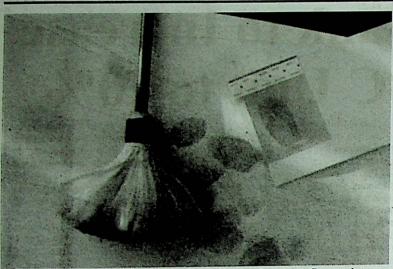
Possess a valid driving licence, be self motivated and able to work on own initiative, flexible about working environments

This role is based in Benghazi, although some travel to support our other operations throughout Libya may be required.

Full technical training will be provided and will lead to an accredited, pest control qualification

If your profile meets the criteria outlined above, please apply in writing with a recent CV and an Introduction letter in English to: vacancies.ly@rentokil.com

or apply in person to the Rentokil Office, Kahild Ben Alwaleed village, off Dubai Street, Elphat, Benghazi



A brush used for fingerprint examination is displayed next to a fingerprint

Cancer Patient Held at Airport for Missing Fingerprint

Microsoft unveils new

Bing search engine

Microsoft on Thursday unveiled a engine that delivers answers instead of

lists of websites.

held for four hours by immigration officials in the United States when they could not detect his fingerprints which had apparently disappeared because of a drug he was taking.

The incident, highlighted in the Annals of Oncology, was reported by the patient's doctor, Tan Eng Huat, who advised cancer patients taking this drug to carry a doctor's letter when traveling to the United States.

The drug, capecitabine, is ly used to treat cancers in the head and neck, breast, stomach and

One side-effect is chronic inflammation of the palms or soles of the feet and the skin can peel, bleed and develop ulcers or blisters -- or what is known as hand-foot syndrome.

"This can give rise to eradication of fingerprints with time," explained Tan, senior consultant in the medical oncology department at Singapore's National Cancer Center.

The patient, a 62-year-old man, had head and neck cancer that had spread but

new Web search engine, Bing, designed

to intuitively understand what people

are seeking on the Internet and challenge

Bing as a "Decision Engine" and said it

will be deployed worldwide at Bing.com

by Wednesday.

Bing's launch comes in the wake of

Google and Yahoo! announcing

the launch of a Wolfram Alpha query want to use the Web."

refinements to their search services and

The US software colossus described

online king Google.

A Singapore cancer patient was responded well to chemotherapy. To prevent the cancer from recurring, he was put on capecitabine.

"In December 2008, after more than three years of capecitabine, he went to the United States to visit his relatives." Tan wrote.

"He was detained at the airport customs for four hours because the immigration officers could not detect his fingerprints. He was allowed to enter after the custom officers were satisfied that he was not a security threat.

Tan said the loss of fingerprints is not described in the packaging of the drug, although chronic inflammation of the palms and soles of feet is included.

"The topmost layer ... is the layer that accounts for the fingerprint, that (losing that top layer) is all it takes (to lose a fingerprint)," Tan told Reuters.

Theoretically, if you stop the drug, it will grow back but details are scanty. No one knows the frequency of this occurrence among patients taking this drug and nobody knows how long a person must be on this drug before the loss of fingerprints."

"Today, search engines do a decent

job of helping people navigate the Web and find information, but they don't do a

very good job of enabling people to use the information they find," said

Microsoft chief executive Steve

grounded ourselves in a deep

understanding of how people really

"When we set out to build Bing, we

Focused Strategy' Assisting Calyon Regional Growth Amid Economic Turmoil

Dubai, UAE - Tuesday 26th of May 2009: Calyon, Crédit Agricole's Corporate and Investment Bank is growing stronger in the region despite the global economic crisis.

This is due to a focused strategic plan that has seen Calyon gain numerous regional awards as well as being named the Investment Bank of the Year for the MENA region by Acquisition Monthly Magazine in January 2009, for the year

Albert Momdjian, Calyon's Managing Director & Head of Middle East & Africa Investment Banking as well as DIFC Branch CEO, attributes the company's long-term success to a focused organizational and investment strategy and believes that the awards recognizing its achievements in the current environment are well deserved.

"Critically, at a time when companies are downsizing, Calyon is strengthening its regional team through selective new appointments. Thanks to our focused strategy we are seeing continued positive growth and are benefitting from our exceptional track record in this region," explains Momdjian.

The regional corporate strategy is focusing on four key areas, including acting as advisors to foreign companies looking to grow their footprint in the Middle East and engaging with privately

Additionally, Calyon's focus has concludes Momdjian.

ensured ongoing successful involvement in the Equity Capital Markets sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and also in the area of domestic and regional Mergers &

This has led to a string of high profile transactions including the largest acquisition deal in the Middle East and North Africa.

Calyon was pivotal as an advisor to Lafarge, the world's leading building material specialist on the largest ever foreign direct investment in the Middle East and Africa region; the acquisition of Orascom Construction Industries' cement business for a total consideration of

Meanwhile, in the Kingdom Saudi Arabia, Calyon led Zain's IPO, which was the third largest offering in the region.

"In the Middle East & North Africa, Calyon's investment banking activities have been very successful due to playing a purely advisory role, and not handling structured products or derivatives, which has essentially ensured that our regional operations have been less affected by the current economic turmoil," says Momdiian.

Calyon, which concentrates on corporate and investment banking activities, is operating from a position of strength and our approach to client services will continue to breed success and we are confident in the future

Genes of new flu virus show it's not so new

The most complete analysis yet of the new H1N1 swine flu virus shows it must have been circulating undetected for years, most likely in pigs, researchers said on Friday.

They said pigs are clearly a potential source of human pandemics.

"The results of the study show the global need for more systematic surveillance of influenza viruses in pigs," Dr. Nancy Cox, chief of the influenza division at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

The report by Cox and international team of researchers in the journal Science said the virus "might have been circulating undetected among swine herds somewhere in the world."

The researchers confirmed the odd mixture of human, pig and bird genes in the new virus, which has infected more than 11,000 people in 42 countries, and killed 86. The World Health Organization is poised to declare a full pandemic of the virus, which so far causes mostly mild disease in people.

The researchers said it is likely other odd mixtures are infecting pigs but simply have not yet been seen. They sequenced the genetic codes of 70 different samples of the new virus from the United States and Mexico.

"We can actually determine where each of the genes ... originated." Cox said.

The new virus is a mixture of mixtures - it includes part of a so-called triple reassortant virus first seen in 1998 that contains elements of human, bird and

It also includes bits from so-called Eurasian strains of flu, including a segment most closely related to a sample

from a patient in Hong Kong infected with a swine flu in 1999. How this particular new mixture arose

is still a mystery, the researcher said. "Several scenarios exist, including

reassortment in Asia or the Americas, for the events that have lead to the genesis of the novel A(H1N1) virus," they wrote.

It is possible another animal acted as the so-called reservoir, which means an animal that can be infected by a pathogen but does not get sick from it. Cox noted that researchers only recently learned, for instance, that cats, from lions to house cats, can be infected with H5N1 avian flu

"We do know that our veterinary colleagues at USDA (the U.S. Department of Agriculture) and elsewhere in the world are now looking to see if samples in freezers from pigs or other animals that might provide the missing link," Cox said.

"If we can determine the origin we can also take measures to ensure that the virus doesn't reemerge in a slightly different form "she said

The researchers said they do not know how this particular virus acquired the ability to infect people. It does not have the usual mutations that allow animal viruses to jump into people and then to pass easily from one person to another.

Flu experts get worried when viruses go straight from animals to people. Usually they do not pass any further than one person - for example the feared H5N1 avian influenza virus that has infected 429 people and killed 262 of them rarely passes from person to person.

But all three recent pandemics -- in 1918, 1957 and 1968 -- occurred when a new avian flu virus started infecting

Fries a Workout?

Saturday (Al-maa-Al-Sayef) May 30-June 5, 2009

A burger lunch and then a lettuce dinner. A cigarette after a long run. Pizza and beer to battle the blues. Sounds normal? It is, with a survey showing most people's attitude to healthy living is quite

More than half the 10,300 people polled in the global "Healthy Living" survey, conducted by market research firm Synovate, revealed they eat anything they want, when they want, with a third saying they loved fast food too much to

A third also said they tended to eat more unhealthy junk food when feeling

But one in four people surveyed in 12 countries also said they did something to compensate for unhealthy habits such as exercising, or cutting back on food, cigarettes or alcohol, with that number rising to one in seven of all Chinese

"These attitudes may not make complete sense, but when it comes to food, health and weight management, people are inherently contradictory," said Steve Garton, executive director of media for Synovate.

While nearly half of all Americans and Britons say they can't give up fast food, the study reveals Bulgaria as the world's most junk-food addicted nation, where nearly 70 percent of respondents head to a fast food joint on a regular basis.

Least susceptible to the taste of fast food were the Swedes and the Malaysians, with only one in five people in both countries agreeing that they need

As for those most likely to eat to lift their mood, the survey showed British and American women tend to emotionally eat their way through life. with nearly half of those surveyed saying they eat when they're feeling down.

To tackle weight gain, most people surveyed said they increased their physical activity, and reduced their food

Countries most likely to cut back on what they eat include the United Arab Emirates, Brazil, the United States, Spain, Britain and Canada.

Spaniards and Brazilians were also the most prone to do everything and anything to lose weight, the survey showed, linking this obsession with looking good to the beach culture in both

The survey was conducted online and via face-to-face interviews in February 2009 across 12 countries: Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, India, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, Britain and the United States.

More details can be found on www.synovate.com





Fashion Show for designers with Special Needs Launched in Dubai

Dubai Culture launched the first International Fashion Show for designers with special needs - the first of its kind in the world, a press release by Dubai Culture and Arts Authority said

on Thursday.

Under the theme of "Dubai makes

Dreams Come True" the fashion show recognises that people with disabilities have much to offer and are capable of contributing to their local communit

It encourages people and communities to focus on a person's achievement and abilities rather than their disability. The aim of the fashion is to encourage positive attitudes towards

community a better place for everyone, issues and improve their access to facilities

The event attracted a huge audience of ministers, ambassadors and Emariti designers. The Dubai Culture and Arts Authority was thrilled at the supportive response given by the audience.

It became evident that students with

special needs have the urge and need for such exposure and socialization. Saeed Al Nabouda, Chief Projects Officer at the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai

"The Fashion Show is tailored to integrate individuals with special needs into the creative community. It represents an essential element of the authority's efforts to support distinguished projects and concepts and shape them into actions in the cultural sector".

Last year, the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) in llaboration with Rashid Pediatric Therapy Centre and The Events Agency launched the Development Program for Talented Special Needs Fashion Designers, which saw the participation many individuals with special needs for the UAE and other Arab countries.





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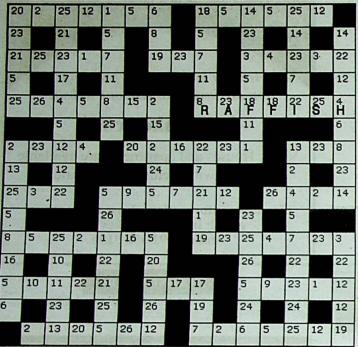
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Code Breaker Game



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Solution to last week's Codebreaker 3 | 25 | 1 | 6 | 20 | 13 | 10 | 15 | 14 | 24 | 17 | 17 | 6 | 19

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- 42 Anagram and syn-43 In the style of (2 wds.)
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- 4 Expired 5 Harsh smelling or tasting
 - 7 a.k.a. sweet potato
 - 8 A small amount 9 Tree of the genus Ulmus 14 Plural of 'GENUS' 17 Source
 - 18 River in West Germany 19 Margin of flesh around
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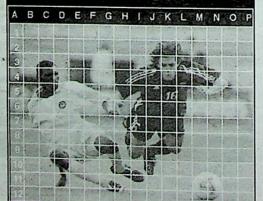
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SPOT THE BALL RESULT

The centre of the ball in last week's competion was in square 11 M (below)



Saturday (Al-Ma'a-Al-Sayf) May 30-June 5, 2009

The Descendant of Ancient Writing Instruments

TODAY we so take things for granted that few bother to stop and think and learn about the simple little things that have helped to make our life so easy to live. One such is the pencil, the descendant of ancient writing instruments.

It has a history too, that goes back to incient Rome, when scribes wrote on and made superior pencils and became growth of the forest is greater than the amount harvested from the forest. Forests ancient Rome, when scribes wrote on papyrus (an early form of paper) with a metal rod called a stylus, which left a light but readable mark. Other early sty-luses were made of lead. Today we still call the core of a pencil the "lead" even though it is made from non-toxic

Graphite came into widespread use following the discovery of a large graphite deposit in Borrowdale, England in 1564. It left a darker mark than lead, but was so soft and brittle that it required a holder.

At first, sticks of graphite were wrapped in string. Later, the graphite was inserted into wooden sticks that had been hollowed-out by hand! The woodcased pencil was born.
The first mass-produced pencils were

made in Nuremberg, Germany in 1662. There an active pencil industry developed with famous companies like Faber-Castell established in 1761, Lyra, Steadtler and others growing throughout the 19th century industrial revolution.
Until the war with England cut off imports, pencils used in America came

from overseas. William Monroe, a cabinetmaker in Concord, Massachusetts, made the first American wood pencils in 1812 as did another Concord area mak-

er, famous author Henry David Thoreau. Other early US manufacturers that helped industrialise pencil making in their country were Joseph Dixon Crucible Company (now Dixon Ticonderoga) and a number of factories established in New York and New Jersey towards the end of the 19th century by immigrants from the German industry including Faber Castell, Eberhard Faber, Eagle Pencil Company (Later Berol) and General Pencil

The first mass-produced pencils were unpainted, to show off their high-quality wood casings. However, by the 1890s, many manufacturers were painting their pencils and giving them brand names.

March 30 last year marked the 150th Anniversary of The Hymen Lipman patent on eraser tipped pencils.

Early American pencils were made from Eastern Red Cedar, a strong, splinter-resistant wood that grew in Tennessee and other parts of the southeastern United States.

Many Northern manufacturers set up wood mills in Tennessee and other Southern states where Eastern Red Cedar grows. Eventually much of the US pencil manufacturing industry estab-lished pencil factories in Tennessee where the remaining US producers are primarily concentrated today.

By the early 1900s, pencil manufacturers needed additional sources of wood, and turned to California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. There they found Incense



The Tripoli Post - Weekly English Language Libyan newspape

and made superior pencils and became the wood of choice for domestic and international pencil makers around the To ensure the continued availability of

Incense cedar, forest workers have carefully managed the stands of trees in which Incense cedar grows, and timber companies have been careful to harvest the trees on a sustained-yield basis.

"Sustained-yield" means that the annual

managed on a sustained-yield basis are abundant and healthy, and will continue

to provide wood for people and habitat for animals for generations to come. The history of the pencil industry includes a great number of important companies and brands from around the world. Many of the major brands now have factories throughout the world.

The reduction of trade barriers, the

of goods overseas, the comparative dif-ferences in raw material costs between countries and the lower cost of transport-ing people and information around the world have led the pencil industry like

many others to experience the challeng-ing impact of globalization.

As such, there has been a great shift in the past 20 years of where pencils are produced with increasing concentration of manufacturing in Asia.



direct clash that could prove the deciding match still to come on Day 27, defending champions Al-Ittihad have increased their lead at the top of the league standings over Al-Ahli Tripoli in the Libyan football league to four points, though with a game

more played.

Having won their midweek game against Al-Jazeera by 2-0, Al-Ittihad now stand on 61 points, with the other title contenders Al-Ahli Tripoli, whose 26th game against Al-Shat was postponed due to their commitment in the Al-Fateh Cup, which they won 2-0 against Al-Mukhtar, staying on 57 points after they were involved in yet another slip, the scoreless draw against Al-Madina on Day 25 last Sunday.

This latest loss of points by Al-Ahli allowed Al-Ittihad the chance to stand alone on top a point ahead and with an

alone on top a point ahead and with an equal number of games played. Then they ncreased the advantage to four at the end of their victory over Al-Jazeera on

So after leading the league standings for most of the season, Al-Ahli Tripoli are once again giving the impression that they don't possess the staying power compared to their cross-town rivals Ittihad who seem to be going great guns, as they always do

in the run-in to the championship

A few weeks ago Al-Ahli Tripoli had the chance to go six points ahead, but then completely lost out with two drawn games and now trail their opponents.

While Al-Ittihad have won their last six matches, Al-Ahli Tripoli have only won four and ware held to draws in two of their last four our ware.

last four games
Therefore it looks as if Day 27 when the

two meet will be the clincher. It could decide the fate for either, and therefore the

next venue of the championship.

Against Al-Jazeera, Al-Ittihad left no room for surprises and their victory was decided with two first half goals by

Khalaej Sirte v Al-Olomby Al-Anem Alaam v Alakhdar

Day 25

Al-Ahli Tripoli v Al-Madina

scored first minute and then again into added

the interval. In the rest of the programme. es finished ours even omby registering their 13th drawn

result from

6 games to stay below in the bottom half of the league standings. This time they drew 2-2 in Sirte against Khaleej.

The other drawn game, a scoreless one, was between Al-Hilal and Wefaq Sabratha Alakhdar were surprise 1-0 losers at Al-Anem Alaam who won with a goal with a second-half penalty goal scored by Mohamed Amraga. The three points helped the hosts to increase their points' tally in their bid to stave off relegation, while Alakhdar missed the chance to leapfrog over Al-Nasser, who have a game in hand, into fourth place.

Al-Swaihili defeated Al-Tirsana 2-1 to

oin the visitors in mid-table on	36 pon
ATEST RESULTS - Day 26	
-Ittihad v Al-Jazeera	2-0
Hilal v Wefaq Sabratha	0-0
Swaihili v Al-Tirsana	2-1
laej Sirte v Al-Olomby	2-2
Anem Alaam v Alakhdar	1-0
25	



Tripoli Side Faces Uphill Battle

African club competitions, Al-Ahli of Tripoli, face an uphill battle to qualify to the quarter finals of the CAF Confederation Cup Sunday when they play the return tie of the round of 16 away in Egypt against Haras El Hedoud after

drawing the first game in Tripoli 0-0.

A fortnight ago at the June 11 Stadium
Al-Ahli had enough chances to score,
but they either frittered them away or found a formidable goalkeeper in the opposing goal who kept them at bay.

Al-Ahli are in the same situation they

faced last month in the CAF Champions League when they had to go to Tunisia after a scoreless first game against ES. They lost then and were eliminated. Now they are in the 'consolation' com-petition reserved for the losers from the earlier rounds of the Champions League It is worth reminding that a 1-1 draw would favour the Libyan side thanks to the away goals counting double rule. But they need to score to win through,

and also keep their intact.

They are currently not in the best frame of mind to take on such opposition after losing the lead in the Libyan championship, but they must regroup their resources once again to stand a chance against El Hedoud

Weekend Fixtures

El Hedoud (Ept) v Al-Ahli Tripoli (Libya) Enppi (Ept) v Asec (Ivory Coast) CS Sfaxien (Tunisia) v 1º Agosto (Angola) Djoliba (Mali) v ES Setif (Algeria) M. Bamako (Mali) v Khemisset (Morocco) Bayelsa(Nigeria) v Kampala CC (Uganda) Santos (Angola) v El Ahli (Egypt) AS Vita (DRC) v Coton Sport (Cameroon)

Volleyball: Al-Ahli Tripoli Make it a Really Formidable Season

CHAMPIONS Al-Ahli Tripoli crowned a formidable season in volleyball by clinching the last honour on the taking this season, the Al-Fatch Cup, thus making it a League and Cup double on top of the prestigious bronze medal they won at the 2009 Men's African Club Championships in Cairo.

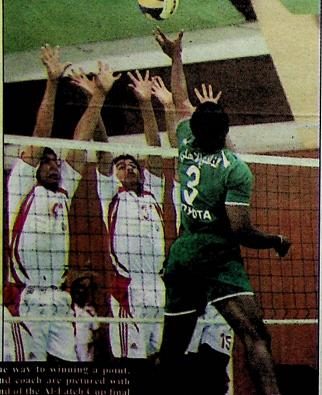
After winning their fifth league title, Al-Ahli

winning the competition three years running, by beating Al-Swaihili in three straight sets, 3-0 (25-19, 25-13, 25-15) in the final. As the final result so clearly indicates, Al-Ahli

recently also made it a hat-trick of Cup victories

were a streets ahead of their opponents in the final and were only really troubled once, in the first set.





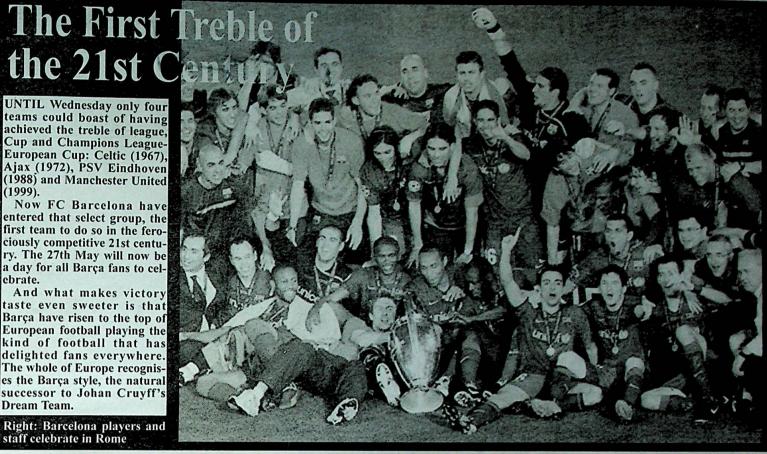
NTIL Wednesday only four eams could boast of having chieved the treble of league. Cup and Champions League-European Cup: Celtic (1967), jax (1972), PSV Eindhoven 988) and Manchester United Now FC Barcelona have itered that select group, the irst team to do so in the fero-

Saturday (Al-Ma'a-Al-Sayf) May 30-June 5, 2009

ciously competitive 21st centuy. The 27th May will now be a day for all Barça fans to cel-And what makes victory aste even sweeter is that

Barça have risen to the top of European football playing the kind of football that has delighted fans everywhere. he whole of Europe recognisthe Barça style, the natural uccessor to Johan Cruyff's ream Team.

Right: Barcelona players and staff celebrate in Rome



Barça Reign Supreme in Rome Final

SPANISH La Liga champions Barcelona stunned holders Manchester United to win their third UEFA Champions League crown with a 2-0 victory in Rome on Wednesday. In doing so they also created history by becoming the first club in Spain to win three major titles in one season, having also won the Copa del Rey trophy

Barcelona accomplished the feat in a superb display of the type of football that has typified what has been a magnificent season for them.

Goals from shining stars Samuel Eto'o and Lionel Messi gave the Catalans a deserved victory, ended Manchester minutes were United's run of 25 games unbeaten in the the longest of European competition and denied the my life. Even English club from becoming the first team to retain the title since the European Cup became the Champions League in 1993.

Barcelona also repeated a feat United achieved in 1999, which Red Devils boss Sir Alex Ferguson had then claimed would never be matched, and crowned a marvellous debut season for Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola, who at 38 becomes the youngest coach to take European club football's greatest prize.

For Cameroon international striker Eto'o it was the second time that he has scored in a Champions League final appearance. He repeated the feat when Barcelona defeated another English club, Arsenal, in

For Barca's French striker Thierry Henry

Barcelona in the 2006 final. "Finally have been waiting for so long for this

Henry said. He added: if we were 2-0 un we were playing the world

(referring to the FIFA Club World Cup title United won earlier this year)."

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson accepted defeat with good grace.
"We started the game brightly but the goal was a killer," said the 67-year-old Scot. "However, they are a better team than us. We conceded two bad goals. Our defence has been good all season but those were two shoddy goals to lose."

Barça overcame early jitters to dominate large parts of the game as the English club never managed to get their usual high tempo style into gear. In a clash billed as Gerard Pique

had to dive in to deflect Park's follow away for a corner.

But out of the b kuem Barca scored in two teams in

players on the

planet - only

one played to

full

their

Coach Pep Guar-

diola (left) and Lionel Messi

start with United

had a purple patch in which

he terrorised the

Spaniards for 10

minutes. He hit

kick that Valdes couldn't hold

United defender

their first attacking move through Samuel That goal settled Barça into their usual stride and they started to weave the pretty with each one boasting one

patterns that have been mesmerising opponents all season, carrying them to the remarkable feat of scoring more than 150

United gradually lost their shape and otential. rhythm and the Spanish side dictated play, Both sides to make certain with the second goal scored on 70 minutes by the shortest play-er on the field, Lionel

Messi.. Push as United though, they lacked their usual sparkle and Valdes's goal was rarely threat-

Barca forward Thierry Henry celebrated his side's triumph by insisting that victory, rather than the considerable style in which it was achieved,

ence. You can play good football, pass the ball well

Button 7th Driver to Win First Five of Six

ton of Britain, currently leading the Formula One championship managed to master Monaco's treacherous streets to chalk up his fifth victory in six races and lead another one-two finish for his team in this year's campaign.

Button's sixth career victory in

an untroubled drive from pole debut season in 60 years of com-

BRAWN GP team's Jenson But- position stretched his lead over team-mate Rubens Barrichello of Brazil to 16 points (51 to 35) with

11 more races to the end. Finland's Kimi Raikkonen, who started on the front row alongside Button took third place for Fer-rari's first podium finish in 2009. In the team's most astonishing

petition, Brawn GP have now fin-ished one-two three times Button, 29, who entered the

Button, 29, who entered the Formula One a decade ago became only the seventh driver to win five of the first six races of a season, the last being Germany's seven-times champion Michael Schumacher in 2004.

The Englishman dominated the

4. Felipe Massa 5. Mark Webber 6. Nico Rosberng 7. Fernando Alons 7. Sebastien Bourdais

Russian Heir Fights Yale over van Gogh Painting

A painting Vincent van Gogh dismissed as one of his "ugliest" is today the subject of a high-stakes ownership battle between Yale University and a heir to a Russian art collector.

The French Impressionist artist painted "Night Cafe" to pay his landlord, calling it "one of the ugliest I have done" in a letter to his brother Theo in 1888.

Today, van Gogh works fetch fortunes at auction and "Night Cafe," which depicts a cafe bathed in yellow-green light, is not only world famous, but the subject of an international legal tussle.

Parisian Pierre Konowaloff, greatgrandson of Russian industrialist and art collector Ivan Morozov, is challenging in a US federal court widely accepted norms that recognize the results of Soviet-era nationalization, at least when it comes to cultural items.

Morozov's real estate, textile factory and art collection were seized by Lenin in 1918. Although the Bolsheviks are long gone, their confiscation of priceless art -part of far wider repression against private property owners -- still stands.

In contrast, successful challenges have been made to ownership of treasures looted by the Nazis during World War II and passed on to other owners since.

Allan Gerson, an attorney known for pushing the boundaries of international law, wants to change that, saying that "Night Cafe" was acquired illegally and describing Lenin's "looting" as no different than that of the Nazis'.

"They (Yale) have to tell the difference. What is the difference? I contend there is no difference," Gerson told AFP.

In court papers filed last week, he said the "confiscation of cultural property was prohibited under prevailing customary and conventional international law."

Yale acquired the painting in 1961 as a posthumous gift from the American art collector and Yale graduate Stephen Clark.

Clark bought the painting around 1933 with the help of the Knoedler Gallery in New York City and the Matthiesen Gallery in Berlin from a sale by Stalin of Soviet-owned art.

Yale filed court papers in March asking a judge to declare it the owner of the painting in response to Konowaloff's challenge.

"The university believes it is the rightful owner and that the outcome of its filing will confirm that," Yale spokesman Tom Conroy said.

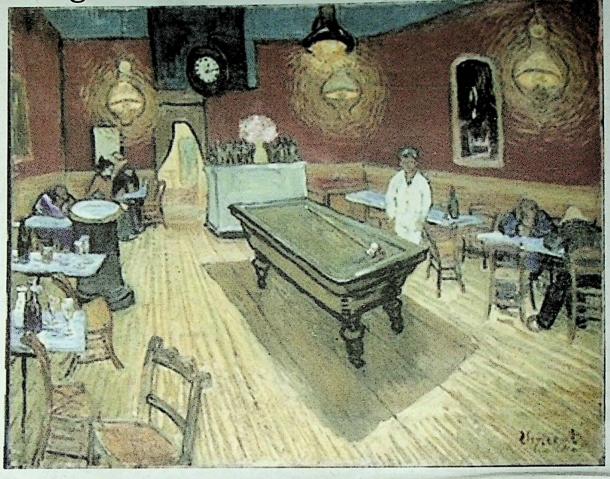
The Soviet nationalization of property, though "sharply at odds" with American values, was legal, Yale attorney Jonathan Freiman wrote in his petition to the court.

"Paintings that were nationalized by the Soviet government figure prominently in the collections of premier institutions throughout the world, including leading museums in Russia and the United States," Freiman wrote.

"It was accepted at the time, as it is now, that the sales by the Soviet government were valid, as were later acquisitions of the paintings. Yale had no reason to question the legitimacy" of the bequest, the court documents said.

In an interview with AFP, Freiman said the challenge was "not a viable legal claim" and that its success would set a dangerous precedent.

"There are many people who bought art from Russia in the 1930s, both individuals and museums," he said. A successful suit would "completely



unsettle museums and private collections."

Patty Gerstenblith, a law professor and director of DePaul College of Law's program in Cultural Heritage Law, said the challenge faces an uphill battle.

"Property nationalized during the Soviet Bolshevik revolution generally has been viewed as belonging to the Soviet Union," she said.

"Cases that seem to fit the fact pattern here have not succeeded in the past." But both Konowaloff and Gerson are

But both Konowaloff and Gerson as likely to prove determined fighters.

A former senior lawyer with the State Department and Justice Department, Gerson has advocated private lawsuits against governments regardless of the impact on foreign policy.

He was involved in suing Libya for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland that killed 270 people in 1988 and was settled by Libya for 2.7 billion dollars in 2003 in a deal linked to lifting trade sanctions against the country.

He currently represents relatives of

9/11 victims in federal court in New York who are suing Saudi Arabia for allegedly funding terrorism.

Konowaloff did not respond to email and telephone requests for an interview.

He is well known for an attempt two years ago to recover other artworks that belonged to his great-grandfather as they were being sent to a major exhibition in London.

The show was delayed at the request of Moscow until Britain passed legislation protecting Russia's ownership of the works.AFP

Acacus' Cave Paintings Vandalized

Some time around the middle of April, in an area of the Libyan Sahara on the Algerian frontier known as Tadrart Acacus, seven cave paintings from the Neolithic era, dating back to a period between 3,000 and 10,000 years ago, were vandalized with tins of spray paint.

The caves were declared UNESCO world heritage sites.

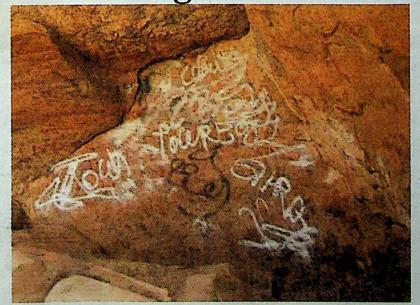
The crime was committed by a former tourist guide, a Tunisian citizen whose identity has not been revealed since he was arrested by local police on April 24.

The only news to have leaked out that the man was fired by an Italian tourist agency that has been doing business in area for many years.

"The red, black and white graffiti

"The red, black and white graffiti written in spray paint consists of insults addressed to the Libyan government and against Italians", says Juma Anag, the head of the Libya Department of Archaeology.

A mission from the Libyan department archaeology, together with colleagues from the Italo-Libyan Archaeological Mission from Rome's La Sapienza University, led by Professor Savino di Lernia, have visited the sites and assessed the damage....



According to di Lernia "the paintings - and the graffiti - are easily accessible to anyone who provides themselves with a simple desert pass".

Security for all these sites has up to now been entrusted to a few patrols of tourist and border police who share an immense territory between them.

The area of Tadrat Acacus alone covers 6,000 square kilometres.

This is too much for the scattered police patrols who have a growing number of tourists to control.(ANSAmed)