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## Sheikh can't preach at London mosque

# Al-Masri gagged

By YEMEN TIMES NEWS SERVICES

LONDON — Britain's government most outspoken Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza al-Masri — who is wanted in Yemen on terrorism charges — has been removed from his post as imam at the Finsbury Park mosque. British authorities believe he has made the mosque an active recruitment center for

violent Islamic radicals.

The Charity Commission's decision to ban al-Masri from preaching at the north London mosque comes a day after he declared that the crew of the Columbia space shuttle — five Americans, an Indian-born Hindu and an Israeli — represented a "trinity of evil" punished with death by Allah.

Al-Masri said British Muslims would take it as a "sign from God" that the first Israeli astronaut was killed by a disaster over a town in Texas named Palestine. Days after the Sept. 11 attacks, Mr. Masri praised the 19 suicide hijackers as martyrs, saying, "Many people will be happy, jumping up and down at this moment."

Continued on page 3



## Saddam's vial of death?

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell holds up a vial that he described as one that could contain anthrax, during his presentation on Iraq to the U.N. Security Council, in New York, Feb. 5. Powell also used satellite photos to show before and after shots of suspected chemical weapons facilities that had mysteriously disappeared, and played recordings of intercepted conversations between Iraqi military officials to make his points. /Reuters

## Germans under pressure

# Sheikh's sons appeal

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
AND NEWS SERVICES

Sons of Sheikh Mohammed bin Ali al-Mouyad, a Sana'a mosque preacher who is being held in Germany, have made an appeal to the National Organization for Defending Human Rights (NODHR) to help

release their father and his companion, Mohammed Zaed.

The two are being held by German authorities on suspicions of having al-Qaeda links, while the German government is awaiting a formal extradition request from the U.S.

Al-Mouyad is a preacher at Al Ihsan

Mosque

Yemeni authorities have also asked that the two men be returned to Yemen.

The appeal has been sent by al-Mouyad's two sons, Zakaria and Ibraheem.

Al-Mouyad was detained by the German intelligence at Frankfurt airport on Jan. 1.

Continued on page 3

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**Islah official wants vote put off****Elections to be delayed?**

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Several politicians and observers have shown concern over Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani's suggestions and demands to postpone the next parliamentary elections due April 27.

They have described it as dangerous to the political and democratic drive in the country.

Al-Zindani, head of Islah's Shura Council and rector of Al-Eman university, has been reported to have demanded the delay of the upcoming elections due to the fear of violence that might take place due to the tensions in the region over U.S threats to strike Iraq.

Al-Zindani's demand has been said to affect the democratization process and political life at large since it will be the first time, if it takes place, that an election is delayed in Yemen since the

unification in 1990 and the first parliamentary election in 1993.

Al-Zindani cast his proposal during a meeting with President Ali Saleh last Tuesday, attended by leading members of the ruling party as well as opposition parties.

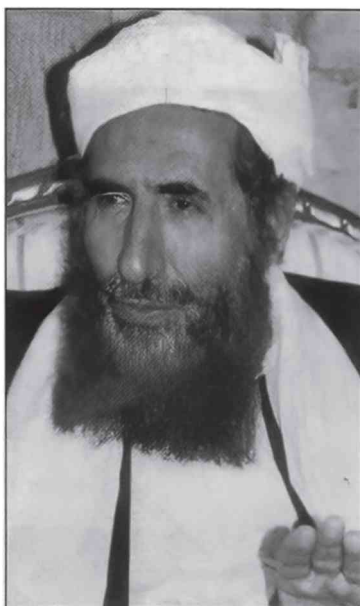
During the meeting, the president stressed the importance of creating a code of ethics or agreement ensuring a national rally to face the challenges.

Saleh called the parties to avoid violence and enhance democracy.

The initiative of the president was welcomed by all parties.

A committee was set up to collect the various views of all parties concerning the initiative. The opposition announced that they would present their ideas about the initiative to the president after the Eid vacation.

These views will call for a political and economic reform



Al-Zindani

**Security still watching suspect****Tensions in Marib continue**

Tensions in Marib are still high. Kidnappings are continuing between the tribes of Ma'rib and Sanhan.

Problems have arisen over the kidnapping of a person from Sanhan some weeks ago, by tribesman from al-Zaidi and in Marib.

Some tribesmen from Sanhan tribe kidnapped Ahmed Abdullah al-Dawlah last week.

The kidnapped, a student of medi-

cine in Iraq, was snatched from Sana'a to pressure the Al-zaidi tribe to release Tariq al-Sayani.

Al-Dawla doesn't have anything to do with al-Zaidi. Therefore, his tribe, al-Hamajiah belonging to Jiham tribe, kidnapped two persons from Sanhan.

These acts of tribal revenge kidnappings have intensified the situation in Ma'rib, as military forces are still in the area of Sirwah in Marib to pressure al-Zaidi tribesmen to release the

Sanhan hostage who is a relative of a military official.

Tribal sources in Marib said al-Zaidi is receiving medical care, while under a siege by security officials.

Al-Zaidi was wounded in clashes with security men.

He is accused of having links to al-Qaeda and is described as a most dangerous person.

Jiham tribe is refusing to let security arrest him.

**Electrical project launched**MOHAMMED ALMASANI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In one of its projects that aim to reinforce generating 60 Megawatts Al-Ahram company has implemented a power electricity power station with international specifications and standards in Hizyaz.

President Saleh inaugurated it on in attendance of Minister of Electricity Hassan Abdu Gaid.

Al-Ahram Company represents international companies in making equipment and exporting them. Through the last year the company started entering tenders to implement huge projects as the power generating project with 60 Megawatts that includes four stations in Sana'a, al-Hodeida, Taiz and Aden.

In statement, Jaid, said that the success of this project gives a big motivation in future to implement

similar tremendous developmental projects that serve the country and the people as well as push the wheel of development and improving forward



Hassan A. Jaid

**Insurance deal reached**

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen has reached an agreement with hull insurers in London to underwrite war-risk cover for ships calling at its ports, brokers revealed today.

Under the deal, reached Jan. 27

through brokers Marsh & McLannan, the deal has deposited \$50M in an escrow account.

In addition, Yemen has committed to further subsidizing insurance costs for dry cargo carriers.

Insurers have, in the aftermath of

the Oct. 2002 attack on the supertanker Limburg, imposed repercussions at the al-Mukaila terminal and the PSA Corp-managed container terminal at Aden, until better security is provided.

**Safety measures taken to protect inlets**

Gen. Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, head of the Association Traveling & Tourism Agencies, along with Hafeedh Meaiad, chairman of Yemen's Custom Authority, and Ahmed Yahya al-Shami, Brigadier General and deputy governor of Haja, recently inaugurated a new security system for traffic coming through the Yemeni inlets.

This is considered the first step of its kind in Yemen, and comes out of the efforts of President Ali Abdullah Saleh that aim keep inlets safe and develop in the tourism and investment fields.

Ahmed Mohammed al-Haj, general manager of Hardh Customs and Mohammed al-Kebisi, general man-

ager of Arab and Foreign Affairs at the Emigration, Passports and Naturalization Authority and a number of administrative and security leadership attended the event.

Mr. Radhi, general manager of Sana'a Beverage and Industrial Company Limited, representative of the project sponsorship company attended too.

It is expected that this developing



Gen. Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh

system will facilitate the freedom of vehicles to Yemen through the land inlets, and also help tourism and commercial activity.

**Want to win April 27 vote****Opposition parties show united front**BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a joint meeting last week, Yemen's six opposition parties have signed an agreement to coordinate their efforts during the next parliamentary elections April, 27.

The agreement emphasizes that these parties will work together to get their candidates to win the election.

The agreement stressed that these parties ensure the seats they have now, and work to increase the number by taking into account the situation of the YSP, which boycotted the 1997 election.

It also dictates that these parties must not complete each other if the winner will be another party other than the six, and that they should coordinate with other parties, which would affect the aforementioned parties.

According to the agreement, these parties should work together to get their leading members to win the election, provided that he should have a chance to win. Competition between these parties in other constituencies should be done in a more democratic way that ensures fair play.

The agreement also point out that it is important that it is implemented, figuring out the constituencies in which coordination will be car-

ried out.

The agreement was signed after a ceremony held to commemorate Jarallah Omar, YSP assistant secretary-general, who was assassinated Dec. 28 by an Islamic fanatic.

This agreement is the first practical step the opposition parties have taken with regards to the election. The parties said this agreement aims to enhance and enrich the democratization drive in the country, ensuring fair play in the upcoming elections.

It also aims to activate the parliamentary life through a good presence for the opposition in parliament, which should play an important role that strengthens the political and democratic system.

During the memorial ceremony, the YSP secretary general Ali Saleh Ubad said the condemnation of Omar's assassination was a strong message to terrorists.

He emphasized that there is a link between those who have such infidelity and those who get interest in oppression. He said that those who consider the assassination of Omar is a personal act are attempting to cover up the nature of this matching.

Ubad pointed out that as religious fanaticism is a cornerstone for terrorist acts, lusts for tyranny are the real user and investor of terrorism.

**Suspected al-Qaeda links****Syrian security arrest four Yemeni students**BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Because of suspicion of having a link with al-Qaeda organization, Syria security authorities arrested last December four Yemeni students and prevented them from having their exams in Syrian University.

The relatives of four students who could not communicate with them for a while for they do not know their place, called the officials in the Yemeni Interior Ministry to interfere and find out their place.

According to AL-Uma newspaper issue Feb. 6, Yemeni Ministry of

Interior has asked the Syrian government for a quick explanation for disappearing of the four students who study in Syria but the Syrian authorities has not given any in spite of the security treaty that has been signed between the two countries during the visit of the Yemeni Prime Minister Bajamal last month.

It is worthy to mention that the Yemeni students in many countries especially in Germany, United States, Syria and Jordan have been exposing for investigation and arrest charging them of suspicion to have a link to al-Qaeda organization.

**Readers' Voice**

Yemen Times is pleased to ask the opinion of our readers.

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**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

Do you think that Sheikh Al-Moyaeid will be handed over by the Germans to the USA?

- Yes, and then he will be sent to Guantanamo.
- Yes, but he won't be sent to Guantanamo.
- No, he will stay in Germany for trial.
- No, he will be sent back to Yemen

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:**

Do you think the UN Security Council will issue a new resolution to allow the war against Iraq?

**Answers:**

- Yes, a resolution will be passed unanimously like 1441 (35%)
- Yes it will pass with majority vote as a few countries will vote against it (35%)
- No, it will not be passed because it will not get majority or it will be vetoed (30%)

Go to our website at: [yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll) and have your voice heard!

**Renowned scholar in Yemen**BASSAM JAMEEL AL-SAQAF  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Jamal al-Banna paid a visit to Yemen last week and held a number of symposiums and lectures including a seminar at the Faculty of Arts in Sana'a University.

The symposium was attended by Dr. Hussein al-Bukari the dean of the Arts faculty and a host of prominent professors in the university.

Al-Banna has dealt with many intellectual and Islamic issues.

Jamal al-Banna, 83 is an opulent thinker, having inherited his knowledge and learning from his ancestors.

His father, Ahmed Abdurahman Assati, is an author of the book titled, Al-Fat-h Arrabani, (Celestial triumph), his brother Hassan al-Banna is the founder of the Muslims Brothers Movement, Abdurahman al-Banna, has a pioneering experience in theatre, and Abdulbasit Al-Banna is a well-

known writer, poet, and playwright and Fowzia al-Banna is a chairwomen for one of the intellectual societies.

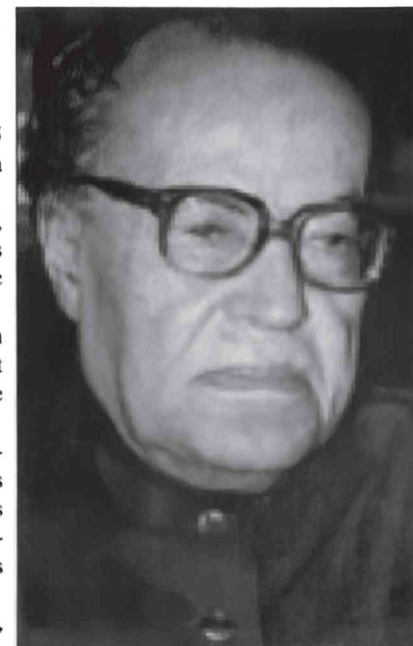
He has written more than 105 books and has a keen interest in a number of the political issues.

Al-Banna is a religious scholar, who has a genius mind and has called for renewal of the Islamic and jurisprudence and thought.

He possess moderate views on women's veil, (hejab) and said that there no necessity for hejab on the part of women.

He has written a book consisting of three parts titled Towards New Jurisprudence. This book has caused controversy among the educated and scholarly where he has called for an Islamic revival.

Within the coming weeks, Yemen Times will publish a comprehensive interview with him.



Jamal al-Banna



**Ali Seyf says party under reformation**

# Excluded Nasserite speaks out

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

"I admit that some of Nasserite members will disagree with my views and opinions in the political and partisan arena.

Their rejection is not restricted to the contents of these views. They also reject my style in discussions and the expressions I use. That is because they're unfamiliar to them.

They also see that it is a threat against their safety."

Such are the words of Ali Seyf Hassan, in an interview with the Times.

Hassan has been recently excluded from the Nasserite party under the pretext of breaching bylaws of the party.

He told the Times that he has totally accepted the exclusion, decision despite of the party's violation to rules and bylaws.

"Only 19 out of 79 members have unanimously agreed to exclude him from the party's affiliation. Out of 79, only 24 members belong to the central committee and have voted in favor of the decision," he said, adding, "Despite of total rejections made by the majority of Nasserite members, I accept the decision," he noted.

It has to be mentioned that Hassan is one of the leading active founders of the party during 1960s and has occupied several posts.

"You know very well, (journalists) that I'm completely conversant with posing political opinions and I'm a key

participant in symposiums, declaring statements, conducting interviews and am one of the activists for accomplishing the democratic transition in Yemen as one of the inexperienced democratic countries," he told the Times reporter.

As for being charged with spying for the benefit of the US intelligence and Saudi Arabia, he said: "There is a certain kind of inherited malicious style used by some organizations and parties with a view of getting rid of opponents. That is known as the betrayal of whispering campaign for paralyzing the opponent reactions. I have been aware of transforming such betrayal from whispering in order to become known for all. This has been clearly seen when I have achieved tremendous successes and thus I could gain the public opinion in a positive manner. This has also made me to be confident and persistent."

As for his experience in the Nasserite affiliation in Yemen, Hassan said that the party itself has been still under a slow reformation stage. "We have been still transforming our dogma from certainty to uncertainty. From uncertain point of view, we are in need to reconsider our beliefs and improving it for the better. In this way, we can go ahead and that is what we actually do and other comrades in reality do the same," he noted.

The future of the party depends entirely on building its rules of procedures on the basis of modern methods.

"If the party could encompass its



Ali Seyf Hassan

political and systematic internal issues in accordance with the modern context, it will undoubtedly, be a key partner in building the future of Yemen," he said.

"We pin our hopes in the party's youths to establish a basic infrastructure for the party during the forthcoming parliamentary elections. This can be achieved through establishing new foundations for the Party in Yemen as that of the Labor Party in Britain and other socialist European parties," he concluded.

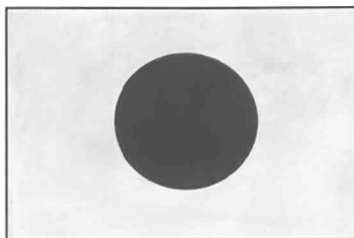
Mr. Hassan, 52, has had a wide international exposure with an MA in business administration from Michigan University, has traveled to many countries of the world and has participated in many meetings.

BY MONEER MOH. SAEED  
YEMEN TIME STAFF

A U.S. team including Jonathan Wood, Director of U.S. Mine Clearing Program, paid a visit last week to the Mine Clearing Center in Aden.

The US team toured the different sections of the center and got acquainted with training and rehabilitating operations, how to deal with mine clearing, and means of protection.

## Japan aid to Yemen Towards a cleaner country



Realizing the fact that cleanliness has a direct impact on health, environment and tourism, the government of Japan has decided to help Yemen's waste management.

The contribution will be a seminar to give concerned officials from different governorates the opportunity to discuss the problems of solid waste management across the country.

A Japanese embassy press notes that that under the scheme called "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects", the government of Japan will give \$15,500 for the two-day seminar in Sana'a to exchange opinions and experiences to make Yemeni cities cleaner and more attractive.

The seminar will discuss how to improve cleanliness among the public.

The agreement concerning this seminar was signed on Feb.2 by Abdulla Sonbol, deputy mayor of Sana'a, and Masamitsu Oki, ambassador of Japan.

Japan support solid waste management projects in many governorates, especially in Sana'a and other major cities.

The U.S. team was given detailed explanations of the program activity by Fadhil Gharama, the Manager of Mine Clearing in Aden. Gharam said that the mines unit has achieved great success.

He highly spoke of the US efforts in this regard for supporting the center with the necessary equipment and training. The program activity has started in 1989.

The mines unit has cleared around thousands of mines over thousands of square kilometers in Yemen.

# U.S. delegation visits mines unit

Continued from page 1

## Al-Masri gagged

Al-Masri, a 44-year-old Egyptian-born militant Muslim, "had used his position within the charity to make inappropriate political statements," the Charity Commission announced. "The action we have taken today enables the trustees of the North London Central Mosque to govern the charity so that it can do the important work for which it was originally established," John Stoker, the chief charity commissioner, said in a statement.

Al-Masri wears a hook where a hand was blown off by a land mine in Afghanistan 20 years ago. At the mosque, he has praised Osama bin Laden and encouraged young Muslims in London to join a "holy war" against the West, calling Prime Minister Tony Blair a "legitimate target" in that war. The commission opened its inquiry of Mr. Masri after his "extreme comments" about the Sept. 11

terrorist attacks, a spokesperson said.

Last April the Charity Commission suspended al-Masri from his leadership of the mosque. Sush Aman, a spokeswoman for the commission, said al-Masri's remarks about last week's shuttle disaster had "absolutely no connection at all" to the commission's decision. "It is completely and utterly coincidental," Ms. Aman said.

Al-Masri's lawyers have three months to file an appeal with the High Court. If al-Masri continues to preach at the mosque, he can be charged with criminal contempt of court, Aman said.

However, al-Masri is free to pray outside the mosque, which remains closed after 150 policemen in riot gear used battering rams and ladders in a surprise 2 a.m. raid on Jan. 20. Seven people were arrested at the mosque on charges related

to the discovery of the deadly poison ring in a London apartment on Jan. 5.

Every Friday since the police raid, al-Masri has led prayers and continued to preach in the street outside the mosque. al-Masri challenged the Charity Commission's authority to remove him from the mosque's leadership position.

"The reason for banning me is for making political comments against America and Israel," al-Masri said in a telephone interview with Reuters. "The Charity Commission has actually collaborated with the police to close the mosque, and actually to hijack the whole mosque."

Al-Masri's remarks about the victims of the space shuttle disaster touched off a powerful wave of outrage and fury all over Britain.

Al-Masri declared: "The Muslim people see these pilots as criminals. By going

into space, they would have sharpened the accuracy of their bombs through satellites." He also said, "The fact that the motor of the craft fell on Palestine — all these are messages from God."

Oliver Letwin, the shadow home secretary, said he was appalled at al-Masri's remarks, calling them "monstrous, appalling, despicable and outrageous."

Among the worshippers at the Finsbury Park mosque who have heard al-Masri's preachings: Richard C. Reid, the Briton who was sentenced in the United States last week to 110 years in prison for trying to blow up a Miami-bound jet from Paris in December 2001 with explosives hidden in his shoes, and Zacarias Moussouli, the French citizen of Moroccan descent who faces conspiracy charges in Alexandria, Va., in connection with the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

# Shiekh's sons appeal

The NODHR has expressed its sorrow for al-Mouyad's detainment, for he is known as a moderate religious figure in Yemen.

He is a philanthropist and has showed his love for the needy and poor.

The NODHR has further stated that detaining him longer will hurt Germany's good reputation in Yemen, will damage its credibility on terror and terrorists and put fear in people travelling to Germany.

The Yemen Times received a faxed letter from the NODHR where it has called for an immediate release of al-Mouyad and his companion, and a request for an apologize from Germany.

The Yemeni government reiterated its demand to hand over the arrested sheikh and his companion to Yemeni authorities according to international

law.

At the same time intensified efforts are currently being exerted on the government by many Islah and religious affiliates to pressure the government to bring him back to Yemen.

Several small rallies took place in various areas in Sana'a in support of al-Mouyad.

U.S. officials have said al-Mouyad, a preacher at Al Ihsan Mosque, one of the main mosques in Sana'a, is a significant fund-raiser for al Qaeda but not a financial official for al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

But a German court determined last week not to take information submitted by the U.S. as evidence that he has a link with al-Qaeda organization.

The German court said it considers the information not convincing evidence to find al-Mouyad guilty, and is asking for stronger evidence.

The court has put 40 days as a legal period to have the final word in the case.

Ahmed al-Mouyad, Sheikh Mohammed's son, told Reuters in Sana'a previously that his father had left for Frankfurt for medical treatment and denied his father was connected to "any terrorist groups."

Yemeni officials in Sana'a said both men were members of the religious Islah party. Islah party members denounced their arrest and said they had no connection to al Qaeda.

An extradition request by the United States could cause a legal battle with Germany, as German law does not allow the extradition of suspects if they could face the death penalty in the state to which they are extradited.

It was previously reported that the arrested al-Mouyad told Yemen's ambassador to Germany —

Muhyiyeiddin Al-Dhabbi — that he was invited to Germany to receive financial aid, according to weekly 26 September.

"Al-Mouyad said that a Yemeni person, whose name was mentioned, told him that an American Muslim named 'Saeed was willing to provide him with financial assistance to be spent on charity for Yemen. He said that the person said he would only give the money if al-Mouyad would travel either to Germany or the US for this reason,'" said the newspaper.

Hence al-Mouyad said that he traveled to Germany only for this purpose and indeed met with 'Saeed', who gave him a check notebook two days before his arrest and told him that he can withdraw any amount he needs on a monthly basis. He also noted that the Yemeni person had disappeared following that," added the newspaper.

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Request that US work with UN on Iraq

# YSP leaders meet US Ambassador

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANAA — The US Ambassador to Sana'a Edmund Hull met with YSP officials Feb. 2 to talk about a range of issues.

YSP officials in the meeting included Saif Sael Khaled, the Secretary General Assistant, Dr. Mohammed al-Mekhlafi, the Political Office member and other the members at the Yemen Socialist Party, at the YSP office in Sana'a.

During his meeting, the US Ambassador expressed his concerns over the killing the US aid workers at the Baptist hospital in Jibla.

He further indicated in his speech that such terror acts have greatly affected Yemen's national interests and its relations with the countries of the world.

He stressed the great significance of cooperating and mobilizing efforts along with other bodies to fight terror.

Hull expressed US support to democratic-oriented principles and the upcoming parliamentary elections, pointing out the vital role played by the American Democratic Institute in this regard.

He emphasized how much economic assistance has been granted to Yemen and the Yemeni people.

Hull also dealt with the US policy towards Iraq and efforts made to settle the Palestinian issue within the framework of establishing an independent Palestinian state.



Edmund Hull

On his part, Dr. Saif Sael Khaled expressed his party's sorrow for the killing of the US aid workers, and the recent Colombia space tragedy.

Khaled spoke highly of the economic development and enhancing the democracy, justice and disseminating and demanding justice at the international level.

He indicated also that Yemen has a need for economic support to achieving comprehensive development.

On Iraq, he demanded a peaceful solution towards the crisis so the entire region is kept stable.

"Launching war against Iraq will not solve the problem. It will, therefore, provoke further tensions and absolute chaos, suffering of the people and will also help to spread hatred among nations," the YSP leadership declared.

Lifting sanctions against Iraq and achieving a comprehensive compromise through the peaceful means, working with the UN, and the Security Council is the best solution for the Iraq's issue, said the YSP.

The YSP leaders also demanded an end to aggressions against the isolated nation of Palestine.

Israel has to yield to the international legislation and evacuate from the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese lands and establish an independent Palestinian state to achieve stability and cooperation among nations in the region.

# Seminar on media wraps up

In a seminar held on January 3-4 by the Mass Media Training & Qualifying Institute (MMTQI), managers at the media institutions recommended determining the training and rehabilitating needs for the media institutions.

In this context, an executive committee has been set up which was entrusted with training and coordinating with the concerned bodies in media bodies.

Participants during the 2-day seminar, emphasized on media institutions

needs for training programs during 2003 and finding mechanisms for the media.

During the closing ceremony, the dean of MMTQI, Dr. Abdullah al-Zalab, stressed on the necessity to keep in touch with the training organizations interested in the media affairs.

Al-Zalab pointed out that remote training systems have been imported by the MMTQI in collaboration with UNISCO and other organizations to support the MMTQI in technical aspects.



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*This is justice?*

## Prisoner without a trial

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A Yemeni citizen has been under arrest in a prison in Taiz governorate for more than a year and a half without any criminal charge or legal justifications. The who is named Abdullah Mohammed M. al-Hubaishi was detained in a precautionary prison in Taiz., but despite directives by the attorney general, the minister of human rights and the speaker of the parliament, Taiz security

continued refusing his release.

Al-Hubaishi was arrested in May 2001 as a major to force his runaway son, surrender himself to authorities. Al-Hubaishi son is accused of a murder in Sana'a.

One day there was exchange of fire-shooting between traffic policemen and a group of citizens at al-Azrakain checkpoint. It resulted in the death one of a citizen from Sa'ada and disappearance of the murder suspect.

However, Taiz security administration imprisoned the father until the son hands himself over.

It seems that there are tribal notables are putting pressure on Taiz security to continue al-Hubaishi's detention.

A delegation from Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have visited the prisoner and asked the security authorities in Taiz to release al-Hubaishi as quick as possible.

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## Need new regional peace strategy

One of the negative effects of the 9/11 attacks on America is an increasing Israeli influence in the region, according to a Sudanese writer who held a two-day seminar on politics and security in the Middle East.

In the south, there is a massive American presence in the Gulf, south of the Red Sea and in the Indian Ocean as well.

In the north, there is a stronger Israeli presence, starting from Elat to nearby Bab al-Mandab, that indicates Israeli interest in this area and its importance for Israel security.

Beshari Mohammed Saleh, a Sudanese writer and experts who lives in Yemen, led the seminar at the Yemeni Information and Documentation Center.

Called 'Sept. 11's Political, Economical and Security Effects on the Countries along the Red Sea' the seminar was attended by a number of researchers and interested people.

Two of its recommendation are:  
- Put in place a security strategy for countries in the region to ensure the peace and protect the interests and the safety of passing through waters and sea outlets to guarantee the interests of



Participants in the peace seminar.

friendly countries, according to the bilateral agreements and regional and international conventions, and to confirm the sovereignty of the region and the free will of its people.

- Seek a charter to curb the terror and sea and air piracy and ensure a

clear definition for terror, and establish shared cooperation between the regional countries and U.S and its allies in fighting the terror, without interfering in the national sovereignty and attacking the innocent citizens for unjust suspicion.

*Plan will protect environment*

## Road in Socotra is on the way

A special meeting was held Feb. 4 by the Ministry of Public Works and Urban Development (MPWUD) to review the status and plans for the construction of the road to Qalansya, Socotra Island.

After initial addresses and introductory remarks by the Minister of Health, James Rawley of UNDP, and Mr. Shidewa of the EPA, the Minister of PWUD illustrated the ministry's position regarding plans for the construction of the road to Qalansya village, in the western part of Socotra Island.

Public Works Minister Abdullah Hussein Ad Dafai said the ministry always and will continue to take all necessary measures to avoid or minimize damage to the environment, and is very sensitive to the issues raised by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MOTE).

This is particularly the case in Socotra, in recognition of its special conservation status.

The minister said the new road under construction in Socotra will not pass through the Datwah Lagoon,

which is the most important protected area in the Western part of Socotra.

The road plan will be developed in full compliance with the indications provided by the EPA team on the Island, and consistently with the Presidential Decree about the Socotra Conservation Zoning Plan.

The road to Qalansya is very important to the people of the western part of the island, and the Ministry will take all action required to ensure that the project is completed as rapidly as possible.

The MPWUD has no budget constraints for the implementation of the Qalansya road project. Therefore any additional work that may be required to comply with the conservation zoning plan will be implemented, in close collaboration with the EPA/MOTE.

The EPA and MPWUD contractor teams on the island of Socotra will continue to work very closely with government agencies. Socotra is of paramount importance, to preserve its unique natural and cultural heritage.

This will achieve sustainable economic development for the people of Socotra and for Yemen as a whole.

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Mr. Mohammed Dasogi, Marketing Director of Adhban Trading Corporation (right) and Mr. Dimitri Eid, Mitsubishi Sole Distributor in Lebanon, while attending the Outlander Exhibition in Beirut, Lebanon

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Head of institute in Moscow

# Vitaly Naumkin: Portrait of Soqatra's first ethnographer (part 1 of 3)

By SERGE D. ELIE  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Prof. Vitaly Naumkin is the first, and the only one thus far, to have written an ethnography of the inhabitants of the Soqatra archipelago. He has dedicated part of his career to researching the ancient civilizations of the southeastern part of Yemen for over thirty years.

When I met with him in Hadiboh in the winter of 2002, he was on a one-week reconnaissance trip to the island to try to reconnect with the place and assess the feasibility of pursuing new research ideas. As he explained, "I am tired of what I have been doing for the past ten years, as I have been occupying a number of administrative posts."

He is currently the Director of the International Centre for Strategic & Political Studies, as well as the head of the Centre for Arab Studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow. Also, he is the Editor in Chief of "Orient" the magazine of the international centre.

He was relishing the recently offered opportunity to spend the upcoming semester at the Berkeley campus of the University of California, to teach Islamic politics. This was his first appointment in the US, and it was perhaps a form of international recognition of him as a scholar who has achieved some prominence in his field.

Also, perhaps this was an opportunity created by the cataclysmic event of September 11, 2001, and the need felt by the American academy to palliate the phobia against Islam it had given rise to, by recruiting knowledgeable international scholars to provide a more sober perspective than what might be available locally.

He acknowledged that he was not the same man he was thirty years ago when he arrived in Soqatra for the first time in 1974. He was perhaps referring to his changed look. The black beard had

turned entirely white and the hairline had receded all the way back.

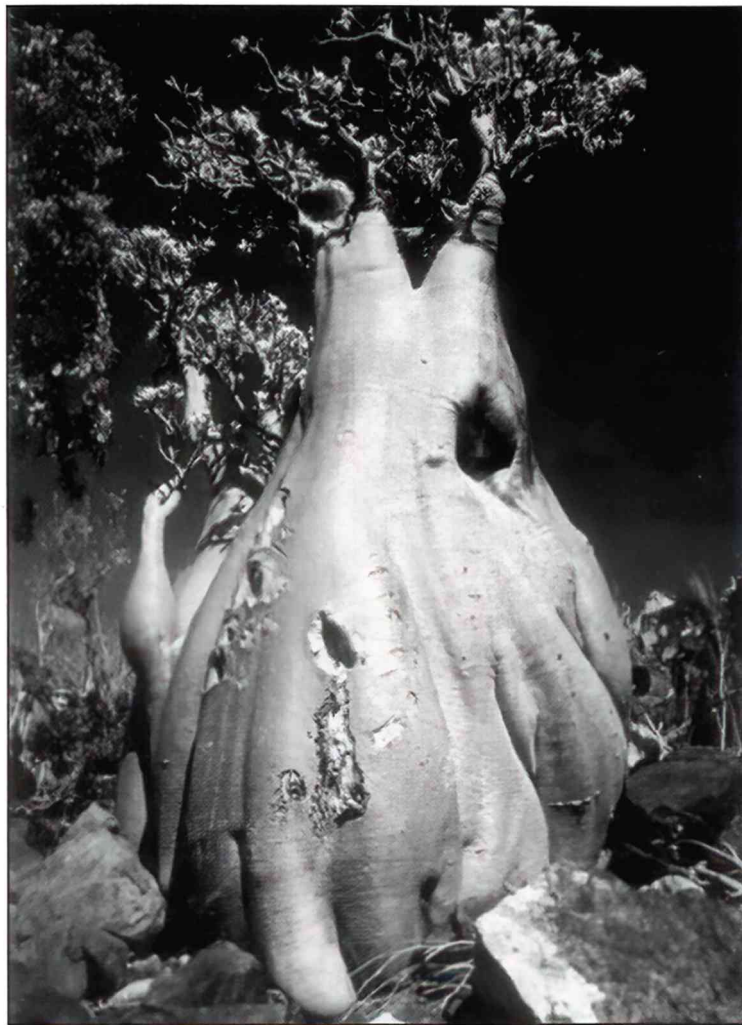
Nevertheless, he felt he still had something left to contribute. Three colleagues archaeologists accompanied him. The current mission was self-financed, which is an indication of his renewed commitment to do research on the island. His last visit was about two years ago after an absence of ten years, and was funded by a German foundation for linguistics research. From now on he hopes to return to Soqatra more regularly.

## Intellectual background

I asked him how he would describe himself as a scholar, given his multiple intellectual interests. Surprisingly, he said he considered himself a historian in the tradition of the historical comparison school, since he has been involved in studying the histories, the peoples and the languages of the Middle East. His doctoral dissertation was on Islamic history and philosophy of the 11th century. It was an assessment of the contribution of the Sufi theologian Al Ghazali to Islamic thought. His second dissertation for a state doctorate was on Yemeni history.

He began his academic career as a teacher of Islamic Studies. Social anthropology seemed to have been a secondary intellectual preoccupation, at least to linguistics. For in the context of Soqatra his primary interest seemed to have been linguistics, or more specifically ethno-linguistics. In effect, Prof. Naumkin is a product of the four-field specialization of anthropology that prevailed during the classical period of the discipline, namely: socio-cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, linguistics and archaeology. He accepted the designation of being an Orientalist.

As he saw nothing imperialistic about the term in spite of Edward Said's devastating attack on those who studied the Orient. For him the term is merely a reference to the specialist of a particular



A tree in Soqatra.

geographical area of the world, as Europeanist or Africanist would apply to those who study Europe or Africa, and did not connote any hegemonic political design, at least not on his part.

Indeed, "Orient" is the title of the journal he edits, and as such betrays a certain innocence vis-à-vis the negative connotative baggage associated with the term. He admitted the influence of British social anthropology. It was not clear whether this influence was due to

personal contact or a certain affinity with the conceptual repertoire of British anthropology, especially with the concepts of kinship and social structure as well as the evolutionary emphasis of its discursive practice. He was also fond of semiotic analysis, which he deployed in his first Doctoral dissertation to complement the philological exegesis of Al Ghazali's texts.

In terms of the social anthropology/Orientalist scholars on

Yemen, he holds in high regard he mentioned Paul Dresch, Walter Dorsal and R. B. Serjeant. The choice of these three exemplars betrayed an attachment to, or predilection for, the traditional/classical—I am tempted to say even pre-modernist—discursive tradition.

The designation "pre-modernist" is invoked here especially in the case of Serjeant who seemed to mimic, in some of his writings, a method similar to that of "isnad", which is a mode of argumentation that entails the genealogical tracing of evidence through uncritical listing of references to who said what, where and when, used by some of the Arab medieval scholars he studied. In the case of Dresch, tribalism in Yemen is seen as an ontological fatality, and he seemed more preoccupied with maintaining anthropology's ancestral legacies through demonstrating the continued pertinence of the received suppositions of the theories on the Arab Middle East formulated by his 19th century precursors, especially William Robertson

Smith.

The intent here is not to minimize their substantial scholarship, but to point out that at the current disciplinary and historical juncture such discursive practices and theoretical emphases appear problematic indeed. In fairness to Prof. Naumkin, however, it should be noted that the menu of published ethnographic works from which to choose is particularly meager, and the consumption of what is on offer does not necessarily induce intellectual admiration, but skepticism vis-à-vis the interpretations of Yemen's cultural realities that these works contain.

These interpretations—or better, vagaries of the Occidental imagination—range from the prosaic to the fantasist, and convey an impression of the Yemeni cultural subject as archetypically "traditional", which is a euphemism for pre-modern exotic. When asked if he had gone through an intellectual transition, he said no, just a progression.

To be continued...

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## Party hosted by embassy in Sana'a

# Iran and its revolution

By MOHAMMED AL-MASANI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A dinner party was hosted by the Irani Embassy in Sana'a in celebration of the 24th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran on Feb. 4 at the Taj Sheba Hotel.

The party was attended by the diplomats, ambassadors, military men, social dignitaries, journalists and a host of others.

Celebrating the Islamic revolution is a part of the celebration taking place in Iran when helicopters rained flowers over Tehran and sirens wailed across the city last week.

When Imam Khomeini left Iran in 1963, his voice was that of a prominent clergy and recognized Grand Ayatollah who had single-handedly taken on the former Shah's security bodies.

But on Feb. 1, 1979 when he returned, he was no longer alone, as millions turned out to welcome him, the man who was both an other-worldly mystic and a keen observer of,

as well as participant in, world-affairs.

It took only ten days from the first day that Imam Khomeini arrived in Iran up to the victory of the revolution.

During these ten days, the Imam emerged as the most important revolutionary leader the world had known in the second half of the 20th century.

The Islamic Revolution neither began nor ended in February 1979. Its victory that month was the result of years of struggle and sacrifice by hundreds of people dating at least as far back as the dark days of 1963.

The external signs of the Revolution's Islamic nature were not difficult to see. Most importantly, they lay in the total condemnation of the west's immoral and exploitative role in the world, the influence of Zionism and the Jewish occupation of Palestine and the denunciation of the pro-western Muslim regimes.

The experiment of the Islamic State has not been a failure by any means, despite the clamorous propaganda of its enemies.

In fact, huge social changes

have been brought about in Iran, including the provision of basic services to Iran's ordinary people who had been marginalized under the pro-western order, and their empowerment through the reform and massive expansion of the academic system.

Thousands of miles of new roads have been built, electricity, running water and primary health-care was taken into rural areas which had been ignored as irrelevant in Shah's "modernization" programs, and literacy levels were raised.

In an Islamic society like Iran, which is based on religious foundations, education can materialize religious upbringing of the citizens.

Without any exaggeration, the Islamic scholars have excelled in this field.

Since the first century Hegira, the religious leaders and scholars, relying on the Qura'an and tradition, have forwarded such invaluable works that their contents have become obsolete with the passage of time, confirming the status of Muslim scholars in the arena of thought and method.



Youth festival in Adul-Azim includes prayer ceremonies marking the day girls take the responsibility to perform the rituals the Almighty has ordained.



Exemplary nomadic students call on the leader of the Islamic Revolution



## A drive from Yemen to Ukraine . . . and back

## Voyage through Arabia

By Dr. Iger Tshinko  
NARRATED BY SHIEKH ABDULMUAMEN  
MOHAMED ISMAEL



Dr. Iger Tshinko

Shk. Abdulmuamen  
Mohamed Ismael

**D**o you know what its like when you have fulfilled a difficult dream? I know what it's like because some five months ago I had the experience of my lifetime and I feel like sharing it with everyone.

This experience came through an exciting journey that started from Yemen all the way to my homeland, Ukraine, and back to Yemen, by car!

I have always wanted to travel through a number of Arabian countries with my family. I wanted to get a feel of the Arabian touch as I drove through different Arabian lands, and also I took it up as a challenge for me as a driver, and my lovely Toyota as a vehicle.

#### The start

Preparing for the trip required a great deal of contacts and paperwork, I was lucky to have many people who helped me, starting with the president of the republic, to Sheikh Abdul-Momen Mohammed Ismael, doctors Abdul-Nasir Al-Kabab, Mohammed Ahmed Al-Kabab and Abdul-Rahman Al-Kabab, and also King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz and the Saudi Ambassador and Councilor who granted me the visa to go through KSA on my way home and back.

After thorough investigation, planning and arrangements, we started off on June 15 just after having lunch with our dear friend Sheikh Abdul-Momen, who gave us a farewell, heading from Sana'a to Hinns.

We crossed Amran and Hajja and the road was simply too beautiful, especially the way between Amran and Hajja. And when we reached Hinns it was already evening, so we took rest at a friends place where we had food as well.

From there we set off to the Yemen - Saudi border. Around midnight we reached the customs where they told us

that we were the first Ukrainian family to cross the Saudi border by car. They were very kind to us.

Through the circular road around Mecca we headed to Jeddah, which we reached in a relatively short time due to the good roads. The places we saw on our way were quite nice and we were impressed by the amount of development we witnessed on the way.

And I had a feeling of an achiever following the routes of some centuries ago of many wanderers such as Ibn Batota and other Arabian legends.

Jeddah was a nice city and its people were quite friendly as well.

It happened that I lost the way at one point and the traffic officer was more than happy to help. We were heading nonstop to Yanbo,. By that time the temperature was quite high and if it wasn't for the AC in my car, it would have been unbearable.

#### Sand trap

So when we reached Yanbo at 2 a.m., we decided to stop and rest for two hours. I forgot that we were in a desert road and when I tried to start off again in the morning the car wheels were stuck in the thick sand.

Uselessly we tried to make the car move. We even put hard objects under the wheels but it was in vain.

At that time a Helix stopped to offer help, and even then, the five people who came to assist from the car could not succeed. Even though we were dressed as Arabs, they recognized that we were

foreigners and it was fun telling them in Arabic where I had come from and where I was heading.

Rescue came when a Landcruiser stopped and easily dragged our car out of the sand trap. All said farewell to us and blessed us in Islamic words and wished us a happy journey.

I just want to say one thing at this point: it's not true that Saudi people are rude and unfriendly.

Some people when we told them about our plan to cross the desert rout through Saudi told us that we lost our minds! They said to us: "You will come across Bedouins with their wild animals, and there will be gangs and thieves. You will never be able to make it!"

But we made it, and we enjoyed it to the extremes! Yes we saw the Bedouins and we saw they camels too, but you know what? They were extremely nice and friendly and throughout the three days we took to reach the Saudi-Jordanian border, we were met with extreme hospitality and kindness.

In fact, I did meet the gangs and thieves I was warned against, but not in Arabian countries. If I get a chance I will talk about my experiences with them on another occasion.

#### Car breakdown

On June 18, we were crossing peacefully the boarder between Jordan and KSA, and by night we arrived at Amman, the capital.

It was a beautiful well-advanced city, but we couldn't spend much time there as we took the circular road from there to Damascus almost nonstop.

And just before we could reach the Syrian boarders, our car broke down.

It was evening already and everything was closed.

I was afraid I would be stuck at that point till the morning, so I called for help from the first passer by, whose brother luckily was a mechanic. I tried explaining the situation in broken Arabic while this man called his brother to



assist, and once the mechanic took a look under the hood he knew what exactly went wrong and we arranged to drag the car into a car garage which was closed, but they opened especially for us.

We told them where we were coming from and where we were going, and they assisted in every possible way. The mechanic refused to take charges for his work and I just paid for the oil and spare parts that were used in fixing the car.

Not only that, but the man whom we called for help offered that we stay the night at his place, but we couldn't because we wanted to reach home as soon as possible. And I took it as a challenge that I can do it, even that by that time I had driven more than 2,000 kilometers with just two hours break.

We did want to spend some time in Syria. I must say it is different from all the countries we had crossed. It had its own unique beauty and charm.

Is this really home?

The direction after that was Turkey, a very beautiful country indeed. We were fascinated by what we had seen while we were waiting for visas for Bulgaria, which was three stops before we reached home.

Crossing Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova, we finally reached home, Ukraine. Ironically it was on my own country's boarders that I faced problems the most.

At a place called Renée, they did not allow us to enter Ukraine because we were traveling on a vehicle with foreign numbers. I explained to them that I was working in Yemen and that I will be returning there after two months, but the officer didn't seem interested to even listen to what I say.

Some Ukrainians at the place tried to calm us down and interfere in our favor, but he was adamant on not letting us enter. I narrated to him the number of countries we crossed without a problem, why should I get stuck on my own country's boarders?

However, we had to go back to Moldova and contact some of the lawyers I knew for advise. Finally we found a breakthrough from another point at the boarder with aid from our Moldovan friends and we managed to go home. I don't want to detail the problems we faced there and on crossing the boarder.

#### Going back

Unfortunately even on our way back we faced the same obstacles. They

invented so many reasons not to allow us to cross the boarders out of Ukraine, and said that our papers were incomplete.

I felt so furious that I wanted to fight with the officers, but I was calmed down by my friends and warned that they might do something against me that I would regret. They said that the officers might even put drugs in my car and accuse me of a bigger crime and I was not ready to handle all that, so I bought my way out with a bribe, and finally managed to go to Moldova.

Funny things like falling asleep while driving happened, and while I was driving the line besides the Dead Sea in Jordan I met many nice lovely friends.

In Saudi I remember stopping the car to rest for a while without turning it off, an officer came and inquired if there was a problem, but I told him that I fell asleep while driving and I wanted to rest for a while.

He said that there is a parking lot nearby and offered to take us there, but I thanked him and managed to get there own. But the officer insisted on accompanying us till we were safe and bid us farewell. We crossed the Saudi boarders to Yemen peacefully and with no problems and we eventually arrived home. When I reached Yemen I was feeling that I came to my own home, just a foreign country in which I work in.

#### Thank you Arabia

We took so many lovely photographs and our experience was one of a kind. I found out that the Arabian people are much nicer than those of the so-called developed countries. Wherever I went, I was welcomed and kindly spoken to, unlike when I was in Europe, although I am a European.

According to my personal experience all the bad things we hear about Arabs and Arabian countries are not true. On the contrary it's always the opposite. If there is anything I want to say at the end, it is "Thank you Arabia for being who you are!"

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- الأطفال دون سن ١٢ سنة يمكنهم الإقامة مع ذويهم مجاناً (حد أقصى طفلين)
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*Booklet tries to explain...*

# Why Yemen is seen as a haven for terrorists

By ABU BAKR BA ABBAAD\*  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**Y**emen and the Terror Phenomenon is the name given to a new booklet that has been recently published by the Information and Research Center affiliated to the Saba News Agency.

The new booklet deals with the nature of terrorism in Yemen, its incidents, and Yemen's attitude towards this phenomenon.

Researcher Ahmed al-Hadhrami indicates that there is no unanimous agreement on determining the right definition of terror.

The writer has focused on a number of terror definitions, stating that terror is a term that has been applied to an organized violence to achieve a political, economical, or social target.

This includes the terror acts performed by some political forces against citizens. This in turn has created a sense of destabilization among individuals and communities in order to achieve specific gains.

The researcher has attributed the main reasons behind terror to internal and external reasons narrating the terror operations that took place in Yemen.

Some of those terror incidents have been stated in the government report which was presented to the parliament during the end of 2002.

He also attributed the terror acts to the weakness of educational curricula and of learning processes along with intellectual, and dogmatic reasons which encourage bigotry and favoritism.

The researcher has also dealt with the government's attitudes towards



It was after the deadly USS Cole terror attack in October 2000 that the US started considering Yemen a haven for terrorists.

encountering terrorism and adopting cautionary procedures.

## Reflections and challenges

The researchers do not skip over the security and political challenges of the terrorist operations against the country, considering terror as one of the gravest factors threatening the security and safety of the country at local as well as international levels.

Yemen for a long time has fallen prey to terror attacks for a long time and this has distorted the Yemen's image.

Tourism and investment has been negatively affected by the terror operations. The state has been overburdened with external commitments along with threats to the national security.

A whole chapter deals with the economical challenges presented by female researcher, Nabeeha al-Haidari, the Vice General Manager of the Information and Research Center. Terrorism has a great impact upon the nations' economies particularly the

developing countries. The majority of those countries entirely relies on their economies.

Ahmed al-Khaledi, another researcher, focuses on the social impact of terror acts. This represents itself when causing panic among citizens. Terrorists claim that they perform a religious duty while at the same time they only threaten the safety of people in their societies.

Zaed Gaber has concludes his research by discussing a very critical issue in the field of extremism and terrorism in the balance of Islam.

Islam is not a riddle or a mystery. He has dealt with reasons behind the spread of wrong misunderstandings and notions on the part of youths. He has made crystal clear the correct notions of Jihad.

He further narrates the Islam's attitudes towards other people.

*Public Relations Manager at the Saba News Age*

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US gives 'evidence' that Iraq is failing to comply

# Iraq denies allegations that it's cheating

Baghdad /Washington, Feb 6 (Reuters) - Iraq on Thursday poured scorn on U.S. accusations that it was cheating weapons inspectors and had links with al Qaeda, as the United States and Britain called for a new U.N. resolution to authorize war.

An elite U.S. air assault division was ordered to deploy to the Gulf region and U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld left for Europe to press the case for a possible war on Iraq.

Iraqi officials responded angrily to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who on Wednesday presented the U.N. Security Council with spy satellite photos, tapes of bugged conversations and other material he said was damning evidence of Iraq's determination to hide banned weapons.

Amer al-Saadi, adviser to President Saddam Hussein, said the allegations were "outrageous and not convincing," designed as "home consumption for the uninformed."

"We will send a detailed letter to the Security Council ... to rebut Powell's speech point by point," he told a Baghdad news conference.

Months of diplomatic maneuvering over Iraq now focuses on whether the Security Council will follow up its Nov. 8 resolution, which threatened Iraq with "serious consequences" if it failed to disarm, with an even tougher one.

"The United States would welcome and support a new resolution that makes clear the Security Council stands behind its previous demands," President George W. Bush told reporters.

"Having made its demands, the Security Council must not back down, when those demands are defied and mocked by a dictator."

The United States and Britain however reserve the right to attack Iraq without another resolution, which could be blocked by one of the other three powers which wield a veto on the Security Council: France, Russia and China.

"I don't think that is what will happen," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said in a televised interview on Thursday night. "I don't think we will get to the position of vetoes."

France said earlier Washington had yet to prove that Iraq possessed banned weapons of mass destruction.

"A second resolution? We are not at the time for that right now," Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said. "As long as the arms inspections make

progress, we must pursue them."

All 15 council members voted in favor of resolution 1441 on Nov. 8. "I do not think we will get 15 this time, but I think we will get more than nine," British U.N. ambassador Jeremy Greenstock said, adding that it was "very likely" there would be a draft resolution in the second half of February.

Nearly all members agree Iraq falls far short of compliance, but fewer say it is a big enough threat to warrant war.

## Preparations For War

The pace of military preparations quickened. The U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, which played a key role in the ground phase of the 1991 Gulf War, said on Thursday it had been ordered to go to the Gulf. The U.S. contingent is expected to reach well over 200,000 troops.

British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said the Royal Air Force would increase its presence in the Gulf to 100 fixed-wing aircraft, supported by about 7,000 personnel, in coming weeks.

The deployment takes the total of British troops committed to a possible war to more than 40,000.

Turkey granted the United States permission to upgrade military bases as a first step to inviting in U.S. troops. Iraq said the move was tantamount to Turkey's joining a war.

Bulgaria granted the United States the use of an air base, and, like Slovakia, said it would send troops specialized in countering the chemical and biological weapons Iraq is accused of still possessing.

Hungary has agreed to host a training camp for Iraqi exiles who would accompany U.S. troops, and Poland and the Czech Republic have also offered help to U.S. forces.

NATO postponed until next week a decision on taking measures such as sending Patriot interceptor missiles to protect Turkey, prolonging a damaging trans-Atlantic rift.

Jordan, another of Iraq's neighbors and a key ally of the United States, said it had taken delivery of Patriots already.

Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that war to overthrow Saddam could transform the Middle East.

"Success could fundamentally reshape that region in a powerful positive way that will enhance U.S. interests," he said, especially if Washington



An Iraqi soldier is pictured through a window with a poster reading "No War" as he guards U.N. weapons inspectors in Baghdad Feb. 7. Iraq pours scorn on U.S. accusations that it is cheating weapons inspectors and has links with al Qaeda; U.S. and Britain call for a new U.N. resolution to authorize war. REUTERS

could also make progress on solving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## No ties with Al Qaeda, says Iraq

On Wednesday Powell told the U.N. Security Council Iraq had sheltered the alleged mastermind behind the killing of a U.S. diplomat in Jordan last year and had ties to the armed fundamentalist group Ansar al-Islam.

He said Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was an associate of Osama bin Laden and his network had helped establish a poison and explosives training camp in northeastern Iraq.

"We do not know Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, we do not know his whereabouts and we continue to cooperate with the Jordanian authorities to put an end to his activities in Iraq," said Iraqi Foreign Ministry official Saeed al-Mousawi.

"Concerning the group Ansar al-Islam, here again is a sheer allegation.

This group occupies a small pocket in the (Kurdish-ruled) northern part of Iraq which is out of the control of the Iraqi government."

Iraq said U.N. inspectors on Thursday held their first private interview with an Iraqi scientist linked to previous banned weapons programs. Weapons inspectors have demanded that experts be interviewed without other Iraqis present, to protect informers from reprisal.

Chief U.N. weapons inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei travel to Baghdad this weekend and are scheduled to speak to the Security Council on Feb. 14.

"The message coming from the Security Council is very clear, that Iraq is not cooperating fully, that they need to show drastic change in terms of cooperation," ElBaradei said after he and Blix held talks with Blair in London.

Mideast tensions continue

## Explosives belt found in Taybeh mosque

JERUSALEM, Feb 7 (Reuters) - Israeli police said on Friday they had found a suicide bomber's explosives belt hidden in a mosque in Israel, and said it was the first such discovery since the Palestinian uprising began more than two years ago.

The army said the belt was discovered on Thursday as a result of "precise intelligence information" from two members of the militant Palestinian group Islamic Jihad who were captured by Israeli forces in the West Bank.

Packed with about 15 kg (30 lb) of explosives, the belt had been placed in the washroom of a mosque in the Israeli Arab town of Taybeh near the West Bank, police spokeswoman Shira Lieberman said.

Taybeh is along a route that suicide bombers have used in the past when infiltrating into Israel. Islamic Jihad has killed dozens of Israelis in suicide bombings during the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising for statehood.

Taybeh mayor Salah Jabara condemned the use of the mosque as a

hiding place for explosives. "In the final analysis, bombs harm Arabs and Jews alike," Jabara told Israeli Army Radio.

Police did not say who they suspect may have placed the belt in the mosque. Israeli Arabs, who make up some 18 percent of the population of the Jewish state, sympathise with the Palestinian revolt but have largely stayed on its sidelines.

Lieberman said experts moved the explosives out of the mosque before defusing them.

"The use of a mosque to hide explosives shows that Palestinian terrorists will stop at nothing to harm Israelis," said David Baker, an official in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office.

Amichai Shai, police chief of the Sharon district where Taybeh is located, told Army Radio that security forces have previously found explosives hidden in mosques in the West Bank, but not in Israel.

At least 1,819 Palestinians and 700 Israelis have been killed since the uprising began in September 2000.

## Syria says UN inspectors should get more time

DAMASCUS, Feb 7 (Reuters) - Syrian President Bashar al-Assad told his French counterpart Jacques Chirac U.N. arms inspectors in Iraq should be given more time, Syrian state media reported on Friday.

Assad and Chirac, who talked by phone late on Thursday, agreed to continue close cooperation and consultations to secure a peaceful solution to Iraq's crisis, the state-run al-Thawra newspaper said.

Syria is currently a member of the 15-nation U.N. Security Council. France is a permanent member with the power of veto.

The two leaders discussed the outcome of the Security Council meeting on Wednesday where U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell presented evidence he said showed

Iraq was attempting to thwart U.N. inspections.

Syria has said Powell's evidence was a series of hypotheses and said it required examination by U.N. arms inspectors.

Thawra in an editorial on Friday warned that Arabs were angry over U.S. policies and said: "Warmongers should apply reason and reconsider their stances and miscalculations...before embarking on any adventure."

Syria opposes any military strike against fellow Arab nation Iraq. France has also said the inspectors need more time.

Assad and Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara have tried to convince Washington against a strike which Syria says would plunge the region into chaos.

Just as Americans prepare for war

# US thirst for Iraqi crude increases significantly

NEW YORK, Feb 6 (Reuters) - The United States consumption of Iraqi crude increased by 24 percent in January, even as the Bush administration gears up for a war it says is not about Baghdad's oil.

U.S. companies have in recent weeks quietly turned to Iraqi crude to bail them out as a two-month strike in Venezuela slashed that country's supply to the international market.

"It is a bit ironic. Our dependence increased on Iraqi oil just as we're about to bomb them," said Bill O'Grady of A.G. Edwards in St. Louis, a brokerage house.

The United States in January took an average of 1.15 million barrels per day of Iraqi crude — around 13 percent of

total U.S. crude imports — up from 925,000 bpd in December, according to oil industry sources.

Iraq has since December 1996 sold crude oil through the U.N. "oil-for-food" program, an exception to 1990-91 Gulf War sanctions that allows Iraq to export oil and use the revenue to buy food and humanitarian goods for its citizens.

While U.S. refiners take most of the Iraqi crude under the program, no U.S. companies purchase Iraqi crude directly from Baghdad. Rather, middleman trading firms usually buy Iraq's crude from Baghdad under U.N. supervision and then resell it to U.S. refiners.

Iraq has a sustainable export rate of about 2.2 million barrels daily. But exports have lagged since late 2001 as

an illegal surcharge outside the U.N. program that the Iraqi government demanded from its oil customers discouraged international firms from buying Iraqi oil.

Since Baghdad dropped the surcharge last September, U.S. companies have steadily been stepping up purchases of Iraqi crude, despite the Bush administration's growing resolve to disarm Iraq, using military force if necessary.

The increased Iraqi supply has helped U.S. oil refiners cope with the sudden collapse in supply from strike-bound Venezuela, whose exports have been running at barely 30 percent of normal levels.

The U.S. share of official Iraqi crude exports in the U.N.-monitored oil-for-

food program has risen to 67 percent, from 58 percent of Iraq's crude shipped in December.

Higher supply from the world's biggest oil exporter Saudi Arabia has also helped plug the gap left by Venezuela, although the disruption has been severe enough to run down U.S. crude stocks to near their lowest level since 1975.

## NOT ABOUT OIL

The Bush administration has repeatedly denied accusations from Baghdad and critics that any attack on Iraq would be aimed at taking long-term control of its oil reserves, the second biggest in the world after Saudi Arabia.

In the event of war the U.S. military has pledged provide an "umbrella of

security" to ensure that Iraq's oil fields continue pumping oil and to protect the reserves from sabotage by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"If this had anything to do with oil, the position of the United States would be to lift the (United Nations) sanctions so the oil could flow," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said on Thursday. "This is not about that, this is about saving lives by protecting the American people."

Stronger U.S. buying has helped push Iraq's official oil exports in January up to 1.7 million bpd, up from the 2002 annual average of about 1.25 million bpd.

European refiners took in about 440,000 bpd of Iraqi crude in January, or

about 26 percent of Iraq's legal exports, with Asia consuming 68,000 bpd, or about 7 percent.

Iraq also smuggles around 200,000 barrels daily of crude to Syria via pipeline, as well as trucking additional crude to Turkey.

Iraqi oil supplies exports could slide from recent robust levels later this month as buyers shy away from the barrels amid fears that a U.S.-led military attack, oil traders say.

Customers are currently arranging shipments on a day-to-day basis, they add.

Iraq's oil industry under a post-Saddam government is initially expected to be overseen by the U.N.'s oil-for-food program.



## Ivory Coast

# President tries to salvage peace accord

MAN, Ivory Coast, Feb 7 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's President Laurent Gbagbo will deliver on Friday his long-awaited assessment of a faltering Paris-brokered peace deal struck last month to end a civil war in the West African country.

Rebel leaders spent Thursday arguing about whether to give Gbagbo a last chance to respect the deal or return to a conflict that has killed nearly 5,000 people, displaced one million and plunged the world's largest cocoa producer into chaos.

On Friday evening Gbagbo will address a nation that has been on edge since anti-French riots erupted in the main city of Abidjan when the peace accord was agreed two weeks ago.

Gbagbo loyalists took to the streets to denounce the deal, accusing former colonial power France of engineering a constitutional coup by imposing a coalition government of reconciliation in which rebel leaders hold key ministries.

Since returning from the Paris peace talks, Gbagbo has increasingly distanced himself from the accord while trying to gauge the public mood through a string of daily consultations and meetings.

Opposition to the accord is strong among the people of the largely Christian south, but it is widely backed in the rebel-held north, whose people are mostly Muslims and have long complained of discrimination.

The ethnic divide is at the root of the war that blew up after a failed coup last September. Three rebel factions now hold the northern half of the country and large chunks of the west.

The rebels met in the western town of Man to decide what to do if the Paris deal failed. They debated heatedly whether to give Gbagbo a deadline to implement the peace deal or to fight their way to Abidjan immediately.

After an intense meeting on Thursday night rebel leaders prepared to give their verdict on Friday.

"The talks were stormy and tensions high. Some considered that war should be declared, others favoured an ultimatum," said a statement read out by rebel commander Ousmane Coulibaly.

### WAR NOW

Coulibaly, who belongs to the Movement for Justice and Peace (MJP) rebels, told Reuters that loyalist forces had attacked his group's positions several times recently. The main Patriotic Movement for Ivory Coast (MPCI) faction wanted to give Gbagbo more time but Coulibaly's group and the other faction did not.

"We want war now," he said.

France was poised to land hundreds of troops in Ivory Coast on Friday, boosting its forces to more than 3,000 to protect foreign nationals and police a ceasefire line. Ivory Coast has 12,000 French nationals.

Thousands of foreigners have fled the country in recent weeks and some embassies have shut down.

Most of the new troops will stay in Abidjan to ensure the safety of foreign nationals in the event of more anti-French riots. The United States also flew in "a small number" of military advisers this week to monitor the situation.

With the French peace deal hanging in the balance, regional diplomats have urged all sides to avoid more bloodshed and cranked up pressure for another stab at peace talks.

Mohamed ibn Chambas, a top official of the Economic Community of West African States said on Thursday the grouping was planning to hold a summit early next week of regional heads of state, the Ivorian government and rebels.

## Former president of Iran

# U.S. presence is worse than threat from Iraq: cleric

TEHRAN, Feb 7 (Reuters) - The presence of U.S. forces in the Middle East to topple President Saddam Hussein is worse than Saddam's access to weapons of mass destruction, a conservative Iranian cleric and former president said on Friday.

Former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in remarks broadcast live on state radio that the United Nations should approve international action to rid Iraq of such weapons.

"We agree that Iraq should rid itself of weapons of mass destruction. We do not think the Baath regime of Iraq should possess weapons like long-range missiles," he said.

"But the presence of America in our region is worse than such weapons being in the hands of Saddam," he said to loud cheers of 'Death to America'.

Addressing worshippers at weekly prayers on the Tehran University campus, Rafsanjani also said Iran's stance on Iraq was crystal clear.

"We clearly oppose America's com-

ing (to the region) but also clearly agree on disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Iran has said repeatedly that it opposes a unilateral U.S. strike on Iraq, the western neighbour with which it fought a gruelling eight-year war in the 1980s, but that it would not oppose an attack authorised by the United Nations.

"We oppose such weapons being in the hands of Iraq, but we know that if they are not dealt with appropriately, it will backfire. The U.N. should act with the approval of the Security Council and use international means to rid Saddam of such weapons," Rafsanjani said.

Tehran would welcome the downfall of Saddam, its long-standing enemy, but conservative clerics fear the aftermath of a war and are concerned that he would be replaced by a government imposed by its arch-foe Washington.

"... even if it (the United States) captures Iraq and installs a ruler here, it will use the same instruments against neighbours as Saddam did," said Rafsanjani,



Influential former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani speaks at a weekly prayer meeting at Tehran University Campus, Feb. 7. Rafsanjani said the presence of the United States in the Middle East region was worse than Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's access to weapons of mass destruction. REUTERS

who leads the powerful arbitration body of the Expediency Council.

U.S. President George W. Bush has labelled both Iraq and Iran members of

an international "axis of evil" along with North Korea.

Rafsanjani also blasted U.S. President George W. Bush as an irresponsible person whose words are at odds with his intentions. He said he agreed with (Senate Minority leader Tom) Daschle when he said that Bush "has been the most irresponsible and adventurist president in American history."

"Practically speaking this is so. Why is it that a president should make a speech every morning when he wakes up or every night when he wants to go to bed to frighten the people of the world?"

"He has even threatened Iraqis with nuclear attack. That a country whose most important excuse for dominating the world is its will to keep the world from using nuclear weapons is making this threat shows that his mind is set on something different from what he is saying. He has something else in his mind," Rafsanjani said.

## War threatens developing countries

# South Africa joins the anti-war campaign

PRETORIA, Feb 7 (Reuters) - South Africa's deputy foreign minister will fly to Baghdad on Friday as Pretoria seeks to consolidate its role as the developing world's rallying voice against war in Iraq. "Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad will leave this evening for Baghdad. It is part of our efforts to avert a war, which would have negative consequences for Africa and the whole world," said foreign ministry spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa.

President Thabo Mbeki, current chairman of the 53-member African Union, has raised the stakes in his opposition to a U.S.-led war against Iraq,

which he says threatens to kill off development in the world's poorest continent.

South Africa has intensified its criticism of U.S. policy on Iraq as the threat of war looms larger. Mbeki has repeated fears over the impact of surging oil prices on Africa in the event of a war. Former South African President Nelson Mandela has joined in relentless attacks on Washington over its war moves.

"Pahad will be asking (Iraq President) Saddam Hussein to comply and be seen to comply with the needs of U.N. inspectors," said one African ambassador in Pretoria.

"But the key issue is that South Africa is raising the stakes and profile as leader of the African Union and Non Aligned Movement, both deeply opposed to a war in Iraq."

## Message from Arafat

# Palestine to strengthen relations with Angola

LUANDA, Feb. 7 (Xinhua) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has sent a message to Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, expressing hope to strengthen bilateral relations.

The message was delivered to dos Santos by a special envoy, ambassador Salman EL Herfi, on Thursday, local media reported.

The ambassador was quoted as saying the long liberation struggle of the Angolan people serves as an example to Palestinians. The Palestinian people are proud of the success achieved by Angola, he said, referring to the effective peace in the African country.

He described the situation in Palestine as "very difficult."

# ANNOUNCEMENT

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## U.S says it's ready

## North Korea warns of pre-emptive attack

SEOUL/WASHINGTON, Feb 7 (Reuters) - The United States said it was ready for any contingency after North Korea issued threats of pre-emptive attack and suggested it was poised to restart an atomic reactor central to its suspected drive for nuclear arms.

But as Washington warned Pyongyang it was only isolating itself with its sabre-rattling, there were growing signs the United States was moving toward talks over the second nuclear crisis provoked by the communist state in a decade.

North Korea's state media kept up a stream of alarmist statements on Friday after a senior diplomat told British reporters in Pyongyang that "pre-emptive attacks are not the exclusive right of the U.S."

Pyeongyang portrayed U.S. contingency plans to beef up forces in the western Pacific during any Iraq hostilities as actual deployments that foreshadowed an attack.

"If the U.S. moves to bolster aggression troops are unchecked, the whole land of Korea will be reduced to ashes and the Koreans will not escape horrible nuclear disasters," said the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

"Reckless and arrogant moves of the U.S. imperialists to stifle the DPRK (North Korea) prompt the KPA... to wage a life-and-death battle with the U.S.," said the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) about anti-U.S. rallies by the army.

Those dire warnings followed a statement from the energy-starved country's foreign ministry on Wednesday, indicating it was preparing to fire up a reactor it is thought to have used in the past to produce plutonium for weapons.

Washington said the developments were dangerous but no reason to abandon

diploamacy to resolve the four-month-old crisis.

"Obviously, the United States is very prepared for robust plans for any contingencies," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters, adding that President George W. Bush "believes that diplomacy is the way to handle the situation".

## US seeks 'complete solution'

South Korean defence authorities said there was no sign of any North Korean troop movements.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said a diplomatic solution was possible. "We have tried to lower the rhetoric."

Powell said no options had been taken off the table, including the military option "although we have no intention of attacking North Korea as a nation ... or invading North Korea."

Bush and his senior foreign policy aides say they are looking for a diplomatic solution, working through U.S. allies in the region as well as China and Russia.

North Korea, however, insists the nuclear issue can only be settled in direct negotiations with the United States.

Washington says it is willing to talk to Pyongyang about dismantling nuclear programmes that include a uranium enrichment plant and a nuclear complex capable of producing plutonium.

The United States said in October North Korea had admitted to enriching uranium in violation of a 1994 accord, under which the North froze its nuclear programme in exchange for two electricity-generating reactors and free fuel.

Since December, North Korea has expelled International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors, withdrawn



South Korean soldiers salute as they stand guard near the demilitarized zone which separates the country from communist North Korea in Paju, about 50 km (31 miles) north of Seoul Feb. 7. The United States said it was ready for any contingency after North Korea issued threats of pre-emptive attack and suggested it was poised to restart an atomic reactor central to its suspected drive for nuclear arms.

REUTERS

from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, restarted the mothballed Yongbyon complex and threatened to resume missile tests.

Last week, U.S. officials said satellite surveillance had shown North Korea was moving fuel rods around the Yongbyon reactor complex, including

possibly some of the 8,000 spent fuel rods experts consider a key step in building bombs.

But there was no sign that reprocessing the rods had begun, a step that would enable North Korea to start adding to the arsenal of two bombs the West suspects it has already built.

## Afghanistan

## CIA officer is killed in grenade accident

WASHINGTON, Feb 6 (Reuters) - A CIA counterterrorism officer has been killed and two wounded in a grenade accident during a live fire exercise in Afghanistan, the spy agency said on Thursday.

Helge Boes, 32, from the agency's Counterterrorism Center, was killed in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday "when a grenade detonated prematurely," the CIA said in a statement.

One agency employee was seriously wounded but was in stable condition, a CIA spokesman said. The other received relatively minor injuries and both were expected to recover, he said. The CIA would not identify them.

Boes, who was training for a mission when he died, was the second CIA fatality in Afghanistan since the United States launched a war aimed at ousting the Taliban and destroying al Qaeda following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks that killed 3,000 people in America.

The United States blames Osama bin Laden's network for the attacks and U.S. forces continue to hunt for al Qaeda members in Afghanistan. Bin Laden has not yet been found.

Boes's death followed that of Johnny

"Mike" Spann, a CIA officer who was killed in a firefight at a fortress in northern Afghanistan on Nov. 25, 2001. Spann's was the first known American combat death in Afghanistan.

Boes, a graduate of Harvard University Law School, joined the CIA two years ago after working as an attorney in private practice, the CIA said.

"Helge was everything a superior case officer should be: bright, energetic, and ever prepared to apply his skills where they were needed most," CIA Director George Tenet told CIA staff, according to a statement from the agency.

"He was no stranger to Afghanistan and its dangers, having served there before and done outstanding work," Tenet said.

"In fact, he was on the weapons training range yesterday preparing for yet another intelligence collection operation. He died doing what he loved," Tenet said.

"The work he did, both at headquarters and in the field, had as its aim the defeat of terror — a ruthless, vicious enemy of liberty and decency," Tenet said.

## Jakarta blast hurts one, bomb squad investigates

JAKARTA, Feb 7 (Reuters) - An explosion in eastern Jakarta badly wounded one person on Friday and the bomb squad was on the way to investigate, a police officer said.

"We have not received any details, but we can confirm one explosion heavily injuring one person," the east Jakarta officer, Samat Kuwat, told Reuters.

He said the blast occurred in an open area.

An explosion from what police said was a homemade bomb rocked

Indonesia's National Police headquarters in a different part of Jakarta on Monday, causing some damage to a building but no casualties.

Nearly 200 people were killed in a bomb attack last October 12 on the resort island of Bali, an incident authorities blame on Islamic militants linked to the Jemaah Islamiah network in Southeast Asia.

There have been several bomb alerts in the sprawling capital in the months since.

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and the Yemeni people  
on the occasion of the  
advent of Eid al-Adha  
Almubarak.

Many Happy Returns



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وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

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يتميز البنك العربي بشبكة من أجهزة الصراف الآلي وتقديم خدمة السحب بالريال اليمني والدولار الأمريكي على مدار ٢٤ ساعة وكذلك خدمات البنك الناطق وإصدار بطاقات فيزا، التلر الشامل، صناديق الأمانات الحديدية ونظام السوفيت، بالإضافة للخدمات المصرفية المتطورة مثل الخدمة المصرفية عبر شبكة الإنترنت وبطاقة التسوق عبر الإنترنت من خلال المواقع التالية:

صنعاء: شارع الزبيري، شارع تعز، شارع الحصة.  
تعز: شارع جمال، حوض الأشرف.  
الحديدة: شارع الميناء.  
إب: شارع العدين  
المكلا: حي العمال.



# YT Business



Athens Euro conference has significant Yemen representation:

## Is our future in the EURO?

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**Y**emen's participation at the "Europe, the Mediterranean and the Euro" conference in Athens Feb 3-4 included a, eight-member delegation.

It represented a move to get acquainted with the role the Euro plays at present on world markets and the importance of this currency in future. Recent exchange rates have shown that the Euro is steadily increasing in value compared to the US dollar which is suffering tremendously because of international developments, including the possible war against Iraq.

Results of Euro currency circulation at markets indicates it has become a world currency and a valued unit for saving and also of value in stocks dealings and currency exchange, in addition to funds movement between banks and banking markets.

### Yemen in the conference

Despite the fact that Yemen is not a Mediterranean country, the significant number of Yemeni delegates representing the Central Bank of Yemen, universities and the press has shown that the European Commission is counting on Yemen to play an important role in promoting the Euro the region.

The Yemeni delegation was able to get informed on future dimensions of the European currency and its circulation on world markets and its importance in establishing investment and trade partnership between European countries and the Arab world.

The topics discussed in the two-day conference focused on EU-Mediterranean and Gulf relations, how the Euro benefited Europe's southern neighbors, the implications of an enlarged EU, financial market developments in the Mediterranean and the Gulf, and Euro's status as an international currency.

It has also discussed issues concerning Arab countries under globalization and dangers embracing foreign currencies, especially the US dollar, which is facing a crisis of losing stability at a time signs of a war on Iraq are causing its dramatic retreat in value on world markets.

The Athens conference has therefore paid much attention to discuss economic premises of interest for Europe and Arab countries. Many statistics, studies, and working papers were provided to support the view that the world is heading towards a Euro-zone.

The statistics provided during the conference say that with 305 million inhabitants, the Euro area population exceeds that of the United States (283 million) and Japan (127 million). On the other hand, the GDP of the Euro area (EUR 6,572 billion) amounts to 75% of the GDP of the United States, but is 225% larger than that of Japan.

Yet, the growth rate of the Euro-zone may be of much concern for the USA as it would constitute a long-



Will Yemen along with many other Arab nations benefit more if they shift from the USD to the Euro for international trade and transactions? Analysts suggest so in the long-term. However, they also say that this could only be confirmed depending on the events of the coming few months.

term threat for its economy.

### GCC and the Euro

The first session of the conference was on the importance of the Euro for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The session was chaired by Pedro Solbes — members of the European Commission responsible for economic and Monetary Affairs.

The speakers were Karim Nashashibi- International Monetary Fund — senior resident representative for the West Bank and Gaza; Abdeltif Loudyi- Morocco ministry of Finance — Director of the Treasury and Bernard Ziller- European Investment Bank- senior economist advisor.

They tackled issues of European-Gulf cooperation and dealing in Euro in investment and commercial transactions and the importance of the GCC states benefiting from the European experiment in the project of unifying their currency by 2010.

However, the Yemeni delegation raised during this session the question of why Yemen was not included in the statistics and working papers presented during the session.

Pedro Solbes responded by saying that Yemen is "part of the region and has great influence in the economic strategies of the European-Arab relations, however, the conference is open for all countries that are interested in promoting EU-Arab economic relations."

### Euro benefiting Europe's southern neighbors

The second session was chaired by Jose Manuel Garcia- Margallo Y Marfil- Member of the European Parliament- Vice chairman of the economic and Monetary Affairs committee.

The speakers during the session were Nasser al-Kaud- Gulf cooperation council- Director Money Banking and investment department and Sotirios Kollias — European Commission — head of Unit for Financial and capital investment.

The session focused on the developments in the stock markets in the Mediterranean basin countries and the GCC in order to enhance orientation towards monetary exchange by depending the Euro as a currency receiving trust on world markets. Such development will be useful for the GCC unified currency in future.

The session presented the significance of the Euro for Yemen whether in dealing with this currency in trade exchange with European countries or with the GCC states. The present Yemeni tendency for developing partnership with GCC states necessitates that businessmen have their trust in the European currency and adopt its circulation in the GCC states.

This goal constitutes a monetary gain giving the Yemeni Rial force and capacity for stability away from damage resulting from speculation in

dollar in our banking domestic markets.

### Euro: Future world currency?

The third and final session of the conference was on the Euro's future as an international currency as the US dollar. The participants had found the extent of increasing trust the Euro has been entertaining in stock markets and circulation movement in world banks.

The conference had in this premise realized the importance of media in making clear the value of Euro and to gain trust of savers who have no idea about the worldwide value of the European currency and how far security and stability of its price in addition to its benefits for savers and investors.

Athens conference on the Euro coincided with a state of US dollar price fluctuation on world markets with negative indicators of the atmospheres of war experienced by the Arab Gulf region and fears of investors from deterioration of the American currency in world markets.

Banking indicators point that the U.S. dollar in European markets began losing its privilege in favour of four major currencies, i.e., the Euro, the Norwegian Krone, French franc and Japanese yen.

According to experts the Euro has become less open to political tensions and is gaining its strength from economies of the EU countries that most of them are scoring interests in

their current accounts and do not depend on foreign investments.

Hence the attention must be rendered to the European currency and there must be an increase in conducting dealings with it in our banking markets and monetary circulation movement, investment, and savings due to the value of saving the Euro is entertaining besides its prices stability.

In conclusion, the Euro seems to go on with strong and solid steps towards an international currency alternative to the US dollar. It is now higher in value than the US dollars and looking at the short period since it was first introduced, one can see that the future is there.

### Will Yemen shift to the Euro?

The US economy is weakening, while Europe is growing.

The US has reached its peak in terms of growth and investment opportunities are not that high anymore as most investment fields have been exploited to the fullest. However, Europe is still a growing market as new countries are joining the EU and many of those countries are fertile investment fields full of investment and profit-making opportunities.

The conference has hence concluded that the whole world is seeing that the Euro is the world's future international currency.

The question is, if the world can see it, will Yemen see it too?

## The Road Ahead

### The Internet Revolution

By RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF  
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**T**hroughout history, many inventions have changed the way people work. First

came the steam engine, which set off the first Industrial Revolution. Then came electricity, which did the second. Now comes the Net, and with it

the explosion in telecommunications.

The Internet has promised to change many things: from improvements in convenience, quality and choice of services to e-commerce and Internet banking. It has also promised to be a revolution in marketing and advertising as it facilitates better communication between businesses and customers.

Yet, that is only to be expected. The Internet is hardly considered as an alternative delivery channel and another tool to improve a company's operational effectiveness. But still, marketers don't consider it an effective media for marketing yet, at least not in Yemen

Still, if you happen to consider Internet advertising and marketing for your products and services, you have to approach it only after preparing a marketing strategy. Otherwise you will be fighting an uphill battle to get people to know about and buy your products and services.

The secret of any successful Internet advertising strategy is to sustain and increase traffic of targeted customers to your website, and build a "customer-for-life" database. The following are a few tips that can help in the process.

First, design a great website, one that addresses your customers needs. Have it speak only of the benefits to the buyer and keep it short and simple. Also make a clear pathway to keep your customers moving through the sales message to the order page, to facilitate the closing of the sale.

Remember to keep your website timely, to keep your customers coming back. Then, build traffic to your website, through email addresses and advertising to your website on search engines and sites that your target audience are most likely to visit.

After that, you can create a newsletter or email broadcasts that contain something of value to your audience, something that they look forward to receiving. Thereafter, you can personalize your sales messages to tickle your customers' needs or even have advertisements on your newsletter if you have a big number of subscribers. But remember, you have to be consistent in holding up the interests of your target audience.

Also, publicity can also be helpful in the process. Write articles and e-journals to be published in virtual newspapers and magazines. You can also conduct virtual classes and e-courses in relation to the subject of interest. This will also help in building up traffic to your website.

*Remember: The dawn of the third revolution is here and the Internet has proved to be very effective as a media for marketing and advertising. But to benefit from it, you have to build an effective strategy.*

## More German-Yemeni ties?

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sanaa Chamber of Industry and Commerce recently concluded talks with the German Chamber of Arab Commerce dealing with various fields, including trade and investment between the two countries.

The 30-member German delegation, led by Germany's former minister of finance, has conducted

talks with Yemeni businessmen focusing on consolidation of trade exchange and how Yemeni laws can help attract foreign investors.

Sources at the Sanaa Chamber of Industry and Commerce said one result of the talks is a possible investment partnership between the two groups at the Aden Free Zone.

Furthermore, the German busi-

nessmen came out with good results and impressions on the available opportunities of trade and investment opportunities with their Yemeni counterparts.

### Getting acquainted

The delegation got acquainted with the Yemeni infrastructure as a base for building investment projects, protect invested capitals and transfer investors' properties.

The German delegation, repre-

sented a number of tourist, oil and services companies and firms, was the first Western delegation breaking the barrier of investors abstention from visiting Yemen following the 9/11 attacks on the U.S.

This development could in turn shake the stagnant waters of investment and encourage capitalists to come to Yemen for investment.



## Words of Wisdom



Unless there is a true commitment to the democratization process based on acceptance of the people as the final arbiter of power in a meaningful relationship between the general public and politicians, the whole transformation process will become a sad joke. In many Western circles, this reality is already beginning to dawn on opinion and policy decision makers. But, by the time they take damage-control measures, a couple of decades would usually have passed. Times is precious for our lives. Safety and harmony in our planet hinges on fighting dictatorship regimes.

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

## OUR OPINION

### Lessons from Europe

After a recent visit I made to Athens to attend the conference "Europe, the Mediterranean and the Euro," I have come to the conclusion that the future in Europe is bright. Countries of various backgrounds, languages, and systems have come together to form a united front to win the economic battle of the future.

The 'Euro', which was the focus of the event, has been in steady growth compared to the US dollar. And global events happening today suggest that the growth is not temporary. The Euro is expected to continue its growth, as the expected war in the region would result in even greater threats for the US dollar.

Europeans seem to be somewhat determined to involve Arab and non-EU-member countries in their plans to promote the Euro in day-to-day business in those countries.

The conference presented the experiences of the past four years since the Euro became the single currency for 12 EU countries and highlighted the benefits created for European countries and for our countries.

The conference was a good reminder of the strength and power that unity provides to world nations. As more countries are going to join the EU, the significance of the Euro in the international market will increase dramatically. As a matter of fact, it is already increasing without those countries, so one can imagine the boost it will get after they join.

Arabs should learn from the Europeans. In a time when Europe is uniting its commercial and economic stance, Arab leaders cannot even decide where to hold a summit meeting, and who will be leading it. They are fighting on leadership of a failed system that has proven to be worthless and useless in critical times.

We are unfortunately concentrating on the ridiculous things such as leading sessions, holding talks, meetings, and other artificial issues, while overlooking and ignoring all other issues concerning the future of the Arab world which is at stake.

During the conference, I was surprised by a statement of one of the speakers saying that they want involvement of Arab Mediterranean countries in European economic strategies and establishments. Can those Arab countries merge with Europe before uniting with other Arab countries?

Where did we go wrong and why can't we come together on even one single issue?

And why can't we learn from Europeans how they got things right?

The Editor

## How do we get along?

# Mohammed accepted religion of others



By BASSAM JAMEEL  
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The relationship between Muslims and the "others" lately has taken the limelight in many intellectual studies, gatherings and publications. It has been of interests to many intellectuals and thinkers, especially after recent crises.

The way this issue is viewed varies greatly according to culture, family and upbringing. Some Muslims look to the "others" as enemies, and it is a religious duty to do as much harm to them wherever, whenever possible. Of course those are the fanatics who do not stand on right religious bases in their judgment.

Also, at the same time some Western people carry rigid attitudes towards Muslims, that they are the reason for all dismay that happens in the world and they should be taught a lesson to behave wherever and whenever possible.

In these few lines, I will try to review what Ahmed Al-Dughshi, professor of Islamic Philosophy at Sana'a University, said in the last issue (No. 38) of "Nawafid" Magazine.

Al-Dughshi had been kidnapped two weeks ago by the political security forces and is still arrested as I am writing these lines. He was taken from the streets and thrown into custody without a defined crime or even a chance to hire a lawyer.

His family came to know where he had disappeared late in the night of his kidnapping. Perhaps it is because of what has happened to this intellectual and also because of his style of deep research and clear evidence to support his words is why I am writing about him now.

In his article, which was titled, Dialogue Between Civilizations - a Reading in the Islamic Educational Principles" he discussed the relation between Muslims and those of other religions according to evidence from the Qu'ran and the Sunna (sayings of the prophet (pbuh)).

He says: "Who reads the Qu'ran wholly, finds clear declarations regarding the relations between nations, and it is a relation based on peaceful accommodation and dialogue not on fighting and violence."

He used many verses from the Qu'ran such as that of Surat Al-Mumtahana, verse 6:

"Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought not against you on account of religion nor drove you out of your homes. Verily, Allah loves those who deal with equity."

And the famous speech by prophet Mohammed (pbuh), which is taken as an important guidance for dealings between

people and a human rights reference in Islam and for the world in general, in his farewell pilgrimage:

"Oh People, your God is one, your father is one, and no Arab is superior than a non-Arab, and no non-Arab is superior than an Arab, and no fair man is better than a dark man, or a dark man is better than a fair man except in faith."

So the Islamic philosophy equates between all humans in privileges, pride and natural rights. An example of this is that once a funeral of a Jew passed in front of the prophet and his fellows and he stood up, so they followed suit but questioning his behavior saying that it belongs to a Jew, he replied then: "Isn't it a soul?!"

Another example was when Asma Bint Abi Baker, asked him if she should visit her non-Muslim mom, and he urged her to do so. Because Islam has emphasized respect and obedience of the parents, even if they are non Muslims, as long as they don't ask something that is against the religion.

Then the author unveils two basic concepts. The first is the civilizations clash or arguments between civilizations as a universal concept for existence; where it was mentioned in the Qu'ran:

"And if Allah did not check one set of people by means of another, the Earth would indeed be full of mischief. But Allah is full of bounty to the Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists)." - Surat Al-Baqara, Verse 251.

The second point is the concept of fight as a social comment that denies a constant in the universe according to the Hegelian Philosophy, and after that the Marxian Philosophy in intellect, society and history, and the Darwin theory in natural science and modern theories, Samuel Huntington in Civilization Clashes and finally Francis Focoyama in his end of history theories.

The arguments between civilizations according to the Islamic logic means the constructive criticism which saves the natural balance between the opposites and the differing as a social movement, and this does not necessitate the elimination of the other and removing it.

The author proves this through examples of the peaceful coexistence during the glory days of Islam between the Muslims and the non-Muslims (the Others).

It in fact had instituted within the social laws all their rights and approved eating with and marrying amongst them (the people of the Book, i.e. Jews and Christians). One example which the writer had included was the Omarean Treaty that Khalifa Omar Bin Al-Khattab had instated with Christians of Palestine 15 years after Hijra.



Dr. Al-Dughshi

He granted them safety of their lives, properties, churches and also affirmed that they are not forced to denounce their religion.

Another example that clearly explains the reasons for Jihad (Holy War) is that the Al-Jihad was not legalized according to the bulk of religious scholars, but to protect Islam and to prevent war. And not for vanishing infidels or non-Muslims.

And this is what the scholars who followed the Jihad verses in the Quran found. For the essence of Islam is peaceful coexistence and the exception is fighting and war.

In addition to that, the verses that talk about non Muslims has come in a specific addressing such as (some of, many of, a part of). And all that confirms that not all human beings are the same even if the majority was bad, as stated in the Qu'ran phrases (they are not the same).

Al-Dughshi continues in providing evidence from various sources confirming that Islam is a religion for love and peace. And that what was achieved in times of peace was much more than in times of war.

In the Prophet's (pbuh) life history it is stated that during Al-Hudabiya conciliatory that people who have reverted to Islam were 60 times more of those who reverted in times of war. That is because it was a method for peaceful offering and displaying of the religion to others and a time for argument and negotiation.

He also argues with those who preach imminent war between Muslims and non Muslims saying: "If it was a must to fight them, then why for were regulations of Ahl Al-Dhima (free non Muslims under Muslim rule) created?"

And why did it prevent killing of women, children, religious men and farmers and whoever does not carry a weapon, in spite of the fact that all those were not Muslims?

Prophet (pbuh) praised the Ethiopia King saying he is a king who does not allow injustice, even though he was not a Muslim at that time. And many other examples, such as God's saying: "Verily, you will find the strongest among men in enmity to the believers (Muslims) the Jews and those who are Al-Mushrekeen (idolaters, polytheists, pagans, disbelievers in the oneness of Allah), and you will find the nearest in the love to the believers (Muslims) those who say: 'We are Christians.' That is because amongst them are priests and monks, and they are not proud." (Al-Maeda, verses 82,83)

Those who are just amongst the Christian scholars admit that our prophet Mohammed's (pbuh) message is an extension of that of Jesus (pbuh). This confession does not imply they lose their own religion, but alas, how many are they and how easily they are influenced

## COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi



## Is the 'ugly' American back?

How much can arrogance and the attitude of a big bully be allowed to dictate the course of events in the world, simply because of a streak of vengeance and the exploitation of this vengeance by the Zionist bullies that swarm over the Bush Administration?

I was not at all surprised to hear Benjamin Netanyahu, former Prime Minister of the Zionist State and now the cozy partner and Foreign Minister of the butcher, Ariel Sharon, categorically declare that we have been providing the United States with all the intelligence information that helps to set them straight on the course of events in the Middle East, or something along that order. This, of course, should not surprise anyone the least bit, as this has been a long-time effort by the American Zionist lobby. However, the timing of making such a statement, clearly seems to be a clear message to the Arab World that the cozy partnership of the USA and Israel can now be manifested in a hate-mongering determined effort to squash away any hopes of the people of the region seeing any semblance of freedom and calm. As for the benefits to be derived from their resources, the people of the region know full well that their leaders have signed blank checks to their American bosses to draw on their oil revenues for any adventures they may wish to carry out against them.

How can Mr. George W. Bush expect even his closest allies not to be skeptical of the American motives in the region, when it is clear that American foreign policy is now shared by an aggressive dogmatic chauvinistic regime, that is immune from any international accountability and which has been given an open license to kill, maim, burn and destroy all that remains of the Palestinian people, with the international community in full sleep.

What is the essence of all this maneuvering in the region by the biggest bully in the world? Surely it is not Saddam Hussein, or the dangers that his regime poses to anyone. Even Saddam's neighbors have come to recognize that, as far as they are concerned, they have discounted any likely threats posed by Saddam Hussein to them, and they seem to think that it is the Americans who in fact are more worrisome. The obvious "go ahead Sharon, do what you like" attitude of the Bush administration has made it clear that there are no sincere objectives of the United States in the region, while they see no qualms in the daily killings Sharon is enjoying in Palestine. Even the death of innocent children by the hundreds by the Zionist thugs does not stir any sympathy in Mr. Bush, who seems to have been convinced by the Zionist logic that the only good Arab is a dead Arab.

What else can anyone conclude, except that the American administration is set on serving the various power interests in the United States, that can guarantee it another term in office, without having to produce anything meaningful for the mass population of the United States? The truth of the matter is that this present White House administration is going to continue on sensational shows of power, which can easily be sold to the uninformed population of the United States and the power cliques that tend to find no great remorse to the random destruction of life, property and peace of mind, as long as their own selfish interests are fulfilled.

There was really a time when many people looked towards the United States as a nation that can lead the world to an international order of peace, stability and shared economic welfare. But the Bush administration has systematically and carelessly thrown such sentiments out the window, to the point that even the closest allies of the United States are questioning the directions towards which Mr. Bush is driving his own nation and the rest of the world.

It was refreshing to hear former President Bill Clinton give some subtle, but meaningful advice to his successor, when he gave significance to the need for obtaining international recognition for the course on which the United States seeks to tread, in order to insure that the United States does not become isolated by a policy driven by selfish interest groups that have gotten the upper hand in the formulation of the foreign policy of the world superpower, to work towards serving their own narrow and selfish interests. From here, it is hard to really predict just how bad things will turn out to be, not just for the United States, but for the world at large as well.

## Let's not forget Eid's meaning



By YASSER AL-MAYASI  
ym\_almayasi@yahoo.com

Muslims all over the world receive the occasion of Eid Al Adha with ultimate happiness.

Eid has a lot of value in Muslim hearts and minds, regardless of the crises and wars many Islamic countries are suffering from.

Eid comes while a country like

Palestine is still occupied by Zionists, and other countries are celebrating Eid while they are looking for bread and their children are dying of starvation.

Eid comes while Iraqi people are expecting the US-led war against Iraq and Muslims in Afghanistan are being killed.

Eid comes while the Islamic world fights to disprove its image of terrorism.

Eid comes after a spiritual period

Eid's meanings are of great value. We need to enjoy them, especially in this time which represents the climax of our misery and despair.

We need to learn from this occasion

how to forget our revenges, selfishness and other morals diseases which are so widespread now.

This is our reality which we shouldn't deny. We need to look for the reasons behind it and find the suitable solutions.

Today, a problem is that most Muslims change their principles and look at the religious occasions as traditions, not as means of getting closer to God. So Eid has become hollow of real meaning.

We should consider this and apply it in our life, to live happily and really enjoy such a great occasion. Many happy returns for everybody.

## Letters to the Editor

### Unfriendly tourism in Yemen

Having read the article on Yemeni tourism (Issue 621, Feb. 3) I was moved and decided to write you a letter on the subject.

I am an American who worked in Yemen and visited it as a tourist many times. I am currently working as a teacher in Saudi Arabia and

wanted to visit Yemen again.

I had a Yemeni student of mine call the Yemen Embassy in Riyadh to inquire about the visa procedure because, firstly, you don't get a real person on the phone and, secondly, the recording you do get is only in Arabic.

He was told that I had to

## Letters to the Editor

submit a letter from my employer stating he had no objection to my visiting Yemen and that when this was done, Yemen's Ambassador would ask Sana'a if it was OK for me to visit Yemen!

I submitted the letter by fax as I was requested to do, heard nothing, and faxed again asking about the status

of my visa request. After several weeks I received no reply to either fax.

I don't know if you would share my opinion of how tourist-unfriendly this procedure is, but the result is that I was not given a visa (and indeed not even the courtesy of a reply) and hence, I am not visiting Yemen.

## Letters to the Editor

Maybe those who say they are concerned with tourism should investigate the real state of affairs outside the bounds of such pronouncements.

Thomas A. Winters

Don't ask us for help again!

I see a lot of protest by Arabs to the American mili-

tary buildup in the Middle East and possible war against Iraq. Personally, as an American, I would rather see the US pull out of the Middle East and let Saddam Hussein attack whomever he wishes. When he does, please don't ask us for help like you did last time.

Mark Unix  
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# War may come, but US has not made its case

BY AMIR TAHERI  
ARAB NEWS STAFF

Anyone with some knowledge of the science of war would know that its military aspect constitutes a small part of a far more complex whole.

The military may win or lose battles. But when it comes to war, politicians, not generals, determine victory or defeat.

In World War II, the German army won more battles than their British, Russian and American adversaries. German generals such as von Pappen and von Rundstedt achieved battleground victories that would have made Cyrus or Alexander proud. But Germany lost the war, nonetheless. The reason was that its leaders ignored one fact: war is an instrument of politics, not the other way round, a fact spelled out by Aristotle over 2,000 years ago.

No other human activity requires the deployment of so much moral energy, political ingenuity, and intellectual prowess as war.

## Triple rule of USA

Kavus Voshmgir, the 10th century Persian theoretician of war, wrote about the triple rule of armed conflict. The first phase consists of material, moral, and political preparation. One should move into the second phase only after winning the first. The second phase consists of the actual fighting, which is the least important of the three. Finally, there is the postfighting phase in which you either translate your military victory into political gains or, if you have been defeated, try to minimize your losses.

Now let us apply the triple rule to the United States' projected war against Saddam Hussein.

There is no doubt that the US is prepared for the second phase. Its superiority in terms of weapons systems, training and maneuverability is beyond doubt. Morale is also high on the American side, if only because the GIs know that, in technical terms at least, they have the upper hand.

When it comes to political preparation, however, the American performance has

been amateurish, to say the least.

## Looming conflict

To start with, there is still confusion about the precise objectives of the looming conflict. It would be much easier to sell this war by stating its objective to be the removal of Saddam Hussein from power. No one, not even the linguist Noam Chomsky or the neo-fascist French politician Jean-Marie Le Pen, two of Saddam's most ardent fans, would be able to defend his policy of repression, war and genocide in public. The same international public that warmed up to the goal of removing Slobodan Milosevic from power would be open to arguments in favor of toppling Saddam.

There is abundant evidence about atrocities committed by the Saddam regime in Baghdad over the past 30 years. The University of Louvain, in Belgium, has completed an exhaustive research project into Saddam's use of chemical weapons between 1985 and 1988. It is impossible for anyone to read even a summary and not wish for those responsible to be brought to books. The report by the Dutch politician Max van der Stoep about the destruction of whole communities in southeast Iraq is already a classic in the history of atrocities that a regime could commit against its own people. Various human rights groups, including Amnesty International, have lists of tens of thousands of Iraqis who have disappeared in Saddam's prisons and hard labor camps during the past three decades.

The Bush administration, however, has highlighted "the disarming of Iraq" as the objective. This is a harder sell. Who is going to find the weapons that Saddam might be hiding in thousands of cleverly camouflaged sites?

Even if such weapons were to be found, it would still be hard to convince the public, including most Americans, that Saddam might, one day, use those weapons against the US or any other country.

Divisions within the Bush administration further complicate matters. Some members of the administration, including Secretary of State Colin Powell, seem apologetic when discussing the issue. Others, notably

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, appear unduly provocative.

The result is that, in some cases, it is the US that is presented as the guilty party. To listen to Chomsky or Jean-Marie Le Pen one might think that it is George W. Bush that has to be toppled, not Saddam Hussein.

## Millions to die

The fact that Iraq, under Saddam, is legally still at war with the United Nations is totally forgotten. People talk of "the American war against Iraq" and lament "the carpet bombing of women and children" even though fighting has not even begun. Chomsky is already projecting "the millions of Iraqis" who are going to die just as he had projected the millions of Afghans who were supposed to perish last year and didn't. Georg Haider, the Austrian neo-fascist leader, speaks of "America's war against civilization" as if Saddam Hussein were a modern day Solon.

The US has failed to show the world that the choice in Iraq is between Saddam Hussein and a new regime that would represent the peoples of Iraq.

Some, who do not know the details of this issue, the choice is between the status quo that, though lamentable, is preferable to the prospect of chaos in Iraq. They would rather let Saddam continue killing Iraqis in relatively small numbers for many years to come than take the risk of large numbers of Iraqis dying in a few days of war.

The US has also been sending confusing signals on the diplomatic front. During the past couple of weeks, we have talked to leaders from a dozen or so countries with a direct interest in the conflict. They all say they are not sure what it is that the Americans are really after. Talks between the US and the interested countries has largely focused on concessions, including cash rewards, that Washington is prepared to offer in exchange for support in a possible war against Saddam Hussein. China, Russia, Turkey, Iran and Jordan are among these countries.

The same confusion could be seen among the Iraqi opposition groups.

"People think we are in cahoots with the



Arab News - Khalil's cartoon

# It's Algeria all over again

BY ABDOULELAH TAQI  
UNITED KINGDOM

Our country seems to be taking a miserably thorny track of national disputes and unpredictably endless conflicts.

The interrelated individual acts that took place very recently and resulted in the assassination of a big politician leader and three American aid workers have triggered unjustified rattles and bubbles. However such acts imply there is a criminal cell trying to destabilize Yemen for their own misguided ideologies.

Everybody now believes that the assassinations have not been politically motivated nor organized.

Hence, all these facts proved that such events are due to bad religious ideologies which have persistently preoccupied minds of misled or misleading youngsters and caused them to commit their unforgettable sins.

I recall the beginning of the Algerian insurgency of religious groups that had torn itself into several groups of different extreme ideologies and terrorist identities. This split caused a total rejection of each other.

Obstinacy is man's enemy that lets him forget the value of mind. And the ends, whatever ends, does justify the means in this case.

But I am sorry to tell you that Yemen's representatives in its two big political powers and other opposition parties are igniting a bomb. It seems like the usual game they used to play before any parliamentary elections or any electoral race. We all know it.

Personally, I am seriously gloomy and I sigh for what is going to happen. Actually the war of words between Islah party and General Peoples Congress Party and the barrage of exchanged accusations are merely an ignition of the bomb of the national

disputes which have no definite end.

In such stressful worldwide political conditions, such a bomb is more likely to blast the whole nation apart and cause an uprising of domestic hatred and reprisal.

Hey guys, comrades of partisanship, stop right here. This is the limit you must not trespass. It is our security, and lives of our sons and brothers prejudicing doom. For a political purpose, the nation will pay very dearly.

The case we are talking about is not a national case so far. It deeply goes through the several manipulated analyses and interpretations of a third party which "have" all threads that keep them able to control their puppet in absentia.

We are unfortunately experiencing the same Algerian experiment and living conditions similar to the post-extroversion state of 14 years ago. All those remembering that crisis can hold a comparison.

This time will not be like the several last times. Now the criminals are in custody, and justice should take its course without taking advantage of the tragic event on behalf of certain political purposes.

Yet, the thing the political leadership and other political entities must discuss and focus on, instead of unworthy controversy, is the matter of the forgotten living absent an officer and General Peoples Congress member Abdul-Salam Al-Hilah, about whom nobody has known.

A question should be posed about such a condition and an issue, a living case not that everyone has known every thing about. And the opposition parties must be with one hand and demand the government to look into the case of the simple disappearance of a citizen amongst reported suspicions. Adopting a simple citizen case is also in the interest of another simple citizen who is one of millions of fellows.

## In Java heartland

# Discontent with Megawati

BY DEAN YATES

On the surface, the heart of Java is still a bedrock of political support for Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

The red and black flags of her party flutter everywhere and her posters dot the towns and villages across a region surrounded by grey volcanoes and covered in a patchwork of green rice fields.

But rumblings of discontent here suggest all is not well for Megawati, who despite criticism of some of her policies is still regarded by many as the favourite to win the country's first direct presidential race in 2004.

Political analysts and diplomats say most major government decisions are already being made with one eye on the vote. Brokers and traders expect speculation about it to be a major market factor this year in a country where political stability, or the lack of it, is critical to the economy.

Current wisdom among some pundits is that whatever her weaknesses, Megawati's rule has brought a measure of stability and few, if any, candidates could mount a serious challenge to her in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

But Sumadi, 46, a furniture maker from Klaten — near Mt. Merapi or "Fire Mountain", one of the world's most dangerous volcanoes, and the Hindu ruins of Prambanan — has a different view.

Here in Indonesia's rice bowl, Sumadi moans about high food prices and accuses the Jakarta elite of only taking care of themselves.

"Megawati has to think about these things if she wants the support again from the little people. People are smart enough, they know the situation. Those who voted for Megawati in these villages here, they really are tired of all this," he said.

Sarino, 54, a weather-beaten rickshaw driver at a vegetable market Solo, capital

of an ancient Hindu kingdom, said the faded shirt on his back that bore Megawati's party logo did not mean she had his vote.

"Many people are disappointed because they have been ignored. If this keeps up, I won't vote for her," he said, as labourers hauled sacks of rice past vendors selling pungent spices.

Across several districts in central Java where Megawati's Indonesia Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P) won 50-60 percent of the vote in the 1999 general elections, interviews with people who chose her party last time showed only half would have no hesitation in picking her in the direct presidential ballot.

The rest warned their support was wavering or said they would not choose her.

Even among those who said they would vote for Megawati, few were happy with the current government, especially after increases in fuel prices last month, which in the face of nationwide protests have been partially rolled back.

To many, the protests were the opening election salvo.

## The popular image fades

During parliamentary elections in 1999, Megawati's PDI-P won the most votes, a third of the total, in a race between dozens of parties. But Muslim cleric Abdurrahman Wahid outmanoeuvred Megawati when legislators chose the president a few months later.

Those legislators sacked Wahid for incompetence in July 2001, allowing Megawati to move up from the vice president's post.

The challenge for Megawati ahead of the landmark 2004 poll, especially on the main island of Java, appears to be reviving her popularity with the masses so that if she wins she can do so without being forced into too much unwieldy coalition building.

Pramono Anung, a senior official in



Members of the Indonesia Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P) sit in front of a giant portrait of party leader and the country's president, Megawati Sukarnoputri in the town of Solo on Indonesia's Java island on Jan. 3. REUTERS

Megawati's party, said criticism over the price hikes was an example of opponents trying to drive a wedge between Megawati and the poor.

"At the moment we do not see any figure who, in a significant way, is accepted by the people more than Megawati," he said.

While Megawati has ushered in relative political stability, critics say she has been too timid in tackling issues like the graft that annoys just about every Indonesian.

Donors have praised Megawati's government for its economic management in bringing inflation and interest rates down. Under Megawati, the often volatile rupiah currency has also steadied.

Her supporters say she needs time to fix Indonesia's woes.

"For me, Megawati still thinks about the little people. If not Megawati, then who is there?" said merchant Sri Muryani, 33, speaking in Klaten, the old Dutch colonial trading centre some 500 km (310 miles) east of Jakarta.

Bank on the Sukarno name

As the daughter of Sukarno, Indonesia's founding president, Megawati's support among the masses stems partly from the memory of the charismatic man who declared the nation's independence.

"My whole family will defend Mega because she is the child of Sukarno," said Tinuk, 35, a bubbly fruit merchant in Solo.

Another plus for her is the apparent lack of competition.

The election challenger most often mentioned is Amien Rais, the speaker of the top legislature. But despite his presidential ambitions, Rais lacks critical grass roots support.

Dennis Heffernan of the Jakarta-based political consultancy Van Zorge, Heffernan and Associates, said it was important to also watch out for a wild card in a country where personalities were more important than party ideology.

"If there was someone who was media friendly, someone who looked good and was articulate, I think they could do a lot damage to all these last generation candidates," he said.

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*Revenues don't seem to be used for improvements*

# The parks in Eid

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

On occasions and official holidays, people usually like to seize these precious opportunities and go outdoors and parks to get refreshed and get rid of life's monotony.

People usually seek out parks for the exciting playthings and sports that children adore in them.

Here in Sana'a, with population of about one million, we find that these parks lack facilities parks are supposed to have.

Also, these parks are all dirt, lacking the greenness that is supposed to make one feel the difference between public places and those parks.

In spite of the high income that owners of the parks get, we find that they pay nothing to take care of them. Instead we see their ignorance for providing the simplest services. There are no sunshades to sit under and there is too much noise coming from the microphones of the games. The building waste materials also fill the parks atmosphere.

So people don't want to waste their time in such uncomfortable places.

One who visits al-Sabeen Park gets surprised at the crowds, especially at children's ticket-windows.

Al-Sabeen Park is considered one of the biggest public parks in Sana'a. It's where the Unknown Soldier tomb is situated, and is home as the anniversary Parade. Moreover, the Presidential Palace is not too far. However, the capital secretary along with investors does not pay any attention to it.

It is remarkable that there is no difference between the ticket prices for grownups and children. That really is a burden upon the limited-income families. Thus now it becomes only for the white-collar people while the majority is deprived.

We are afraid that in the privatization time, we cannot protect the public's interests. They should be respected and protected, but rather investors are putting enormous revenues in a few pockets.

We are afraid that in one day all the public parks will be privatized, and it will be mere business.

Is holding a number of the parklands and neglecting an introduction to seize this opportunity? We hope not.



As there are no theme parks, amusement centers, etc., primitive public parks are perhaps the only place where children can go to so as to enjoy the spirit of eid. Yemen Times archive photo

## Can we learn from them?



During his visit to Athens, Yemen Times editor Walid al-Saqqaf discovered street dogs have learned to abide by pedestrian traffic lights in the city center. It is truly amazing to see that in some countries dogs go by the law, while in other countries, humans don't!

## MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series published in a newspaper

43

Written by  
Abduurahman Mutahhar

Translated by  
Janet Watson

### 'Love, my friends'

**M** - 'Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means.'

**Ma** - It goes, 'Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means.'

It's not for him who lit up his shop in the light of day.

Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means.

It's not for him who collects money then breakfasts in prison.

Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means.

It's not for the trader who was born yesterday.'

**M** - Very poetic! And I've been thinking that every saying and proverb has got a story behind them which gives us an insight into life and people.

**Ma** - I just learn the sayings from listening to other people. I don't know whether they've got any stories behind them, and I don't even bother asking!

**M** - Well I'm going to tell you the story behind that saying now!

**Ma** - Okay, go on!

**M** - They say that there were three people. Two of them were traders and the third collected tax [zakah] and handed it over to the state. The first trader went bankrupt because of all the goods he used to buy on credit. They lit a candle and put it over the

door of his shop in broad daylight as a sign to his creditors. The second trader went into business without knowing anything about it, and was bankrupt within the space of three months.

**Ma** - Go on, what about the third person, the tax collector?

**M** - The third person collected tax, and rather than hand it over to the state treasury, he embezzled it. In the end, he was sent to prison. At that time, there was a lovely girl. Each of them wanted to marry her, but it never turned out, because the first trader was bankrupt, the second trader was bankrupt and in debt, and the tax collector was locked away in prison. Later a saying emerged from the story and it became the subject of a popular song.

'Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means.'

It's not for him who lit up his shop in the light of day.

Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means.

It's not for him who collects money then breakfasts in prison.

Love, my friends, needs heart, strength and means.

It's not for the trader who was born yesterday.'

**Ma** - Tell me, though, Mus'id, is that really a true story, or did someone

make it up?

**M** - If you think about it, you'll realize that it's based on truth. My nephew hasn't got any patience. He wanted to get rich overnight, whatever it took. He opened up a shop and curried favor with the importers and wholesalers.

He acted very honest and upright so that they would trust him, and they began to give him goods worth hundreds of thousands of riyals. He would give them half the cost at the time, and the rest once he had sold the goods. But, unfortunately, he went off the straight and narrow. He became excessively wasteful and extravagant.

In the end, he had to leave the business altogether, without a penny to his name and up to his ears in debt, and they lit a candle over the door of his shop.

**Ma** - Go on!

**M** - Other people, Mus'ida, set up a business without knowing anything about it beforehand, and often without a clue about how the market works or how traders operate; people like these usually go bankrupt within a very short time. Some people, who are entrusted by the state to collect taxes and take it to the state treasury, betray that trust. They embezzle the money, and end up eating fenugeek and bread in prison.

## Dispute resolution among its purposes

# Folklore of Zamil

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**Y**emeni tribes are still chanting folklore poetry which is known as Zamil. Zamil is a genre of folklore literature derived from the tribal poetic tradition sung in chorus. It is chanted during national festivals and marriage ceremonies. It is also used in order to make fun of opponent tribes.

Chanting Zamil signifies the strong unity of tribes to encounter the enemies or dangers that may occur.

Zamil had a very strong impact on diffusing enthusiasm among revolutionaries during the 26 September Revolution.

It was used also by opponent forces to discourage revolution supporters.

Today, the Zamil is closely related to the day-to-day behavior to bring peace and social security among people.

The folklore of Zamil in Yemen has its own set of rules and genres. It generally refers to folklore literature featured by poetry.

One of the characteristics of the Zamil is that it is not chanted using the first person singular. It doesn't address individual or sentimental feelings. It is therefore, chanted in chorus and addresses a group of people depicting their issues, whether political, economical, or social.

It may include threatening lines, praise or satire to make fun of other people. As a result it should be chanted in chorus.

**Strongly worded**

Motazammel or chanters of Zamil should represent the situation of the tribe's issue and express sentiments and feelings of the group as a whole.

**In order to chant Zamil, a group of chanters have to line up. It has to be chanted during folklore festivals.**

During Zamil, chanters have to carry weapons on their shoulders as a token of the unity of the tribe and its heavy bur-

dens in front of tribal and tribulations.

Al-Harethi, a very well-known Yemeni historian, has divided Zamil into four vernaculars:

The first group depends on poetic meters such as Ragz or Saree. This kind of an art has been still found in al-Baidha, al-Awaleq, Farkha, and al-Awadel.

The second group is featured by clarity and eloquent. It can be found in Murad tribes, Baihan, Hada, Rada, Khawlani, and Taiz.

The third one is featured by using specific poetry.

This kind of an art is widely used in the east parts of Hadhramout, Jihm, Jeda'an, and Waela.

The fourth group is featured by the imitation of other groups' Zamil. Different poetic meters are used. This kind of Zamil can be found in the areas around Sana'a.

The well-known late writer, Abdullah al-Baradoni, in his book titled *Folklore Literature in Yemen* said that one of the main conditions of a well-spoken Zamil is that it should possess a metrical language and comprises close tunes.

**The political and national Zamil is considered to among the best folklore art that is chanted during national festivals.**

Of course, poets are not specialists, they only do what everyone of the population ought to do. Therefore, a tribesman does not compose purely for the sake of art.

His sensibility does not separate aesthetic expression from practical life, for every poem is at heart of political and social act.

The composition is in response to some actual concrete event that always has practical or spiritual import for the community.

Though one poet is responsible for creating the text, Zamil involves a chorus of men.

The Zamil performance may include

poetry, instrumental music as well as song and dance. The dance, however, is not an obligatory element of the performance.

The poetic form of the Zamil poem is more interesting musical instruction.

The constraint of composition is compression, since the first line of the poem is usually set aside for recognizing the honor of the addressee. There remains only one line in which the poet can address the issue in question. Tenseness of expression is the rule.

At its best the Zamil is an aphorism, therefore, it can be said that there is less need for formulas in the composition of the Zamil.

In Zamil, poetry formulas are short, never more than three words and therefore, encompass only a fraction of the entire line.

Zamil has a much greater range of use in social context, being performed at the wedding, religious festivals, dispute mediations and the ceremonies of atonement.

The most important social context, in which Zamil poetry is composed is the dispute mediation, when a serious conflict breaks out between two or more villages, or two different tribes. Mediators usually arrive chanting Zamil poems.

Zamil performance presupposes tribal bonds of solidarity among its participants. In the dispute mediations, solidarity means one of steadfastness and resolves of the litigants as well as mediator in the face of conflict.

An important dialectic occurs between poetry and social action, for the Zamil both transforms the social context, through its association with the idea of solidarity and is in turn transformed by it.

To compose a Zamil poetry in accordance with the conventions of the poetic tradition is to have a power, to enter into a certain kind of discourse in which honor is created or defended by the poet and persuasion is exercised.



Lack of proper care

# Handicapped in Yemen fall prey to poor management



SALAH SALEH AHMED  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**W**hen we hear to the word "handicapped", the first thing that comes to your mind is that they comprise people with disabilities.

Talk of this class should arouse the feelings of mercy and compassion within us.

Basic services have to be provided to them such as, education, health services, training courses, transportation, and rehabilitation.

In order to ensure a permanent existence for this class, services such as institutes, training centers, organizations, and societies have to be established.

The most important thing for them is to grant financial resources.

Organizations and societies which do not take care of this class cause them to suffer from deteriorating conditions. This is clearly detected when paying rent for buildings and therefore they can be at any time forced to leave such buildings.

There is also a sharp shortage of the social and health services.

Republic decree No. 5 for 1991 refers to establishing the Supreme National Committee for the Handicapped Rehabilitation and Care.

Republican decree No. 6 for 1991 was also issued. It dealt with the conditions of the handicapped including the visually, mentally and physically handicapped in 15 governorates in the republic.

In addition to this, the activities of the Handicapped Rehabilitation and Care Fund has been reactivated along with establishing the National Federation for the Handicapped.

Funds had been increasing from YR. 3 million in (1991-1998) to YR. 3.5 million in 1999, but then dropped to YR. 2.5 million in 2002.

The experimental project to alleviate poverty among this class has been prepared and presented to the Arab League.

This project has been approved by the Arab League at the cost of USD 50,000 to finance the project.

It was entrusted to the Ministry of the Social Labor Affairs, the fund's board of directors and the Supreme

National Committee for the Handicapped Rehabilitation and Care.

During its second meeting held at the cabinet office in Sana'a, a number of decisions were made in the presence of Abdulkareem Ismael al-Arhabi, the Minister of Social and Labor Affairs, the vice chairman of the Supreme National Committee, Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, the Minister of Planning and Development, Dr. Abduannaser al-Munaibari, the Minister of Public and Health and Population, Waheeba Fara'e, the State's Minister for Human Rights, Ahmed al-Kuhalani, the Mayor of Sana'a, the deputy finance minister, and the deputy minister of vocational and technical education.

The meetings focused on:

- Employing one of the handicapped at all the governorates of the republic.
- Reshaping the work plan of the fund.
- Increasing the fund budget from YR 50 million to YR 100 million in 2002.
- Nominating an executive manager for the fund under the condition of running a healthy free competition.

## Beginnings of problems

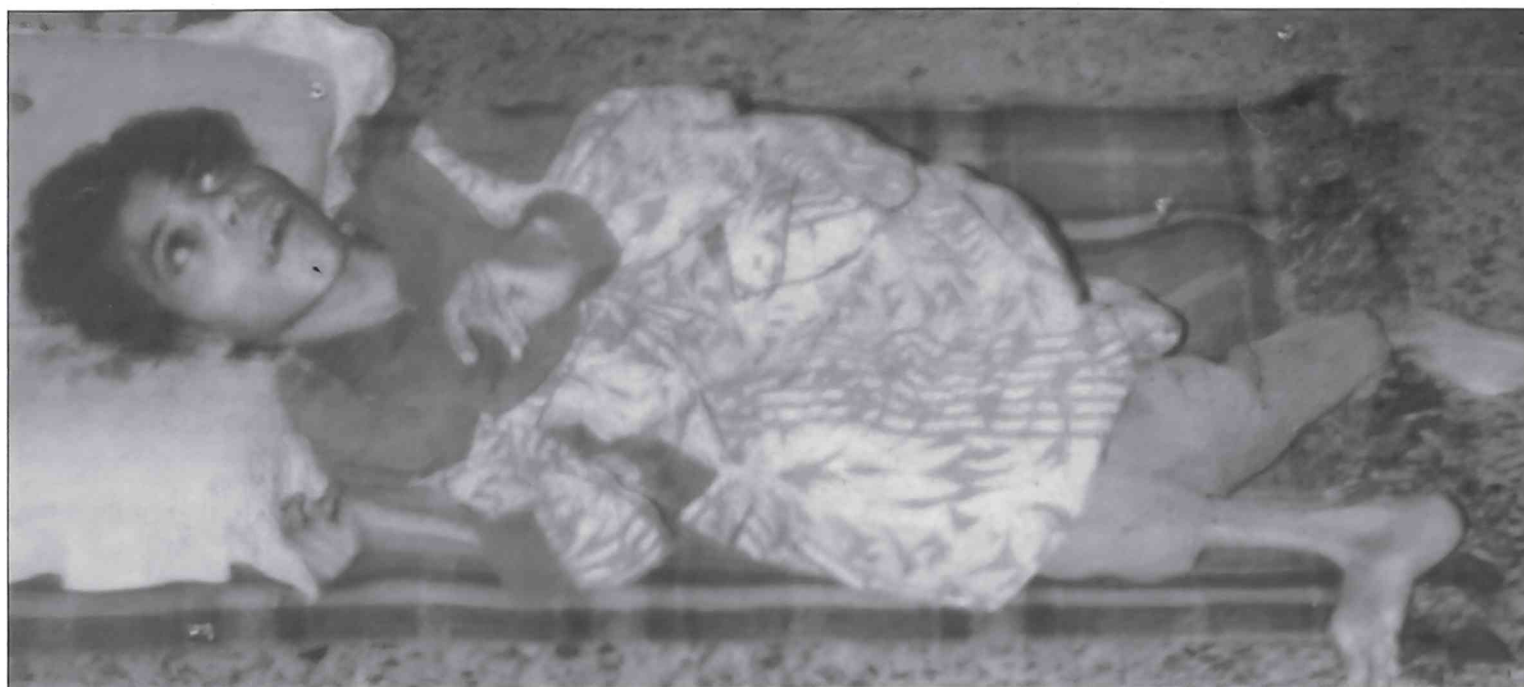
Favoritism and patronage is one teething problem that has occurred within the administrative and executive posts.

Within the issuance of the cabinet's decree No. (724) for 2002 to appoint Nour Mohammed Babad as an executive manager for the fund, condemnation and protestation telegrams were sent by the handicapped in the 15 governorates of the republic for substituting the former executive manager of the fund.

According to what the handicapped say, the new executive manager is not for the benefit of the them and doesn't serve their interests.

Nadia Mohammed Sabr al-Ansi, the Chairwoman of Eradah Association for the Blind Rehabilitation and Care, Dhamar governorate said: "The number of the of the acoustically handicapped have reached 6,080 including 1,096 who are deprived from the basic services and they are in a total seclusion of their community."

As for the difficulties encountered by the association is the indebtedness, that is attributed to inadequacy the financial resources allocated by



According to recent surveys, due to shortage in health services and lack of awareness, the estimated ratio of handicapped to healthy people in Yemen is among the highest in ratios in the whole world. YT photo.

the government.

"In addition to this, there is no premises for and the association's incapability to employ the blind and deaf people," she said.

Some of the handicapper's fund in the Dhamar city has been still outstanding and some have been followed by the National Handicapped Union.

The committee members were formed by the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, the fund of the handicapped rehabilitation and care and the National Handicapped Union to conduct field visits to the handicapped associations.

There are also difficulties encountered by the physically handicapped in Ibb, said Yahya Shamlan, the chairman of the association:

"The main difficulty is represented by unavailability of fixed resources. No reaction from the capital businessmen have been showed. The lack of knowledge or understanding on the part of the public is also another problem."

The geographical location of Ibb's governorate also constitutes a problem for it is away from the organizations which support the handicapped societies.

We at first thought that the issuance of the republic decree No. 2 for 2002 was a suitable solution related to the fund of the handicapped rehabilitation and care a satisfactory solution.

But we are taken aback by the decision to change Ahmed Qasem Shuga'a Addeen and the suspension of the financial allocations for the handicapped associations.

This has resulted in suspending the functions of some associations and they are under the threat of being deteriorated at any time. This is also ascribed to other reasons such as, inability to pay rents or repaying water, telephone or electricity bills.

In a letter dispatched to the prime minister, the minister of the Labor and Social Affairs, and to the Chairman of the Board of the Directors, the National Handicapped Union expressed their point of views regarding reconsidering the decree's appointment.

## Waste of time

The series of protestations against and the refusal to issues directives from the cabinet to freeze the former decree of arrival of the Minister of the Social and Labor Affairs.

On the other hand, a temporary committee for nomination was approved, supervised by the Minister of the Social and Labor Affairs in order to elect an executive manager for the fund.

At another level, those who are eligible have to meet the required conditions.

As a matter of fact, there is a possibility to avoid such labyrinths, and what has been proved rightly is that the decree No. 7, which was adopted during the 2nd meeting for the Supreme National Committee, has stipulated that the process of nominating the executive manager has to be submitted to a health competitive atmosphere.

## Complete farce

Such labyrinth haven't finished yet. It's a complete farce.

Until the end of September 23 2002, the fund's works have been suspended

There was a certain slowdown on the parts of the committee's tasks and a clear testimony of establishing less contacts with the Minister of the Social and Labor Affairs and the Chairman of the Board of Directors for approving work mechanisms.

The worst thing is that the committee has rented another building and this has added fuel to the fire. The committee was in short of financial gains and thus the handicapped have fallen prey to such procedures.

This constitutes a breach against the committee's tasks because it is the task of a permanent executive manager.



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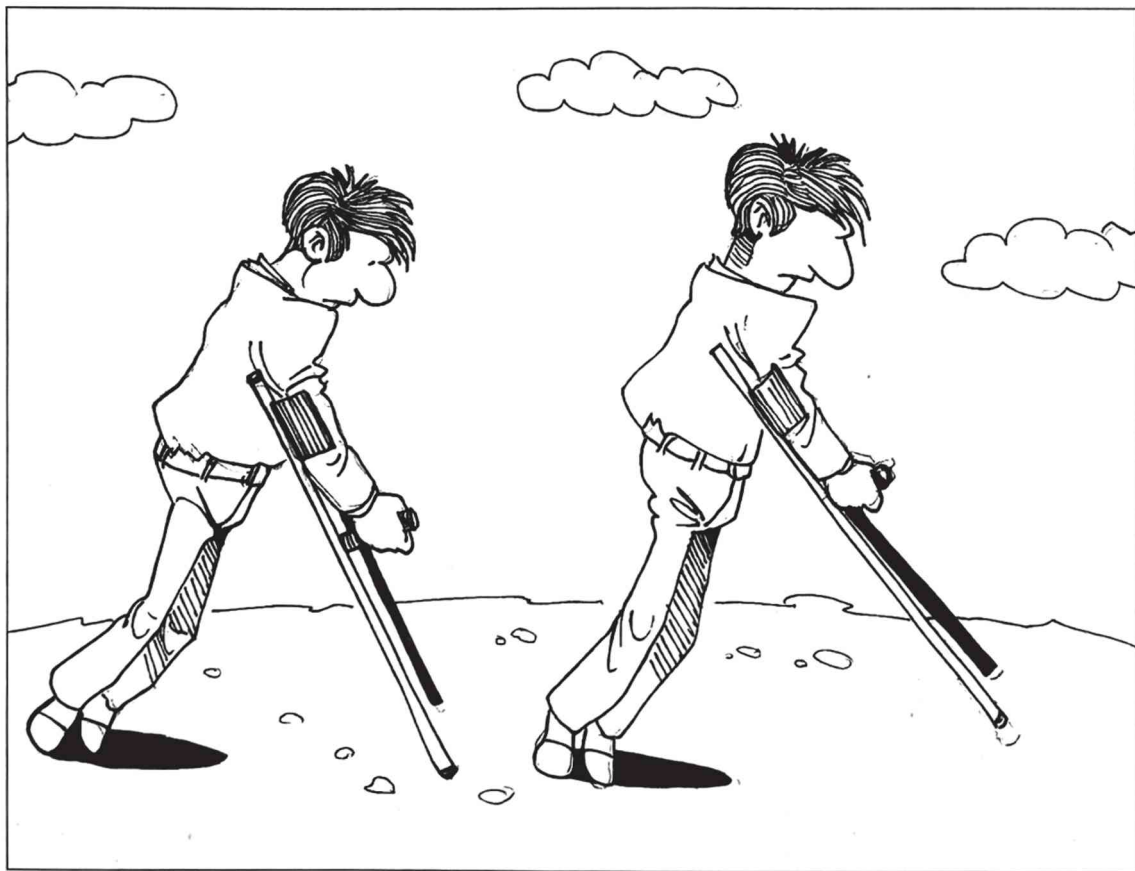
In fulfillment with cabinet resolution 294 for the year 2002 relating to follow up and monitoring the National Poverty Reduction Strategy, the PRS Technical Committee announces competition for the following positions:

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# Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



**Al-Sahwa, 6 Feb. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Sheikh al- Ahmar met German ambassador to Yemen
- Al- Mouyad lawyer criticize German prosecution and security treatments
- Islah party local conferences continue
- Ceremony marking the fortieth day of Jarallah Omer's death observed
- Two ministers hinder work of local authorities in Baidha

Columnist Abdul Malik al- Shaibani says although the U.S. prints on back of its currency the phrase "In God we Trust", one wonders if the United states, especially its political system, does really trust in God. There is a Yawning gap between the call and allegation. The U.S. policy it pursues all over the world completely contradicts this allegation. For instance, one would wonder if the U.S. siding with and supporting Israel in all fields indicate that it trusts in God or believes in God? We see every day the killing and destruction the Israelis commit against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This is only one simple example of the U.S. crimes. Wherever to go in the world you should find the same policy and the same iniquitous way, as well as the double standard of its policy.



**ATTARIQ weekly, 4 Feb. 2003.**

## Main Headlines:

- Al-Eryani: The one-party government experiment, the most successful
- U.S. ambassador to Yemen streets importance of democratic development in Yemen
- Parliament rejects British loan for renovating al-Jumhuriyah

- hospital in Aden
- Abdulghami and Hull express their determination to have non- violent, fair elections
- A young man's dead body found, suspects arrested

Columnist Wathiq Shathily says the talk on providing opportunity for more women running for the coming parliament is commended and important. The parliament we want is not a group of men and women occupying its seats. It is rather a group of elements reflecting the people will their woes, desires and aspirations for a better future. It is normally the right of any political party to seek to enable its nominees to the parliament. The essential criterion of running parliamentary elections lies in selecting the efficient elements capable of performing their role and representing interests of our people and homeland. I call on all our political parties for the necessity of being very careful in nominating their members to run for the elections. We are not in lack of men and women able to fill their seats at the parliament. What impede establishment of a genuine parliament are narrow interests, miscalculations and nepotism.

**Al- Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite U n i o n i s t Organization, 4 Feb. 2003.**

## Main Headlines:

- Tragedies in Sabra prison
- Transport workers stage demonstration in front of presidency
- Security fails to arrest al-Zaidi
- Dialogue committee finishes task after Adhha Eid
- Zaidi protected by tribe, military troops lay siege to Sarwah
- U.S. training to Coast guard in Aden
- U.S. enemy fabricates new lies to convince UN Security Council for aggression on Iraq

Yousef Mohammed al- Mashwali says the brutal and suppressive acts

practiced by security apparatus against peddlers are not rated less in severity than occupation oppression. They are equal to state terror against people whose only guilt in their seeking for earning their living for their families. They have been enable to get job opportunities under the high rate of unemployment. The writer calls on decision makers that instead of fighting those citizens they should work for providing job opportunities and exploring suitable solutions in quest of curbing spread of unemployment. Against this war on peddlers and authority insistence pursuing it we hope that Yemeni human rights organization would embark on defending those poor people and their right to live, guaranteed in the constitution.

**Al- Tajamu weekly, organ of Yemeni Unionist Congregation party, 3 Feb. 2003.**

## Main Headlines:

- Sheik al-Ahmar calls for secure atmospheres for elections, al-Zandani calls for postponing them
- More than 50 arrested, including a Zandani son-in-law, 7
- from al- Eman University
- Attorney- general gives orders to submit Dadshi case to prosecution
- In this meeting with parties leaders, president Saleh calls for national unity to safeguard the country's security
- Officer and soldiers in Taiz criminal Investigations tortured al- Sharjabi

Ahmed al-Salami says in an article that the biggest superstition term given publicity by domestic political activities is that of constants. Most of those enthusiastic about defense of those constants, whether religious or national, are the first who would tramp on them and on those deceived by them. Throughout the nineties decade the population of this country has experienced the biggest deception, namely, democracy and freedom

under which fake shadow the major human constants have been violated, especially those regarding the right to live and to stay alive. The fear facing reality is what pushes to suggest founding these imaginary constants that process of reconsideration of these constants and to look at them from a scientific perspective far from emotions.



**Al- Balagh weekly, 4 February 2003.**

## Main Headlines:

- Clashes between marine policemen and port security elements -Those accused of British embassy attack threaten of hunger strike
- President defines goals of the charter of honor, insists choosing Zandani member of drafting committee
- More details on Zaidi incident in Mareb
- Suicide rate among university graduates rise

The newspaper editorial mentions that to follow up movements and tours of the American ambassador of various area of Yemen would notice that this expert in terrorism has exceeded the diplomatic representation of his country. Hiss mission is no longer a mere official channel for communication with competent authorities but rather direct communication with any citizen. Considering the ambassador's visits timetable one would find out that the ambassador focuses on direct contact with tribal notables, schools and religious leagues. It seems the ambassador realizes that both religious and tribal forces of influence are the main factors next to the state that influences the domestic public opinion, intellectually and practically. The most dangerous factor encountering the big power's expansionist policies of such references, tribal and religious. This fact

was realized by ambassador of the great power and he is trying all he can to carry out his country's policy through benefiting from them. We still remember the results of policy of the former U.S. ambassador who did not leave Lebanon before assuming his post in our country without leaving a civil war behind him.



**Al- Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist party, 2 Feb. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Tendencies to close down al- Eman University
- North Korea call its people for a sacred battle against Washington
- Arab Baath Socialist party, regional leadership takes decisions on the party's participation in upcoming parliamentary elections
- Economic analysts: Yemen to witness price rise by 70% in coming months Suicide rates rise by 52%
- Iraq to chair UN disarmament conference

Editor in chief says in his article that Arab and Islamic public opinion is still taken in big account especially following the submission displayed by most of Arab rulers, a matter which made it on of the U.S. priorities to domesticate the Arab and Islamic street by a number of ways and means. The first is to promote for war through information media to lead this public opinion to a state missing the factor of surprise and accepting war and waiting for its start date. This is a factor aimed at wringing out the popular reaction by psychological influence on the citizen through repetition of killing scene. It aims creating a state of fear and psychological internal defeat through what he sees of massive military build-up and sophisticated technology. The Arab media contribute considerably in conveying their effects. The second factor is following up the so-called terrorists and Arab countries offering of facilities paving the way for these forces to interfere in

internal affairs. The third is targeting the politically effective forces in the Arab world, and arresting their leaders, as happened in Jordan and Egypt, and others to prevent them from leading the Arab Street. Or it is done by introducing constitutional pr legal a amendments to restrict freedom and movement of Arab public opinion to control its reactions. Authority and opposition must join forces to encounter these challenges. The historic responsibility shouldered by information and national and pan-Arab political leaderships dictates disclosure of these plots to the masses to enable them to comprehend the volume of this conspiracy and capable of confronting it.



**RAY weekly, organ of sons of Yemen League party, 4 Feb. 2003.**

## Main Headlines:

- Security besieges al-Zaidi inside intensive care room
- Seven students from Eman University locked
- President meets political parties, proposes charter of honor draft
- Judiciary decides a YR 10 million on parliamentarian Mayu
- Two Kuwaitis linked to al- Qaeda acquitted of transferring money to Yemen

In his editorial Mr. Abdulrahman al- Jifri says the present situations are product of accumulations and inheritance of old & modern conflicts and to make the homelands interest above all others. It is enough for Yemen and its people what they have suffered from conflicts and tragedies and these are enough to make us all realize that Yemen is for all and all are responsible for safeguarding it. The present stage is crucial and difficult and the historical responsibility is great. Let's look at the world around us and derive a lesson. It is enough the number years lost in conflicts that bequeathed this generation backwardness, poverty, fear and both material and psychological ruin.

# World Press

Major news items in leading international newspapers *Provided by Xinhua*

## Egypt

### Al Ahram

Jordanian King Abdullah II and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak are to hold their planned summit talks in Jordan early next week.

The two leaders will discuss the solution to the Iraqi crisis, arrangement for the upcoming Arab summit and the deteriorating conditions in the Palestinian territories.

### The Egyptian Gazette

The Egyptian communications and information technology (IT) market had not been adversely affected by the threats of a military strike against Iraq.

The statement was made by Minister of Telecommunications and Information Ahmed Nafez, who added

that the local market had increased considerably over the past year.

### Al Akhbar

During a telephone call with Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher on Thursday affirmed Egypt's readiness to hold dialogue between the countries for the sake of peace.

### Al Gomhuria

President Mubarak puts boosting investment in Egypt as first priority, said Prime Minister Atef Obeid at the inaugural session of the second forum on investment which opened in Cairo on Thursday.

## Britain

### Financial Times

US President George W. Bush Thursday told Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that the "game was over" while United Nations arms inspectors warned Iraq it had only days to cooperate fully with demands to disarm.

### The Times

The Bank of England stunned financial markets and delighted homeowners Thursday when it unexpectedly cut the cost of borrowing to its lowest in almost 50 years.

### The Daily Telegraph

The British government ordered the RAF to deploy one third of its aircraft to the Gulf Thursday to prepare for a US-led war against Iraq.

### The Independent

Britain believes that deadly poison ricin is being manufactured in Iraq and sent around the world, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Thursday as he made a televised appeal for public support of the government's stance against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

### The Guardian

Downing Street was Thursday night plunged into acute international embarrassment after it emerged that large parts of the British government's latest dossier on Iraq, allegedly based on "intelligence material," were taken from published academic articles, some of them several years old.

## France

### L.e Monde

On Iraq, Powell accused but the United Nations doubted. Washington's presentation of "inescapable evidences" did not change international opinion and the diplomatic landscape. The majority of the Security Council wanted continued weapons inspections instead of military operations.

### Le Figaro

Cote d'Ivoire President Laurent Gbagbo is to speak to his people on Friday. The Paris-brokered peace deal reached two weeks ago nearly col-

lapsed because Gbagbo's supporters do not want a government of unity open to rebels and opposition parties.

### Les Echos

Talks to save the second largest airline in France, Air Lib, failed as the only potential rescuer Dutch investment group Imca pulled out of the deal.

### Liberation

United States President George W. Bush launched his ultimatum to Iraq on Thursday evening. He also urged the United Nations to vote for a second resolution authorizing war.

## Pakistan

### The News

President Pervez Musharraf on Thursday ruled out any conditional talks with India, saying Pakistan is ready to hold dialogue with New Delhi for resolving all outstanding

## Kenya

### Daily Nation

The 20-year Sudanese war came closer to an end on Thursday when government officials and members of the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army agreed to form a government of national unity and to share power and wealth.

### East African Standard

The body of another Kenyan police officer hacked to death by suspects from the outlawed Mungiki sect was discovered in Nairobi's Dandora Estate on Thursday morning, bringing to five people who have died in current violence in the city.

issues including Kashmir.

### The Frontier Post

President Pervez Musharraf said on Thursday that he has no information on any al Qaeda activities in Pakistan.

## Japan

### Asahi

US steps up work on new resolution on Iraq.

### Yomiuri

Japan is to aid refugee-accepting countries in case of war.

### Nihon Keizai

Japanese government is to allow private sector to supply water.

### Mainichi

Japan's major mobile phone firm NTT DoCoMo made plan to curb picture e-mails.



Arab News - Khalil's cartoon

## India

### Hindustan Times:

French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, who arrived in India on Thursday for a three-day visit, said soon after his arrival that Airbus had clinched an order by Indian Airlines for 43 aircraft worth 2 billion US dollars.

### The Hindu

French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin reiterated Paris's opposition to a war against Iraq on Thursday. "France's position remains unchanged ... We believe there are other ways than war of destroying weapons of mass destruction. War is really the last resort," he said in Bangalore, the first

stop of his three-day visit to India.

### The Times of India

The week-long standoff between India and Bangladesh over a group of 213 people stranded on the border ended on Thursday.

While India claimed the "illegal migrants" were taken by Bangladesh rifles, the latter refuted the claim.

### The Indian Express

Actual foreign direct investment inflow to India from 1991, when the economic reforms were initiated, till October 2002 amounted to 31.4 billion US dollars against the total approvals of 76.26 billion dollars.

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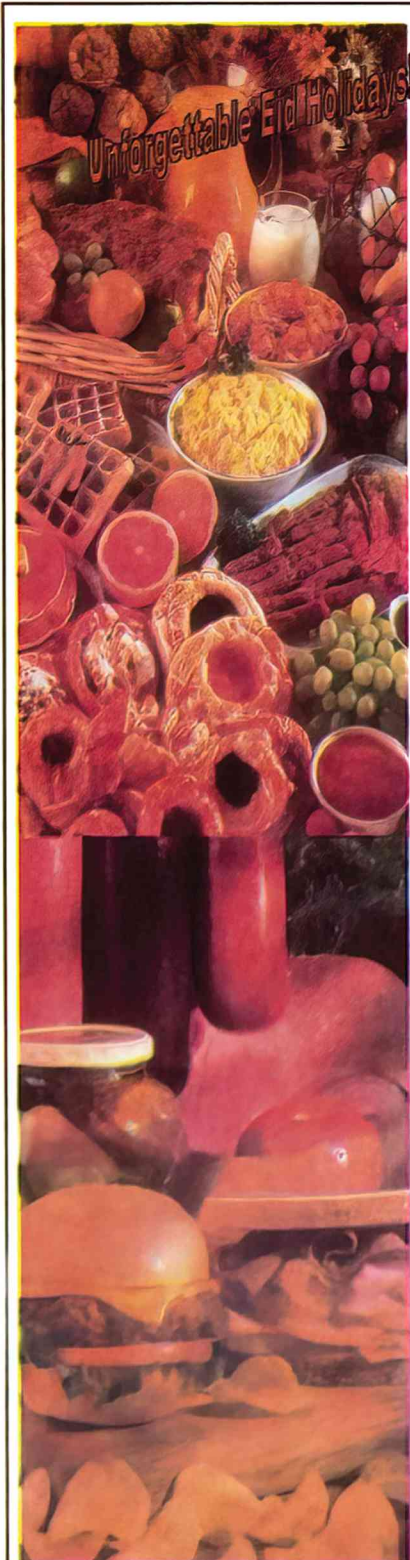
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<p><b>RX-CT880</b> Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● قوة إخراج عالية الطاقة ١٠ واط (PMPO)</li> <li>● تقنية التثاقن لإعادة التشغيل</li> <li>● موازن ذو ٥ إعدادات مسبقة مع إضاءة LED</li> </ul> <p>150W (PMPO)</p>	<p><b>RX-CT850</b> Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● قوة إخراج عالية الطاقة ٩٠ واط (PMPO)</li> <li>● نظام ذو ٤ مكبرات الصوت ومخرجين</li> <li>● موازن ذو ٥ إعدادات مسبقة مع إضاءة LED</li> </ul> <p>90W (PMPO)</p>	<p><b>CS-730</b> Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● قوة إخراج عالية الطاقة ١٠ واط (PMPO)</li> <li>● موازن ذو ٥ إعدادات مسبقة مع إضاءة LED</li> <li>● نظام ذو ٤ مكبرات الصوت ومخرجين</li> </ul> <p>90W (PMPO)</p>

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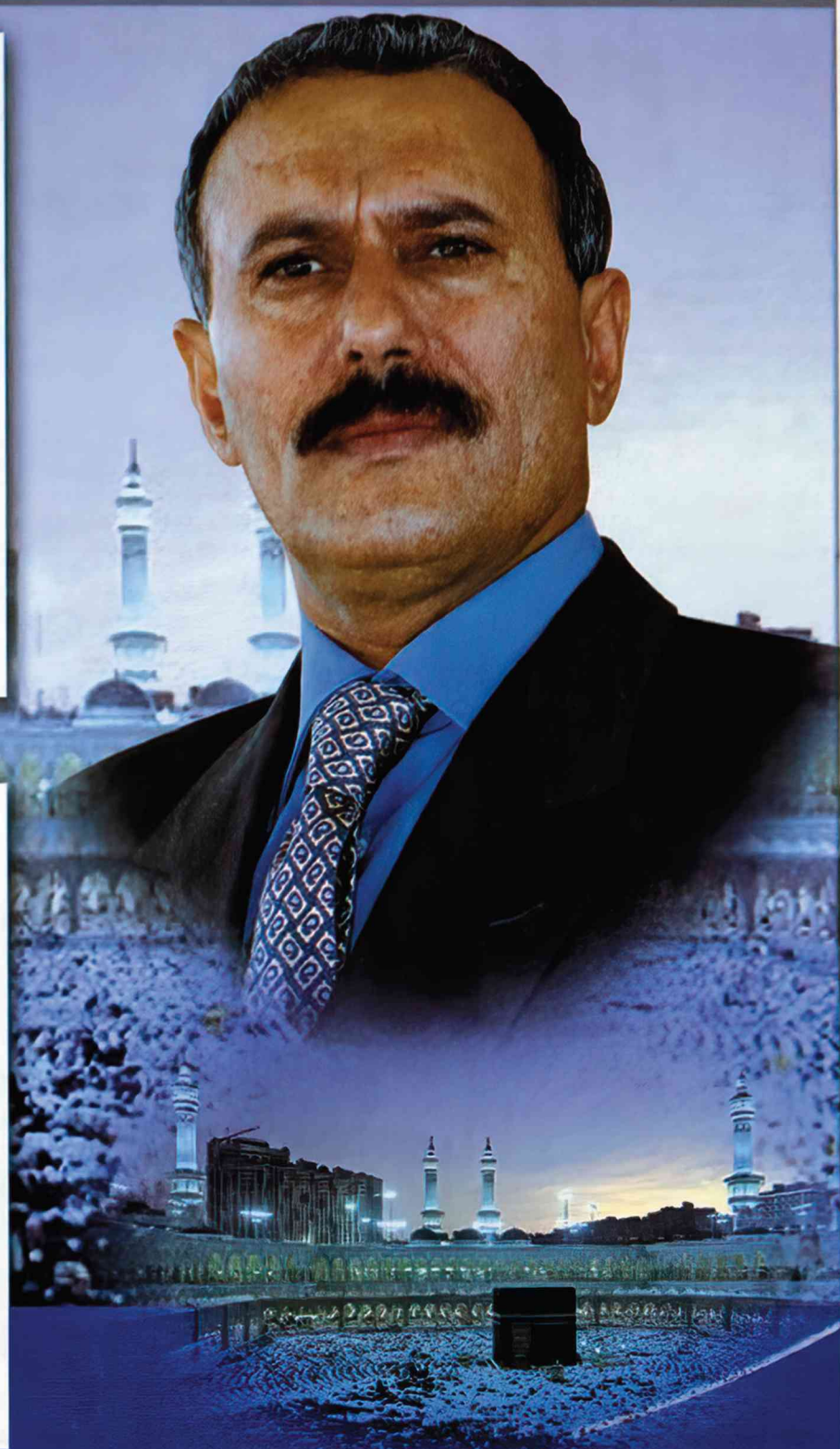
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# 170

## I. What to Say

### Situations and Expressions (40): Expressing obligation (ii)

Last week we discussed some of the ways of expressing 'obligation' in the sense of compulsion. In this lesson, let us look at some more expressions commonly used to express necessity or compulsion. In the second part of the lesson (next week), we shall be discussing obligation in the sense of gratitude.

- I was **compelled** to resign due to circumstances beyond my control. (Somebody else makes you do something.)
- You **must not** act rashly. (Negative obligation. The speaker says there is no choice.)
- You **do not have to** attend the party. (No obligation. The speaker leaves the choice open.)
- Students **need not** come to the college after the exams. (No obligation. The speaker decides that an action is not necessary or not obligatory.)
- There is **no alternative/choice** for us, but to take this copy as it is the last copy of the book in the market.
- There is **nothing** for it but to be accepted.
- We have **hardly any** choice in the matter.
- I have **not much** of a choice here.
- You **can't afford** to let go this opportunity.
- He **cannot but** come here.

## II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Excuse me, where's the next post office?
- Has he brought some books?
- She is my oldest sister.
- He hasn't got enough good voice.
- He made no farther remarks.

### Answers to last week's questions

- I cut **myself** shaving this morning.
- All **his** books were burnt.
- Both** his hands are skinny.
- This is **the** best book.
- He is **the** worst teacher. Or, he is one of the worst teachers.

## III. Increase your Word Power

### A) How to express it in one word

- A place where ships are built or repaired.
- The place in a law court where the prisoner stands.
- A person who works at the bottom of the sea in special dress.
- Of the home, family, household.
- A legal place where a person lives permanently.

### Answers to last week's questions

- A fight between armed aircrafts: **dog-fight** (n)
- A clever way of avoiding or deceiving some one: **dodge** (n)
- Something very easy to do: **doodle** (n)
- A person who tries to put into action some system of ideas without considering the practical difficulties: **doctrinaire** (n)
- A stretch of language in a context: **discourse** (n)

### B) Foreign phrases and expressions

Use the following foreign phrases in sentences:  
Alumnus p'talunni, amende honorable, Aqua regia, art brut

### Answers to last week's questions

- adieu** (Fr) (good bye): Many friends and admirers came to the airport to bid adieu to him.
- ADC** (Fr (Aide-de-camp)) (an army officer acting as an assistant to a dignitary): The ADC stands behind the governor in ceremonial

occasions.

- Aide-memoire** (Fr) (note made as an aid to memory): The speaker consulted his aide memoire during his speech.
- a la mode de** (Fr) (after the fashion of): We dislike him when he dictates terms a la mode de Hitler.
- alias** (Lat) (otherwise known as): Mahmoud Gillaini alias Shakeel, a dreaded criminal, has been arrested with the help of Interpol.

### C) Words commonly confounded

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words.

- allay, alloy; 2. alliance, allegiance
- allocate, relocate; 4. all in, all out
- all-in, all-out

### Answers to last week's questions

- answer, rejoinder, reply, retort.** All these words are used to denote something written, said or done in response to a call, a charge, a question, or a request. The difference between **answer** and **reply** is that in certain contexts only **answer** is used in which **reply** can't replace **answer**.

**Example:** 'He answered the telephone/doorbell.' Not 'He replied the telephone.' 'He answered the question.' Not 'He replied the question.'

However, in the contexts such as writing letters, both **answer** and **reply** can be used.

**Example:** He **answered** the letter means 'He acknowledged the receipt of the letter.' He **replied** to the letter means 'he touched upon all the points and answered all the questions raised in that letter.'

A **rejoinder** is normally an answer to certain objections, allegations, or counter-charge for a charge leveled by some one.

**Example:** He has written a rejoinder to an article criticizing his view points.

To **retort** is to answer with a sense of retaliation. Thus a **retort** is a curt reply, indicating annoyance or displeasure. As such, it has a negative connotation.

**Example:** 'Why didn't you attend my birthday party?' asked Ahmed.

'Why should I, when you didn't attend mine?' retorted Mohammed.

- alimentary** (adj) (concerning food and the way it is treated): There is some problem in his alimentary system.

**elementary** (n) (a question that is simple and easy to answer): The speaker asked an elementary question to the audience.

- alley** (n) (a narrow street): My house is in a blind alley.

**ally** (n) (countries that are joined by a political agreement to support each other in war): The US and the UK are allies against Iraq.

- alms** (n) (money, clothes, food, etc. given to the poor): He gave alms to the beggar.

**arms** (n) (weapons): Our army is equipped with sophisticated arms.

### D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases and idiomatic expressions in sentences so as to illustrate their meanings:

- become of
- between you, me and the bed post
- misfortune makes strange bed fellows
- a bed of roses
- get out of bed on the wrong side

### Answers to last week's questions

- to the best of my belief (in my real opinion): To the best of my belief, he has a spotless character.

- at the behest of** (due to an urgent request or command): I agreed to mediate in the matter at the behest of my friend.

**3. beggar all description** (to be beyond the powers of language to describe): The scenic beauty of Mahweet is so breath-taking as to beggar description.

- beggars are not choosers** (one must take what one is offered): We should not feel reluctant to take the offer. After all beggars are not choosers.

**5. as red as a beet root** (red with shame): When they laughed at him, he turned as red as a beet root.

## IV. Grammar and Composition

Match the words in Col. A with the information in Col. B

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. archaeologist      | a. studies health problems and looks for cures.  |
| 2. artist             | b. writes articles for newspapers and magazines.   |
| 3. astronaut          | c. studies ancient cultures, people and places.  |
| 4. interviewer        | d. asks people questions for stories in newspapers and magazines, or on radio and TV programs. |
| 5. journalist         | e. leads an orchestra or choir, often in classical music.                                      |
| 6. medical researcher | f. paints, draws, or makes sculptures  |
| 7. set designer       | g. travels into space  |
| 8. conductor          | h. creates stage scenery and background for films.   |

### Answer to last week's question:

- As I was crossing the road, a car nearly hit me.
- When I was using my computer, it suddenly stopped working.
- While we were playing tennis, my racquet broke.
- While I was taking a shower, the water went cold.
- When I was cooking dinner, I burnt my finger.

### B) Composition

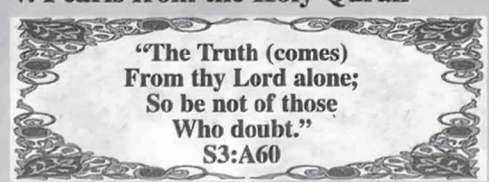
Expand the idea contained in the maxim:  
**LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP**

### Answers to last week's question

#### 3. HEALTH IS WEALTH

A sound body is the greatest gift of God. It is the best worldly possession, the most valuable wealth that a man can have. Unfortunately, most of us hanker after material wealth. For the vast majority of human beings acquisition of wealth becomes the be-all and end-all of their lives. But the comforts and luxuries which wealth can place at our disposal can only be enjoyed by a man with a sound body, a perfectly healthy man. A sickly, weakling can make nothing of them. An unhealthy man does not relish even his food. One who cannot enjoy his normal food and drink can hardly enjoy anything else. Good health is, undoubtedly, the basis of every other enjoyment or attainment in life. The millionaire, the scientist and the scholar all envy the man with a sound physique and blooming cheeks. We should, therefore, take proper care of our health.

## V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



## VI. Words of Wisdom

"Great art is an instant arrested in eternity."  
—James Hunekar

## A letter to English teachers: 13

# Don't push your students too much

Dear Fellow Teachers,

Happy New Year 2003 to you all. I am sorry I was not writing letters to you for some time for personal reasons. Insha Allah, I will continue to write hereafter.

I hope you are finding my letters useful. The suggestions I am making in my letters can be followed in the interest of your learners and I am sure the results will be encouraging.

Some of us, in our interest to get the best out of our students, try to attempt the impossible sometimes: we push them too much. We make them answer questions for which they are not ready. It is true that we must let our learners participate in the classroom activities, but we must also know the extent to which a student can be pushed. I have seen some of my trainee teachers spending a very long time with each student to get the answers to their questions. Imagine that you are teaching a grammar item in your class. After giving a few examples, you ask for more from the class. Some students come up with a few examples, and you want all your students to give examples. This is a reasonable expectation, but you should also understand that all your students are not of the same capability and they are different from each other. Each one takes his/her time to learn the lesson in his/ her pace, some of them taking more time than we expect.

There was a time when it was thought that the evidence of learning should be available to the teacher as soon as the teaching was over and the teacher was satisfied when the students 'mouthed' a few sentences using the language item taught in a class. This is

not the real evidence of learning, most of the time. Researches show that learners take more time before they start producing language, and they should not be forced to produce before they are really ready to produce. The problem is to find out how much time your learners take to produce and unfortunately, there is no mechanism to measure this.

So, don't push your students too much. Allow them time to absorb what you teach them. Remember that each student has his/her own time to understand things before he/she begins to produce. Give them plenty of opportunities to listen to you or their peers or recorded messages before they speak; don't force them to speak before they are ready to do so. Similarly give them a lot of practice in reading orally or silently before they begin to write. Once they reach this 'take off' stage, then they will go on using English without much problem. As I said earlier, wait till they reach this stage. Help them to take off, not push them to take off.

This does not mean that you should not provide them with challenges. You can stretch them to the possible extent, but don't stretch them too much; they may break! The challenge level should be optimum, neither too much nor too little. The classroom activities should be 'challenging enough', and it is your responsibility to measure the level of the challenge of each activity. Your experience and intelligence will help you in this regard, I am sure.

Try sincerely, you will succeed. Good luck.

Yours fraternally,  
Dr.M.N.K.Bose  
(BOSE@y.net.ye)

# Sana'a University honors its graduates

Under the patronage of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Sana'a University held its annual felicitation ceremony for the 1st batch of dentistry graduates, the 10th batch of pharmacy graduates, as well as the top scorers in various disciplines of different colleges.

Dr. Abdusalam Al-Joufi, the Vice Rector for Students Affairs, pointed out that there were sixty dentistry graduates who graduated in the 1st batch while the 10th batch of pharmacy graduates numbered 123.

Dr. Al-Joufi highlighted the solemnity of the occasion and expressed the hope that all those who were being felicitated would strive to achieve academic and professional excellence in their respective fields, thereby bringing laurels to themselves,



**Dr. Abdusalam Al-Joufi,**  
Vice Rector  
Students' Affairs  
Sanaa University

**Prof Dr. Nasser Abdullah Al-Awlaqi,**  
President, Sanaa University

their university and their country.

The ceremony was a part of the vibrant promotional activities launched by the university in the fields of sports, cultural exchange, and social welfare that would certainly go a long way to give further impetus to the quality of university education.

In future the university has plans to further promote various students' activities and institute prizes for the outstanding students who would be sponsored to international conferences, symposia, etc. held in other Arab as well as foreign universities so as to nurture their latent scientific and educational potential.



# WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions — vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

### CLUES

Alloys	Doors	Needed	Rivet	Store
Antenna	Drain	Nuts	Roads	Straight
Auto	Drill	Ordering	Ruin	Strips
Ball bearing	Driver	Pads	Scraps	Substitute
Battery	Engine	Pallet	Screws	Supplies
Blade	Factory	Panel	Seals	Tagged
Brakes	Fried	Paperwork	Seat	Tighten
Brand	Garage	Pedal	Sensor	Tires
Break	Gear	Piping	Shaft	Trademark
Bundles	Generic	Pistons	Shelves	Transmission
Busted	Hose	Plastic	Shock	Truck
Clamps	Knobs	Rebuild	Sidings	Valve
Color	Labor	Reduce	Stack	Warranties
Damaged	Lever	Renewal	Stand	Wheel
Defective	Light	Repair	Steel	Wires
Disable	Lock	Replace	Steering	Wrench
Docks	Mechanic	Response	Stereo	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Magic

## AUTOMOTIVE PARTS

Solution: 6 letters

T	B	R	E	A	K	H	T	G	S	Y	T	T	P	L	A	S	T	I	C
Y	E	E	V	I	T	C	E	F	E	D	R	E	B	U	I	L	D	G	S
R	E	V	I	R	D	N	A	S	A	A	A	O	S	R	S	G	N	A	U
E	W	D	I	D	E	E	S	T	D	H	N	O	T	T	A	I	H	G	P
T	A	N	N	R	D	R	P	E	S	B	S	T	R	C	R	K	N	T	P
T	R	A	I	A	P	W	M	E	A	D	M	A	E	E	A	I	E	A	L
A	R	C	L	U	T	A	A	L	S	E	I	E	N	R	F	P	S	I	
B	A	B	N	E	R	S	L	K	S	G	S	T	C	E	N	E	E	S	E
B	N	U	S	K	R	B	C	L	H	G	S	G	D	H	R	A	T	B	S
U	T	S	W	P	E	O	S	T	E	A	I	R	N	W	A	O	U	T	R
S	I	E	A	D	L	T	L	T	O	C	O	I	N	T	R	O			
T	E	R	R	N	A	A	B	S	V	D	N	R	O	A	D	N	I	U	B
E	S	I	C	E	S	A	M	A	E	K	R	W	L	S	I	T	C	A	
D	N	A	S	L	S	O	L	A	S	D	N	E	E	R	O	A	S	K	L
G	D	P	G	I	E	V	R	C	G	E	N	S	O	S	R	R	B	K	L
A	S	E	D	N	E	W	R	D	T	E	C	O	T	E	P	D	U	C	O
R	B	R	I	L	I	A	H	H	R	N	D	U	V	E	T	O	S	O	Y
A	O	G	O	R	P	P	G	E	A	I	G	E	D	A	R	A	N	H	S
G	N	C	E	S	F	I	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E	S	E	E	S	K
E	K	S	N	O	T	S	I	P	G	L	L	E	T	R	H	O	S	E	

# YOUTH FORUM

<b>Unalloyed friendship</b> A friend is always there Between me and my problems Who cares about my affairs Easing them with vision and skill She relieves my mind by telling me the truth Follows me to know what I need Guides me through the right way Holds my hands	<b>reassuringly</b> She ever rectifies my thoughtless deeds Keeps my secrets in her bosom With love and sincerity No doubt she's the best Near or far Who cares for my interests Who shares my dreams Who purges my mind of worries. Roses reflect her softness Sacrifice is her life's motto	<b>Without any return</b> She understands me perfectly Articulates my feelings With affection and kindness Allaying my fears and wiping my tears Yearn I for her return Zealously do I look forward to her path. Thuraya Nasser Al-Badani Level 4, English Dept University of Science and Technology, Sana'a
--	--	---

# Readers' Forum

Dear Dr. Ramakanta Sahu,  
My name is Ahmed, and this is the second time I'm writing to you.  
I do not know how I should thank you for your stimulating lessons (Improve Your English) which gave me the motivation to learn English in the college.  
I used to say that English is a bit difficult or rather not so easy to master it, but I think, if I keep reading your lessons and practice it, I will be good at English.  
So please do not give up publishing these lessons for me and for all interested in English.  
I recommend those who want a good English program to read your lessons. Thanks again  
Ahmed Al-Hibshi  
Level 2, English Dept  
Seyun - Hadramaut

We wish our readers Eid Mubarak



عيد مبارك

عيد الأعياد

يتقدم كلاً من: السيد / ريتشارد جنسن و السيد / علي محمد السحيقي  
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## Preserving the past

# Hayys: a town of antiquities



By ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**T**he town of Hayys is located in the middle between Taiz and Hodiedah about 130 kilometers from each governorate forming one of Hodiedah's provinces.

Bordering three governorates, the climate of the town is unique, combined with eye-catching historical and traditional cities and craftsmanship. The series of mountains surrounding the town give it extra importance, especially when sea waves start to embrace its golden coasts.

Hayys is one of the oldest towns in Yemen, and in Hodiedah in particular. The town has its own traditional, social and artistic heritage, some of which still exists today, even while others have begun to vanish.

There are a lot of old sculptures in the town, recounting an old and great history dating back hundreds of years.

A historian concerned with the study of old Yemeni cities says that the first people who lived in Hayys Bin Yareen Al Hemyary from whom the name Hayys has come up. This spot of Yemeni land is rich in agricultural, cultural and commercial activities in the history of Yemen.



Yemeni ceramic pieces

The fame of the town has been indicated in a number of books, such as Al Ekleel, Moa'agam Al Buldan and the Epic of Ass'ad Al kamel. Whenever you go to Hayys you get excited with its most prominent landscape, that is the Grand Mosque that was built about 800 years ago. Hayys had been and is still the place from where outstanding scholars emerged, such as for example Sheikh Omar Al Khamri, Sheikh Ahmed Al Rakeez and Ali Bin Al Ghareeb.

The people of Hayys depend on agriculture, handicrafts and fishing for their daily sustenance.

In addition, there are different rituals and customs which can

be clearly, seen during wedding parties or feasts.

The pottery industry is also widely spread in Hayys and the most famous family known is this field is the Bani Al Madar family whose house and small factory is a favorite place to be visited by both local as well as foreign tourists.

You can visit the popular markets of the town from where you can get an idea about the types of dress worn by locals.

Like other historical Yemeni town there are a number of things characterizing the different aspects of life in Hayys that we need to take care of to be documented for generations to come.



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