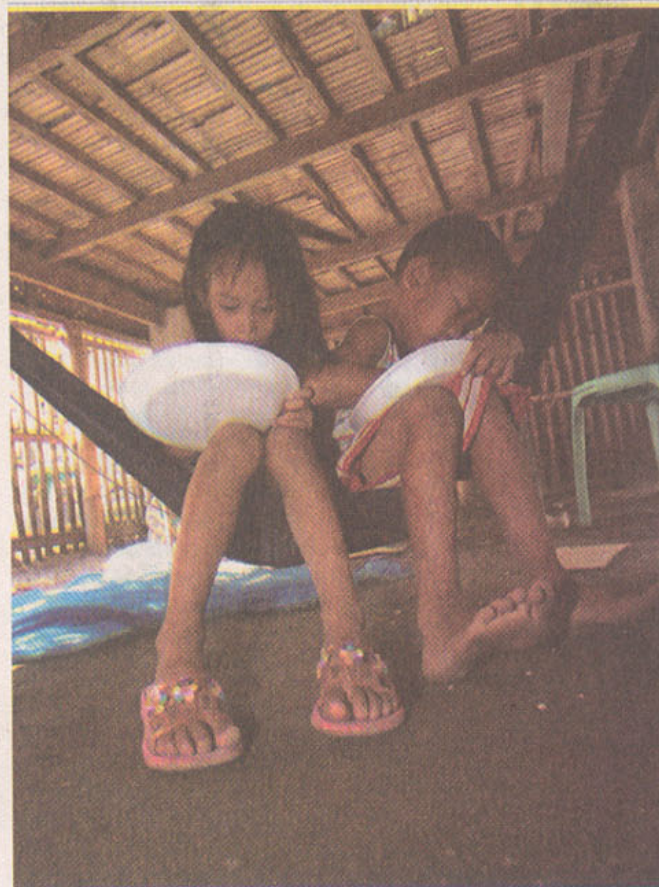
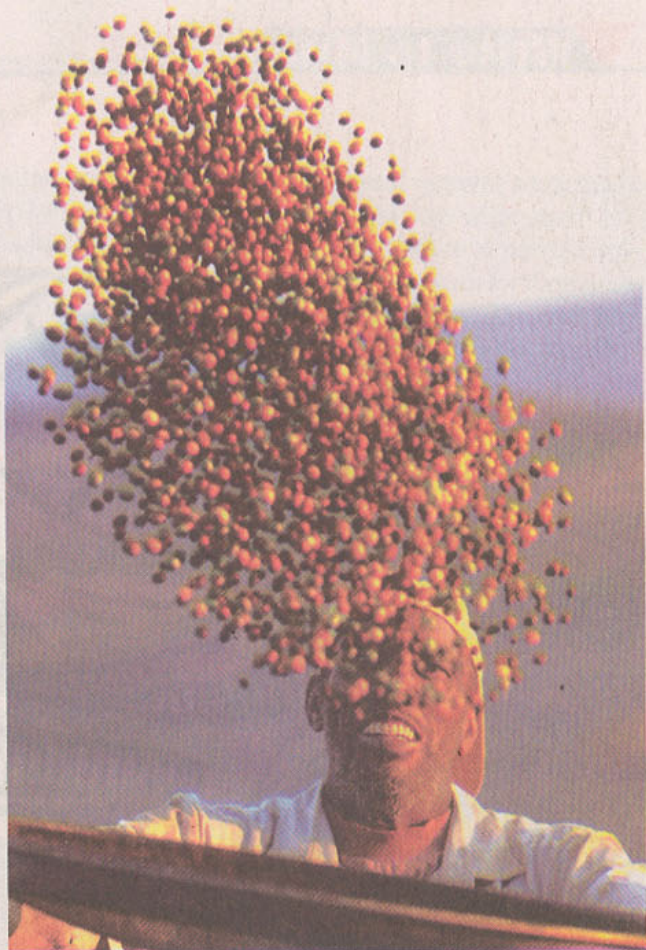




An Iraqi man locked inside a cell looks out from an opening at the Police station in a small town of Lutifiyah near the city of Mahmudiyah, some 60kms south of Baghdad July 2004. The fate of four foreign lorry drivers held hostage in Iraq hung in the balance, while four Iraqis died in flashes of violence as the interim government struggled to impose law and order. There was no news on the fate of two Bulgarians and an Egyptian, but a Filipino hostage made a final plea to his government to pull its troops out of Iraq in exchange for his life.



Children play at the earthen-floor dwelling, bamboo-thatched house, the residence of Angelo de la Cruz in Buenavista town, northern Philippines, July 2004. Filipino hostage De la Cruz, held by Iraqi militants threatening to behead him unless government pulls out troops from the war torn country. The Philippine government has denied it would withdraw troops from Iraq to save the life of the truck driver, as the family of de la Cruz anxiously awaits his fate.



A rural worker selects arabic coffee beans, 23 September 2004 at a farm near Varginha, in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The 20% drop in the price of coffee in less than a month and the possibility of the United States rejoining the Coffee International Organization has shaken hardly the coffee market in the first days of July 2004. According to analysts, the drop of prices was mainly caused by the lack of frost in Brazil, the world's main coffee bean producer, which every year destroys much of the harvest.



Indian villagers ride on a bamboo raft to escape floodwaters in the village of Deuduar some 40 km east of Guwahati, July 2004. The death toll from floods submerging eastern India reached 78 as five more people died in the northeastern state of Assam when two boats carrying families capsized in the region's central Kamrup District, a police spokesman said. Fifty-five deaths have been reported in northeastern India since annual monsoons began last month, while 23 people have died in the eastern states of Bihar and West Bengal.