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Chopper goes down in Red Sea

Crash kills eight

By REUTERS AND
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A Yemeni military helicopter with 12 troops crashed in the Red Sea on Saturday killing eight soldiers and officers, a Yemeni defense official said.

The official, quoted by the state-run SABA news agency, said the crash was due to a technical fault. The remaining four soldiers survived the crash which occurred off the Red Sea island of Hanish, some 50 km (30 miles) off the Yemeni main-

land.

The Defense Ministry is investigating what caused the fault, SABA added.

Defense Ministry sources told Reuters the helicopter had been on a routine patrol mission over Hanish, which was handed back to Yemen by Eritrea in 1998 after a sovereignty dispute. A token Yemeni force is located nearby.

Yemen and Eritrea had been at odds over the sovereignty of the Greater Hanish Island for many years until the dispute

was settled by a 1999 ruling from the International Court of Justice, which gave the Island to Yemen.

This is the second incident of its kind in the last three years.

On August 14, 2000, another military helicopter while in a flight to Al-Abr from Hadramout in an inspection mission crashed killing 17 military personnel.

The cause of the crash was identified then as a technical error and due to overload.

Among those who were

killed in that crash was Staff Brigadier Mohammad Ahmad Ismail, former Commander of the Military Eastern Region, who played a major role in bringing the 1994 civil war to an end.

While bodies of the dead were kept at al Alf Hospital morgue in Hodeidah, the injured are being hospitalized at the military hospital in the city.

A security source told the Yemen Times that the helicopter was carrying food supplies to soldiers stationed on the island.

World nations blast war



A general view of the Non-Aligned Movement's (NAM) senior officials meeting in Kuala Lumpur Feb. 20. Countries in NAM, representing over two-thirds of the United Nations General Assembly, began meeting on Thursday overshadowed by the fear of war in the Gulf. See full story on pages 3 and 9.

REUTERS

While Yemen prepares to vote, opposition fights

JMP splits

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen's opposition parties can't agree how to wage battle upcoming parliamentary elections April 27, casting doubt if they will offer any competition to government.

While the growing rift among the Joint Meeting Parties comes after previous coordination among members in JMP, it reveals a divide between the Islah Party and other JMP members on a number of issues.

As a result, the National Democratic Preparation Committee could not reach consensus during its latest meeting last week.

Disagreements between Islah leaders are over how to determine policies followed by the party, and Islah's list of candidates for

the elections.

According to one JMP leader, Sheikh Azzandani has aligned himself with the ruling party.

Political observers note in the long-term the split threatens the democratic experiences, the member parties and any lasting influence they wish to have.

Continued on page 3

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Washington Times says

So San got chemicals

BY NEWS SERVICES

The North Korean ship that transported Scud missiles to Yemen last year was also used to carry chemical weapons material to Korea, it was reported yesterday.

The Sosan delivered several tonnes of sodium cyanide, an agent used in making nerve gas, for use by Kim Jong-Il's regime, intelligence officials from the United States told the Washington Times.

The allegation came as North Korea threatened to pull out of the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War, accusing the US of preparing for a pre-emptive strike on the country.

A spokesman for the Korean People's Army said "the situation on the Korean Peninsula is getting extremely tense" because of alleged US plans to send in reinforcements and build a naval blockade to prepare for a pre-emptive attack.



The Sosan sparked an international incident when it was stopped by US and Spanish warships in December close to Yemen.

US officials feared the vessel, which was carrying 15 Scud missiles and warheads, was heading for Iraq or another rogue state.

After urgent talks between US and Yemeni diplomats, it was allowed to deliver the weapons.

The Sosan later went on to Germany, where it picked up the chemical cargo before returning to the west Korean seaport of Nampo last week, according to the Washington paper.

U.K. fishermen to Yemen

BY NEWS SERVICES

A Team of fishermen from Westcountry, U.K. is making final plans to begin a voyage to Yemen this week to catch exotic fish such as yellowfin tuna and red snapper.

Financed by Yemenite businessmen, the project aims to bring the fish back to European markets by air freight.

The scheme has been organized by leading UK fisheries consultants McAllister Elliot and Partners Ltd, based in Hampshire.

Project co-ordinator, skipper Chris Bean, from Helford, said: "Considerable facilities ashore are already in place, a new fish factory has been built and the financiers are very serious about the future of the whole business."

A further 15 new vessels have already been discussed. The pilot project aboard the recently named Lena I will decide the future size of the new Yemen fish operation.

Mr Bean has worked on several projects in previous years in the waters

around Yemen. Lena I will be the first of a number of new vessels, feeding catch to the newly-built Yemen factory which will get fish in "top-class condition" to EU markets within hours of landing.

The Lena I will operate around the year, daylight fishing for red snapper in the monsoon season from April to November and thereafter seeking much bigger quarry, yellowfin tuna, each fish weighing up to 80kg, plus even larger swordfish, all longline operations taking place during the hours of darkness.

Yemen's first one

Heart clinic on way

BY NEWS SERVICES

Yemeni authorities are discussing with an Italian private group of clinics the establishment of what is claimed to be the first diagnostic centre for cardiovascular and heart diseases in Yemen.

The initiative, aimed at providing local patients with highly professional health services at affordable costs, will also give low-income people a chance to be diagnosed and get affordable treatment in one of the group's clinics.

The project has long been promoted by Dr Abdallah Raweh, a Yemeni cardiac surgeon, founder of a humanitarian association called 'Amina' in Italy, and

Dr Jean Yves Neveux, cardiac surgeon and Scientific Director of the Italian Group of Clinics Villa Santa Maria.

Dr Raweh has been engaged with Amina in many humanitarian missions, providing free cardiac surgeries for Yemeni patients in Italy and Yemen.

He said: "The project will not only initiate specialized diagnosis of the heart diseases in Yemen, but also help upgrade the local health services and contribute to the establishment of local professionals in the field of heart diseases."

Dr Neveux said the diagnostic centre to be operated by Italian experts will refer the patients to the cardiac surgery clinics of the group, to receive treatment

at low cost.

He said the project is of utmost importance in a country where the incidence of heart disease is "higher than in any other part of the world."

"The diagnostic centre's facilities will focus on the cardiovascular and valve diseases linked to rheumatic fever. The disease has disappeared in Europe, while it is still very common in Yemen due to scarce sanitary conditions and lack of specialized medical services."

The group is involved, at the international level, in a series of projects aimed at bringing top medical services in the fields of cardiac diagnosis and surgery to the developing countries, including Tunisia, Albania and Romania.

The Al Moayyad case

March deadline

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

German authorities say they will give until the end of March for the US to provide clear evidence with regard to the detention of Sheikh al-Moayyad and his companion, Mohsen Zaed.

Sheikh al-Moayyad and his companion, said to be al-Qaeda suspects, have been detained in Germany since Jan. 10.

The U.S. and Yemen both say they want them for interrogation.

Meanwhile, 26 September Newspaper, the organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, said that 10,000 Euros have been transferred to Yemen's Ambassador in Germany, Yahya Addeen Adhebi, for following up the case.

Sources say that Sheikh al-Moayyad is in very good condition and is enjoying special care.

During al-Eid al-Adha, he was allowed to have contact with his family here in Yemen.



Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Mouyad

Al-Moayyad is a preacher at Al Ihsan Mosque, one of the main mosques in Sana'a.

He left Frankfurt with his companion Mohammed Yahya Zaed for medical treatment.

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

Two killed over bizarre reasons

IBRAHIM ADDAHAN
IBB YT CORRESPONDENT

IBB, 19 Feb - A man and woman were killed and six others injured in Al-Radma district, Ibb governorate in a bizarre incident last Thursday when a dispute erupted between two tribes on who should start dancing in a festivity on the occasion of Eid al-Adha. Sons of a prominent sheikh, Abdulwahed Hazam argued with tribesmen from Bani Gaber, Bani Alawi, and Bani Al-Kadi that they should start the dance.

As each side insisted on its stance, a shooting began between the two sides over this matter.

The fighting renewed the next morning when both sides used heavy artillery

including bazookas and automatic machineguns in a war-like combat. As a result of the random shooting, an innocent woman was shot in her head and was killed instantly. Family members of Abdulgani Al-Kadi, who had nothing to do with this dispute, were also injured.

Another person from Alawi tribe was killed and Nabil and Khalid, the two sons of sheikh Hazam, were injured.

Interestingly enough, police forces were not present to stop this battle, or at least protect the innocent villagers from those irresponsible actions. The incident is one of many that occur frequently throughout the country due to the huge number of illegal weapons in the hands of tribes and citizens and also due to the absence of the state of law.

New association for industries

TAIZ - Aiming to encourage and develop small industries, it was announced last week in Taiz that an association for them will be established.

The association aims at rendering consultative services, training, rehabilitation and preparing

economic studies for small establishments. In addition, raising working quality providing job opportunities will be part of its mandate.

The association has named Khalil al-Qadasi as chairman and Hisham al-Hakeimi as secretary general.



Khalil al-Qadasi

Offering \$150 M insurance payout

Yemen tries to woo ships back

BY NEWS SERVICES

According to reports, the Yemeni government is offering financial guarantees of up to \$150 million against the costs of any acts of terror in its waters.

This follows the drastic drop in numbers of ships entering Yemen's ports following last year's Limburg tanker incident. Yemeni government has contributed \$50 million to the guarantee while unspecified insurance firms have

agreed to top up the remaining \$100 million.

The Singapore Shipping Times is also quoting from a recent report to the Yemen parliament that it is estimated the country is losing \$15 million per month as a direct result of the impact on shipping activities.

"Nautical activities in all Yemeni ports were stricken after the Limburg attack, especially the container terminal in the Aden Free Zone where the

number of containers was reduced from about 43,000 in September to fewer than 3,000 in November," the report said.

It also noted this was the result of shipping lines moving to neighboring ports of Salalah, Djibouti and Jeddah because of the nearly 300 per cent rise in insurance premiums and according to industry sources, throughput volumes at Yemeni container terminals have dropped to 'virtually nothing'.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll.

This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Why do you think Arab leaders fear the potential war against Iraq?

- They fear for the lives that would be killed in the war.
- They fear the possible destabilization in the region.
- They fear more US interference into Arab affairs.
- They fear a democratic Iraq could be a threat to their regimes or could cause the US to topple them in the future.
- They don't care about the war anyway.
- Another reason.

LAST WEEK'S

QUESTION:

In your opinion, will Germany hand Al-Moayyad to the US as requested by the American administration?

What do you think is the main reason behind the suspicious calmness in the Arab street in a time the whole world is protesting against the possible US war against Iraq?

- Arabs are looking after their daily needs to feed their children and have no time to protest (11%)
- Oppression of Arab regimes against protests is the main reason behind public fear to demonstrate (39%)
- Arab communities don't have active civil society organizations that call for active demonstrations (23%)
- The holiday season (eid) (5%)
- All above reasons (16%)
- Another reason (7%)

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

Environment Day Celebrated

BY ABDUH M. ASSABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen celebrated International Environment Day on Feb. 20.

The Minister of Environment & Tourism, Abdulmalek al-Eriani stressed in his speech on the necessity to celebrate the Environment International Day in Yemen and other governorates in the republic.

Field visits and clean-up campaigns are underway on this occasion in Sana'a.

During the inaugural ceremony, a speech was delivered by Gamal al-Khowlani, vice-mayor of the capital secretariat, and the secretary general of the local council.

Gamal emphasized mobilizing efforts aiming at protecting the environment.

For a cleaner environment, mud fire places, rock cutting machines are to be removed outside the capital.

Efforts are also underway to put an end to diesel-powered vehicles and old cars.

Celebrating International Environment Day in Yemen will be accompanied by planting trees and plants alongside streets, other clean-up campaigns, and self-initiative activities taken by some citizens, private sector companies and governmental and non-

governmental organizations.

Clean-up campaigns instructions are to be given through posters, signboards in public places.

On his part, the Japanese Ambassador to Yemen delivered a speech about the efforts to keep a clean environment.



Clean-up campaigns are in full swing celebrating the International Environment Day

Police and human rights

Thirty participants from different security organizations in Taiz, Ibb and Lahj took part in the third training course in human rights for police officers last week.

The course wrapped up last Wednesday in Taiz. Human Rights Information Training Center organized it.

The course included lectures about the principles of the conventional rules in treating prisoners,

individuals right in defense, as well as local legislations in preventing torturing and harsh treatment of prisoners and how to deal lawfully with the arrest of prisoners.

Eizadin al-Asbahi, HRTIC chairman, said the role of police is important, as the law is an institution protecting rights and freedoms. He said that disgracing human dignity is backwardness and oppression and the first steps to protect our rights is to raise our awareness.

Watch for fugitives

TAIZ - The Ministry of Interior has finished preparing a guidebook including the names of wanted fugitives.

The guide contains 170 names and pictures of fugitives with information about them and their cases that involve things such as murder, highway robbery, terrorism, kidnapping and sabotage.

Meeting in Malaysia

World nations blast war

By NEWS SERVICES

KUALA LUMPUR — Developing countries threw their weight on Friday against war on Iraq.

The issue of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and North Korea dominated preparatory talks before next week's summit of the 114-member Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the Malaysian capital.

The 114 nations said in a draft resolution that the use of force against Iraq would run contrary to the global consensus that "categorically rejects the current threat of war."

"We express our support and solidarity with Iraq vis-a-vis the possible aggression against it and are committed to exert all possible means to achieve a peaceful solution," it said.

The draft, which delegates say is unlikely to see substantial changes, was to be approved by foreign ministers on Saturday and then by heads of state, who begin the two-day summit today, Monday.

Yemen's foreign minister Abu Bakar Al-Qirbi echoed his concern over the Iraq crisis when he maintained at the conference that Yemen sees no need for a second UN resolution which could bring the already volatile region closer to second Gulf war.

Upon his arrival in Malaysia to attend the 13th Non-Aligned Movement Summit, he told reporters, that "Iraq is already abiding by Resolution 1441 and providing the (arms) inspectors with all the assistance."

"The position of Yemen and many in the Arab world is the same. We hope that the weapons inspectors will be given adequate time to complete their job and that the issue will be resolved through the inspectors and peaceful means."

Officials of NAM, which includes Iran, Iraq and North Korea — the three states branded by Bush as an "axis of evil" — prepared the draft at a second day of talks. Singapore, Chile and Iran were among countries that asked for more time to seek approval from their governments for strongly worded amendments backing Iraq.

"We ought to stay calm. We seek a peaceful solution and to reject aggression. I hope the people of the world will say no to war," Iraq's Foreign Minister Dr. Naji Sabri said on arrival.

While last-minute alterations underlined growing opposition to war on Iraq, the non-aligned countries hedged their bets by urging Iraq continue cooperation with UN weapons inspectors and remain actively engaged in the

process. Iraq says it is doing everything it can to cooperate.

"The NAM position is very important," said United Arab Emirates envoy Mohamad Jassam, adding that six non-aligned countries currently have seats on the 15-member UN Security Council. "Sometimes you can kill a resolution with nine votes."

The six non-aligned nations on the Security Council are Angola, Guinea, Syria, Pakistan, Chile and Cameroon.

Malaysia expects 56 heads of state to attend the summit, with several Middle East nations sending substitutes due to uncertainty over the timing of an emergency Arab Summit in Cairo to discuss the Iraq crisis.

Kuala Lumpur has said the meeting will come down firmly against war as a solution to the Iraq crisis.

Pakistan was among those opposed to war and willing to consider more time for UN inspections.

Pakistan said it is still hopeful of a peaceful solution to the Iraqi issue although Washington plans to move a second resolution at the United Nations seeking authorization for a possible war on Iraq.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Mian Khurshid Mehmud Kasuri said he expects a strong reaction from Muslims in Pakistan and elsewhere in the world should the United States and its allies decide to wage war on President Saddam Hussein over allegations that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

Mehmud Kasuri, who arrived here to attend the NAM summit, said Pakistan would study the language of the proposed second resolution before making up its mind.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed gratitude to Japan on Thursday for its strong support of Washington's hard-line stance on Iraq over its alleged development of weapons of mass destruction.

He said he will ask Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in Tokyo on Saturday for continued cooperation with the United States in its efforts to rid Iraq of the weapons of mass destruction it allegedly possesses. Japan urged the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday to adopt a resolution approving use of force against Baghdad. Powell is touring Japan, China and South Korea, during which he will discuss with their leaders the situation in North Korea and a possible attack on Iraq. In Tokyo, Powell will meet with Koizumi, Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi and Defense Agency chief Shigeru Ishiba on Saturday and Sunday.

Researchers demand their dues

In a letter dispatched to the president of the republic, researchers at the Yemeni Research and Studies Center have demanded approval of the monthly raise, which was approved by all authorities concerned except the Ministry of Finance. The raise would have benefited the 70 plus teaching staff and researchers working at the center.

Researchers at the center have made clear that those dues are guaranteed as that of their workmates at the Sanaa University.

The dues have been issued in a republican decree and order have been issued along with four straightforward judgments by the court. According to the letter, the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank of Yemen are both obliged to approve the financial dues.

It is to be mentioned that the monthly increase demanded is YR. 3,281,600 which is pending since 1992. The researches are demanding the accumulated amount since then, which would be as much as YR 400 million.

Continued from page 1

JMP splits

The charter of National Democratic Preparation Committee will continue its sessions and work and until it meets the president of the republic on Feb. 26.

Shiekh Abdullah bin Hussien al-Ahmer who leads the tribal wing, will put up candidates according to his tribal tendency, whereas, Shiekh Abdulmajeed Azandani who represents the Brothers Muslims wing has a different list.

In addition to this, the political organizational wing represented by al-Yadoomi, al-Anesi, Qahtan and others has a list of cultured candidates.

Meanwhile, the Rabetat Abna al-Yemen, or RAY, has declared it will boycott the elections.

"The upcoming elections is dedicated to means to move away from

the real democracy which constitutes the mainstay for it," said a RAY statement.

In a statement issued following a meeting by the executive committee, RAY secretary general Ali bin Ali said it would have democratic participation in case alterations are made. He further calls the public, political institutions and other organizations for changes before RAY participates in the parliamentary elections.

On their part, RAY leaders in governorates like Lahj, Taiz, and Dhala'e have expressed their disavowal of the statement of the executive committee, specifically their call for boycott.

They have demanded for reconsidering the decision as quickly as possible in order to avoid any negative reflections expected to endanger their party.

Yemeni share big win

Five Yemenis won \$85,000 as a prize in a cultural competition organized by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

The competition was organized to celebrate the Fund's 40th anniversary in a festivity at the Kuwaiti Embassy on Feb. 18.

Yusuf Al-Onaizi, Kuwaiti ambassador and Miss Mona Al-Ayaf, head of the technical and media bureau at the fund, distributed the cash prizes which totaled \$150,000 among the first 10 winners, half of which were Yemenis.

One hundred and twenty two partic-

ipants from Arab and Islamic countries joined the competition.

The names of the winners were announced after a lottery held in Kuwait at the fund's premises in December 2002.

From Yemen, Ashraf Abdulla Ali won the first prize \$40,000, Ridwan Ameen Mohammed won the second prize of \$30,000, and Ameen Othman, Abdu Ali Ahmad, and Hisham Abdulla Ali each won \$5,000, being the eighth, ninth and tenth winners respectively.

The first and last winners are brothers.



Photos shown in Aden

ADEN — The French Centre in Aden hosted on Feb. 22 a gallery for photos about Aden, Djibouti, Massawa, Mascot and Dhahi port, in the Sheraton Goldmore.

Ms. Celine Souleille told the Times that the photographs have been collected from the French museums and historical books.

She pointed out that the centre's activities include holding training

courses and French language learning for all levels.

The centre sends top students to France to complete their studies as well as training course in business related to tourism.

She also said that a special section for computer and Internet training with high technology will be launched this year.

Mystery

Yemeni man missing

The London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat (Middle East) daily indicated in its last Friday's issue that a Yemeni citizen has disappeared in the capital of Thailand, Bangkok.

The paper said that the family of Ameen al-Bukari, 37, lost contact with him since 31 December 2002 when he flew to Bangkok for business.

He stayed in a hotel called Naray in Thailand. However, the daily said that the hotel staff refused to provide any information about his stay.

The paper suggests that the reason behind his disappearance could be his alleged links to Arab Afghans as he did stay in Afghanistan and fought against US occupation.

Ameen al-Bukari was arrested in the past in Madagascar just before the September 11 attacks upon suspicion that he may belong to a terror network. But upon his acquittal, he returned to Yemen, according to his family.

Al-Bukari, 37, was brought up in al-Madeena al-Monawara and had fought against the Russians in Afghanistan where he became an active Arab Afghan in the early 1980s.

He survived a plot by the Russian soldiers in one of Afghanistan's main battles.

After his return to Saudi Arabia in 1990, he decided to return to his home country Yemen, where he stayed ever since.

During the 1990s, he abandoned extremist Islamist views and became a moderate Yemeni just as many other Arab Afghans did.

Al-Bukari used to work in import and export to and from countries such as Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and African countries before he disappeared in Thailand.

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An informed choice

From February 22 to 28, the Yemeni Health and Family Planning Program cooperating with Islah Charitable society and National Woman Committee is holding three workshops about PROTEC that used in family planning.

The workshops aim to train 50 chemists and chemist assistants of the

private sector as well as 100 women.

The family planning program targets doctors, chemists and their assistants and midwives in governmental and private sectors, besides women in collaboration with non-governmental organizations to promote their saying of having an 'Informed Choice.'

Tender Announcement

Implementing and Establishing the Radio Complex, Sana'a, (2, 2003)

The General Corporation for Radio & Television invites contractors, classified as (A) class building contractors to apply for the tender of implementing and establishing Sana'a Radio Complex.

Interested companies and contractors can apply to the General Corporation for Radio & Television's head office, Al-Hasaba area for receiving the tender documents against a non-refundable fee of YR. 250,000.

Bidders should meet the following conditions:

1. Primary insurance at 2.5 percent out of the total bids valid for 120 days since the date of opening envelopes.
2. Tax card (renewal for the year 2003).
3. A copy of the commercial registration for the year 2003.
4. Bids should be submitted in a red-wax sealed envelopes.
5. Bids' envelopes will be opened at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 7, 2003.

Address

General Corporation for Radio & Television, Engineering Sector -

General Department of Projects

Sana'a al-Hasaba area, near the Ministry of Public Health & Population.



To discuss ways to encouragement them

Shura council meets on civil society organizations

The second meeting of the first assembly for 2003 of the Shura council was held yesterday in Sanaa with the topic "Civil Societies in Yemen, reality and future perspectives: An analytical study".

The meeting was organized and coordinated by the Shura Council's Human Rights and Liberties Committee headed by Mr. Mohamed Al-Tayyib. In a statement to Yemen Times, Al-Tayyib emphasized the importance of this meeting to

encourage and support civil society organizations in the Republic of Yemen. "We are far behind many nations in the world in terms of having effective civil society organizations. This is why the council's human rights, liberties and civil society organizations committee made an analytical study in this respect, which we hope would help in focusing on this vital issue and serving as a starting point to promote this sector in Yemen," he

said.

The meeting started with a speech of the Shura council's chairman Abdulaziz Abulghani, who stressed on the need to revive those institutions and have them interact more effectively in the Yemeni community and pledged to support them in many ways. Then the working paper that the meeting was held for was read and was followed by a discussion session.

Al-Osboa Weekly has a new Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Jalal Ashara'abi has been recently appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of Al-Osboa Weekly newspaper. Mr. Jalal occupied several posts in the past. After graduating from Sana'a University, College of Information, Jalal started his journalism career by working for the Yemen Times as a senior editor. He

participated in a number of media workshops, press assignments, media events and other press-related issues that took place in Yemen regionally and internationally. Jalal replaced Mr. Hassan Al-Udani, who is now the assistant deputy for the customs authority.



Mr. Jalal Ashara'abi

Man kills wife and two of his children

IBRAHIM ADDAHAN
IBB YT CORRESPONDENT

IBB - An old Yemeni man killed his wife and two of his sons in an incident that is the most horrifying of its kind in the governorate of Ibb.

Derhim Ahmed Khushafa, 55, killed his eldest son, Fahed Khushafa, 25, and his youngest son, 11, Najm along with his wife when she stood up in defense of her children.

Fortunately, the wife was able to prevent her husband from killing the rest of his children before she was murdered. The man was sufficed by his action so he went to his sister and shot her in her leg.

Following the incident, the man, whose motives are still unknown, fled to his village but later surrendered himself to the police. Some villagers said that his children were disobedient to him and always arouse his anger. A reliable source told Yemen Times that the man was mentally ill and seemed to have desire to kill his family members.

Several suicide and similar murder incidents have occurred lately throughout the country, many of them had social and economic reasons behind them.

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Vitaly Naumkin: Portrait of Soqotra's first ethnographer

(Part 3 of 3)

By SERGE D. ELIE*
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The fourth issue was on his insistence on the primacy of pastoralism as the defining livelihood activity of Soqotrans from the very beginning of their presence on the island. He rejected the hypothesis that Soqotra had gone through a transition from an agricultural mode of production to a pastoralist one.

His rejection is based on the theory that the Soqotrans were originally pastoralist bedouins living a nomadic life on the margins of the ancient civilizations of South Yemen. When they migrated to Soqotra they took their pastoralist livelihood practices with them.

Whatever the evidence of agricultural activities in the past, these were always supplementary to pastoralism. Moreover, he suggested that these "agricultural" activities were not really agricultural in the proper sense of the term but more like gathering and collecting activities, such as resins from Dragon Blood and Frankincense trees and the aloe plants. All of which were found already planted in great numbers in parts of the island. Only the aloe plants might have required some agricultural husbandry.

Moreover, through his emphasis on pastoralism, Naumkin wanted to

undermine the view that pastoralism could not support an organized social formation either under a state or some lower level of collective administration.

In the case of Soqotra, pastoralism was the basis of a relatively organized and stable social formation, although, in the form of a Sultanate, similar to a tribal sheikhdom, administering pre-state social groups.

Answering Critics

Prof. Naumkin's book on Soqotra did raise some eyebrows among critics about the use of certain approaches and the inclusion of certain types of information in the book. I sought his reactions to the main aspects of the book considered objectionable, namely: racial theorizing and archaeology.

Concerning racial theorizing, critics noted that the book deployed 19th century racialist evolutionary thinking, as evidenced in concepts like "race-genetic gradient", "racial crossing," which were used to formulate a racial typology of Soqotra's inhabitants.

This was the kind of formulation that betrayed the speculative excesses associated with the evolutionism of early anthropology. Prof. Naumkin stated, "It was unfair to say this was rubbish driven by racialist evolutionary thinking. The main question we sought to answer was, what was the origin of the Soqotrans?"

He felt satisfied that the conclusion reached was the main origin of the

people of Soqotra was from the South Arabian mainland, and not as some have supposed from Europe or India. In retrospect, Prof Naumkin confessed a certain discomfort - indeed, embarrassment - with the theoretical underpinnings and methodological approach of the two physical anthropologists in the team. He said that if the book were to be republished he would take out the objectionable chapters.

He was belatedly reacting to the fact that such theoretical underpinnings as well as method were discredited early in the 20th century. He was recanting a conception of anthropology as the study of material culture, prehistory and diffusion processes and underpinned by evolutionist assumptions.

Concerning the charge that it was inappropriate to include archaeological details in an ethnography, Prof. Naumkin countered that it was essential to demonstrate that there was the existence of a long history of Soqotran culture that was authentic to the island and which preceded the 12th century; the period prior to which some have argued there was a promiscuity of people and cultures which were not indigenous to the island.

He also addressed the reservation expressed by some critics who noted the absence of any long residence in a village in which to capture the requisite ethnographic minutiae. He offered an apologetic response. He said he was leading a multidisciplinary mission

with multiple research foci; there was no time for this type of resident observation.

He mentioned the sheer logistical difficulties as well as having to assuage the islanders' suspicions about the "gharab" (strangers) roaming in their territories asking equally strange questions. Indeed, he confessed that if he had more time he would have done so. He expressed the wish to pursue this approach in his future research activities on the island.

There were also the critiques by Soqotrans, who have heard about the book from third parties and did not read it themselves, since the book was not translated into Arabic. It seemed that what they heard, however, was mostly negative rumors namely: Soqotrans must pay their wives if they do not have sexual relations with them as expected on Thursdays; that the book focused on the Soqotrans' obsession with magic; that Naumkin relied solely on one informant who was not an authentic Soqotran; that the cultural traditions of people of African descent on the island received greater coverage at the expense of other groups etc.

This was perhaps the unavoidable fate of written documents in a society where "orality" is the sole means of acquiring and sharing information about local realities. This was news to Naumkin, as there was no basis in his ethnography to substantiate these

rumors.

He attributed these misunderstandings perhaps to a book of his entitled *Where the Phoenix Rose from Ashes*, published in Russian that was based on library research done prior to his fieldwork in Soqotra, and badly and partially translated into Arabic by a Yemeni from Yafa. He confirmed that he did rely on one informant, but that was for his ethno-linguistic research and not for collecting socio-cultural information.

Given the regional variations in the use of the Soqotri language, he felt it was best to focus on a single dialectal version in order to trace its evolution, instead of doing research on all of them simultaneously.

Future

In concluding our conversation I inquired about his concerns over the future of the island. He noted two such concerns. The first was about the double edge nature of the cultural identity of Soqotrans - that is, of being Soqotri and Yemeni simultaneously. It was both a privilege and a problem.

It was a privilege in the sense of being endowed with multiple cultural assets, and a problem because it presents a challenge on how best to ensure their full politico-cultural integration, as a linguistic minority, into the larger Yemeni family to which they historically belong. This situation made it imperative that consideration be given

to the formal recognition of the distinctive cultural identity of the Soqotrans, as that would ensure the constitution of a balanced cultural sub-jectivity and a strong political identity with the nation state. Cultural amalgamation would only complicate an organic process of political and cultural integration into the national community.

The other concern was the need for greater awareness of, and sensitivity to, the pastoralist economy's high susceptibility to alternative economic incentives. Hence there was a need to avoid any "thoughtless transformation" of the herding economy by thinking of a culturally appropriate development strategy that would either facilitate a gradual and organic transition to alternative livelihood activities, or that would offer complementary economic opportunities.

Finally, in terms of research focus, he felt that one of the most interesting, if not important, research topic would be to investigate the nature of the transformation taking place in the tribal system in Soqotra and of the corollary changes in its social organization, as it is incorporated into new authority structures, such as the recently introduced Local Council system of governance.

* He is a Doctoral Researcher in Social Anthropology at Sussex University in the UK.

Preserving Yemen's history

Keeping information handy

ABDU M. ASSABI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the motto, *Documentation is the Nation's Memory*, the 3rd training course in documentation and archiving was held at the Yemeni Club for Information & Technical Education (YCITE) from Jan. 18 to Feb. 8.



"The course aimed at promoting information technology in Yemen in general in order to gain IT skills and capabilities for the benefit of the employees working in archiving," Mohammed Ali Rajeh, the General Manager of the YCITE said.

He added, it "aimed also at eradicating information illiteracy through the use of information technology in order to cope with modern technologies in administrative documentation."



On the great significance of organizing this course, Dr. Zaki Alwardi, an expert at documentation and information said, "Administrative archiving or as it involves a host of documents that has been established or obtained by an institution, for instance during performing its legal commitment. So in this case, an institution or organization maintains those documents as records for its programs,

works, decisions and its processes."

Accordingly, documents are considered to be vital for the institution's activities as well as its relations with other institutions.

"Archiving constitutes a valuable reference for administrators, and employees in any institution particularly in decision making, supervising, planning, monitoring, and organizing," Zaki noted.

"The modern notion of archiving depends basically on organizing those documents since its infancy. When a need arises to these documents, an easy access is readily accessible," Zaki further explained.

In this regard, the significance of organizing those training courses is to provide employees and workers in archiving units and departments with new training outcomes with a view of improving and promoting their skill in this regard.

This also will enable them to perform the archiving works efficiently in order to achieve a highly sophisticated system in those institutions.

Holding and organizing training courses will also prepare the way for the trainees to be fully equipped theoretically as well as practically in order to:-

- Have an easy access to the required documents.
- Support the decision making as a result of availability of information, and documents.
- Provide costs of keeping files and documents.
- Gain control of heaps of input and output documents.
- Handle documents and files within

the institutions itself.

- Keeping the safety of those files.
- Use modern technicalities in dealing with documents in the context of storing and retrieving.
- Put an end to heaps of documents and files.

In order to get on with information technology, well-qualified cadres and eminent professors took part in the course. Those include, Dr. Zaki Hussien Alwardi, the Chairman of Library, Documentation & Information Department, Sana'a University, Dr. Mohammed Ali Rajeh, the General Manager of the YCITE, Dr. Mohammed Ali Ahmed, Manager of Training and Rehabilitation and Mr. Sami Ali Al-Khawilani.

Trainees from the governmental bodies took part in the course included those in parliament, industry, social care, the Islamic Bank of Yemen, and the Arab Bank.



Sabah Mahmoud Yahya, a female employee at the Social Care Fund, said that the course has helped a lot in improving the archiving information in a proper manner.

In this regard, the course helped the trainees to get acquainted with knowing all there is to know about enlarging learner's understanding in that course along with promoting and establishing an information data base using computers.

The training course involved putting data in computer, updating data avail-

able in the computer, searching and retrieving for a number of the stored data.

In addition to this, the course exchanged data together with other systems.

Preparing the course curricula has been done basically on the basis of the actual application in accordance with the archiving and automatic documentation works as that of other Arab countries in all scientific aspects.

"We are thankful to the YCITE and its General Manager for holding such useful courses in order to develop the information technology," Sabah concluded.



Abdulqader Ali Abdullah Sharaf Abdeen, of the Social Care Fund, said that the training course in the field of the administrative archiving was excellent.

"This can be attributed to the good progress we have made from trainers and lectures in everything related to archiving, administrative and automatic documentation," he added.



On his part, Mr. Abdunnasser al-Moqbeli, a trainee from the parliament said: "although the content of the course was not of direct benefit to my current job, but the contents therein indeed was of great benefit. Designing your own data

base and browsing the world of internet were another beneficial aspects of the course.

"I deeply recommend all those who are interested in archiving to attend such a course," al-Moqbeli noted.

Al-Moqbeli said that rehabilitating and promoting the administrative cadre for the state reflected positively in the field of administrative archiving which is the mainstay for preserving the public document of the state.

"We have greatly benefited from the course and as a result a great importance has been paid to the historical, archaeological documents and how to classify, organize, and document them automatically," al-Moqbeli noted further.

"In order to make use of such course, I advice the governmental institutions to urge their cadres in administrative archiving. We are grateful to trainers and lecturers including Dr. Zaki al-Wardi, the YCITE general manager, and Mr. Mohammed Assiaghi, for making a success in this course" he concluded.

The YCITE was established in 2001 by eminent specialists in library, documentation and information technology. It has been entrusted with promoting the information technology with the view pushing development as well as broadening the horizons of computer sciences, IT, automatic documentation, classification and library for a better future.

The YCITE is the first of its kind in Yemen for selective disseminating services, and providing researchers and students to hold the scientific

degrees, such as BA, doctor's degrees, and others.

It is a multidisciplinary laboratory operated by professors and highly qualified staff and it includes a core of full-time as well as part-times employees.

The central focus of the club's activity is the development of advanced information technology — computer technology, appropriate to the communication and manipulation.

Different training courses in the context of IT for the governmental as well as non-governmental organizations are held periodically for assisting these sectors for a better IT technology.

Advanced information in the IT is readily accessible for researchers and students in different specialization including the direct line and other information resources.

The YCITE provides researchers with research services research for books, and valuable references at the academic and documentation centers along with providing information about data and information in any field of study through the use of the Internet. Besides researchers have an easy access to opening a file for a field of study within database to the researchers that have been gathered.

The YCITE also aims at raising IT awareness among the public through publishing periodicals and cultural information handouts.

Participating to rehabilitate and qualify researchers in departments and institutions

The second training course was held in Nov. 2002.

Islamic scholar Jamal Al-Banna to the Yemen Times (Part I)

What the Qur'an really says on Jihad, freedom and justice

BY BASSAM JAMEEL AL-SAQQAF
AND NADIA AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Islam and the Islamic philosophers: the great dispute between what is and what must be, and the various Islamic movements. Such issues were the topic of discussion with the famous Islamist Jamal Al-Banna. Al-Banna is a political as well as Islamic thinker who has been an international academic and lecturer since 1962. He has written more than 100 books and translated several reference books to Arabic. Known for his revolutionary thoughts and innovative ideas, Al-Banna wrote and lectured about many critical Islamic topics such as the Islamic movements, syndicates in the Arab World, Women in Islam, disputed verses in the Quran and many others. He approached them from a critical point of view that invariably caused him to be criticized and admired in the same time.

Q. The Islamic Movements: how do you view them today?

A. I can say that the Islamic movements are divided into two types, either Islamic movements started in a natural way as a political and idealistic group that has certain beliefs it is calling for, such as Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslemeen (Islamic Brothers). And the other type is the Islamic groups established as a reaction to certain circumstances, which their founders had gone through.

An example of that is the "Harakat Al-Takfeer wa Al-Hijra" which started as the result of political prosecution of the Islamists in the time of Jamal Abdulnasir in Egypt. These movements are quite violent and aggressive in their actions such as Saed Qutb Al-Jihad movement and so on.

The first kind of Islamic movement does not include any aggression at all in their agenda and they are purely a preaching group.

It is true that Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslemeen is not what they used to be during my brother's time, the late Hasan Al-Banna. Because at the time when they started, they rose in a peaceful liberal environment in the 30th. Their existence was not a threat to anyone and neither did they face any threat from the king at that time or the social norms.

And although they have come up with revolutionary ideas, they were close to the people. Because they were established by almost ordinary people, like my brother who was almost a civil person who graduated from college of Agriculture and not Al-Azhar or any other Islamic institution. And they spread their thoughts and beliefs through words and preaching.

They reached out for people and were a very peaceful movement. All until the regime changed and Abdulnasir came to power in 1949 Hassan was assassinated and many were thrown into prison and were inhumanly tortured. As a consequence many smaller movements emerged through the resistance to the treatment which the Islamists received. Even Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslemeen changed gradually due to the environment in which they exist today, which does not allow freedom of expression and belief.

Q. Fanatic Islamic movements emerge because of political happenings, so what should the ideal case be in your opinion?

Fanatic Islamic movements started in

that stream from the bigger ones. And this is exactly what is happening in the Islamic and Arab world today.

Q. What about the Islamic movements in Yemen?

A. It's just like any other Arab country if not worse. There is the fanaticism, the political oppression, the illiterate people who do not know their rights and who are easily swayed by cliché lines and slogans. In fact I am surprised at the Yemeni intellectual who has isolated himself from the rest of the people.

You find a well-educated man talking about school of modernization while in his country the farmer uses ancient mechanisms for plowing his field. Where does the modernization come to the picture?

It was said that with the layering of society, the gap between the different layers grows relative to the thickness of that layer. There has to be a role for the people who are educated to play and they are not playing it.

I guess this is common in most of the Arab countries but is quite obvious here. The only thing that could be credited to the Arab regimes in power is that they were successful in busying the citizens running after their daily meal. And in the process they have become so vul-

nerable that they would hang on any slight ray of hope they conceive, whether through the Islamic movements or political parties in our pseudo democracy.

"Jihad was established in Islam to guarantee the safety and protection of the Islamic nation as a defense mechanism and not as an attacking one!"

nerable that they would hang on any slight ray of hope they conceive, whether through the Islamic movements or political parties in our pseudo democracy.

The Islamic movements know this fact for sure and use the vulnerability of the ordinary man to persuade them with the movements' beliefs. They use slogans in which these movements strongly believe in, such as holy war and liberty for Islam and the like to capture the minds and the hearts of the normal people.

Q. Therefore, do you think the call for Jihad (holy war against non Muslims) today is approved and called for by Islam?

A. Any defense of a rightful entity is Jihad and is a must. In this regard, the defense for the Palestinian land and the Palestine homes is Jihad and is called for.

However, there is a critical misconception in the Islamic world that Islam is a religion to be spread by force. Many fanatic Islamists believe that it is their duty to force the religion on every other faith and to declare war on everything that is non Muslim.

Whereas in is mentioned very clearly

in the Quran that Islam is a religion that respects all other believes, whether of the book, polytheists, infidels or even the atheists. The aya / verse that says this has no doubt in it:

"There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the right path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut (anything worshiped other than the real god (Allah)) and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower." (AlBaqara - 256)

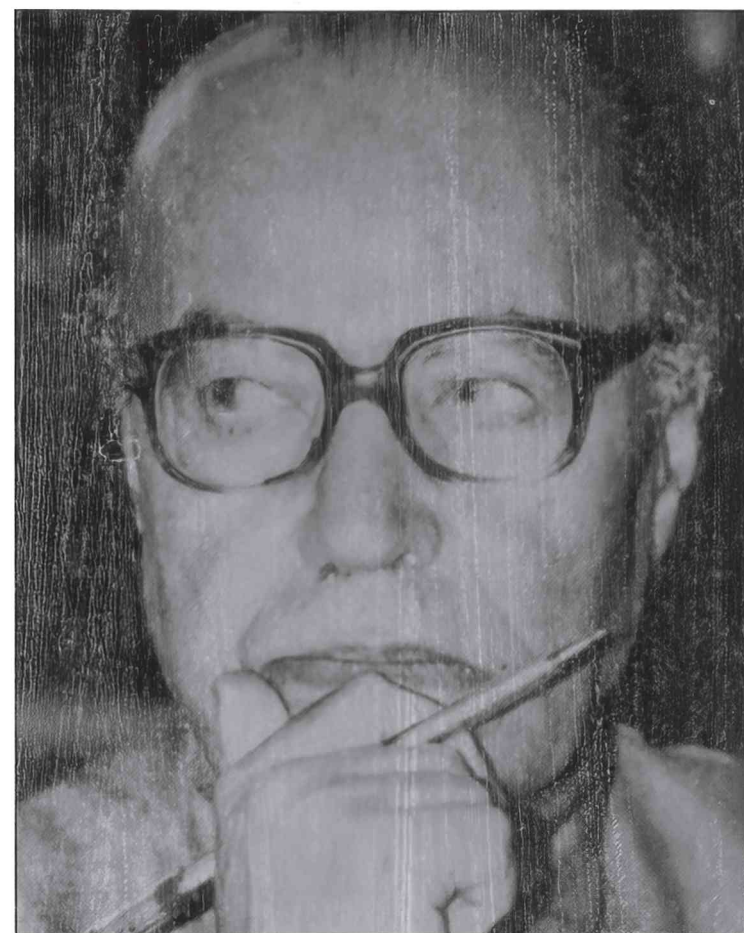
I have gone through the whole Quran and read as well as studied all the fight and war verses. And none of them. I repeat none, even hinted that jihad is stated to attack and rule over other religions. Jihad was established in Islam to guarantee the safety and protection of the Islamic nation as a defense mechanism and not as an attacking one.

"Tell those who disbelieve that if they cease (from persecution of believers) that which is past will be forgiven them; but if they return (thereto) then the example of the men of old hath already gone (before them, for a warning). And fight them until persecution is no more and the religion is all for Allah. But if they cease, then Lo! Allah is Seer of what they do." (Al-Anfal - 38-39)

The only verse that took me some time to understand is the one that says:

"Fight against those who (1) believe not in Allah, (2) nor in the last day, (3) nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His messenger (Mohammed - mpbh) (4) and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth (i.e. Islam) among the people of the scripture (Jews and Christians), until they pay the (tax levied from the people of the scriptures (Jews and Christians, who are under the protection of a Muslim government) with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued." Al-Tawba (29).

Because this one talks about a certain sect of the people of the book, a certain group that was not existing at that time, so perhaps this was one of the verses that predicted the future, saying that there will be some people of the book who believe not in Allah, nor in the last day, nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His messenger, and they would find it in their interest to attack and undermine Islam, so those



Islamist Jamal Al-Banna

should be fought. And even those people it was not said that they should be killed, however they should abide by the Islamic rule and pay the Jizya which is a tax to the Islamic state they are living in.

Another evidence that jihad was not instated to punish other religions or faiths is that the concept of "Ahal Al-Thyma" (people who have a bond or treaty with the Muslims). Because if the purpose of jihad was to vanish every other religion, then why for should rules of dealings with others were made and respected? The misconception has blinded so many Muslims and caused fright and negative feelings about Islam among the non-Muslims.

'Islam is viewed today not as what it actually is.'

Q. Does this mean that the way Muslims understand Islam is not right? And how do the current happenings in the world effect and get effected by this?

A. Yes indeed, Islam is viewed today not as what it actually is. It's a two-folded situation: Had the Islamic world been secure and respected in accordance with its particularities and identity, there wouldn't have been so much violence

and revolutionary or terrorist acts created by them. At the same time had there been no such actions that threaten peace and stability, and had the way Islam been portrayed to the rest of the world been closer to its truth, the worlds reaction towards Islam and Muslims would have been different.

We in these days as Muslims have indulged so deeply in the minor aspects in our religion neglecting by that the actual and main facts that the religion actually is based upon.

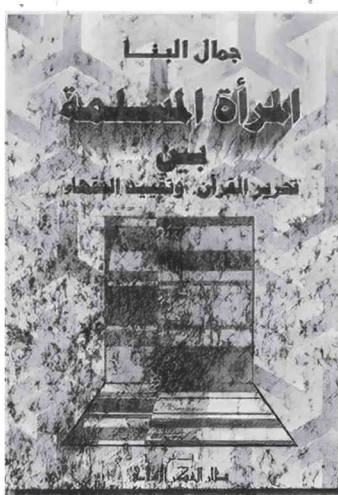
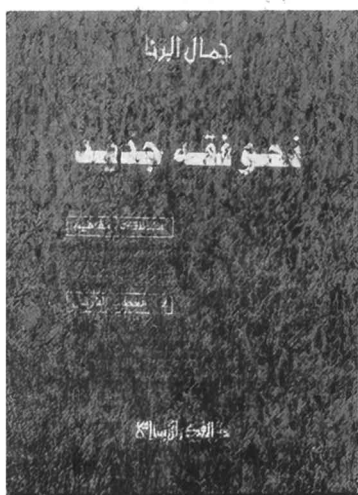
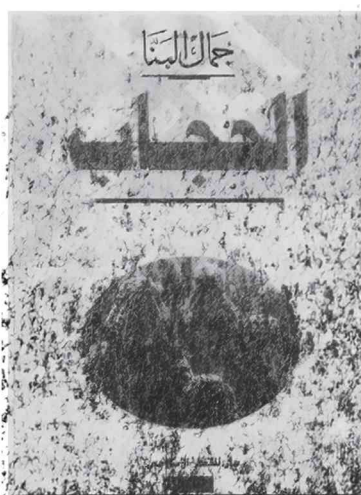
As an example many scholars have stated in more than one place that Muslims who convert to another faith must be killed. Where in the Quran is that mentioned? On the contrary, such case which is called in Islam (Al-Ridda) was mentioned five times and in all there was no earthly punishment for such people. And it was said that those who do so, their actions will not be blessed and in the other life they will be the losers. The Muslim scholars have invented this rule in order to protect their regime. Because this rule was established in a time where the Muslim empire was so large and the khalifat was the one to legislate the constitution or Sharee'a (Islamic Constitution) as it is called in Islam.

In fact they went to the extent that they said that anyone who holds back any information that is vital to the Islamic world is to be killed; and in those lines many Muslim lives were taken.

The concept of Ridda (converting from Islam to another religion) was mentioned five times and had there been any action to be taken by the governors it would have been clearly mentioned in any of them if not all. How easy it has become to legislate rules that dictate the killing of a human being in our world. What a shame!

Part II next week:

- The European culture was established on two pillars, freedom and power; whereas the Islamic was built on justice. Ironically, through their freedom the Europeans found justice, and we, could not establish justice because we didn't have the freedom to even live our religion.
- In Islam, women are equal to men.
- Don't enforce faith, preach it!
- For every cruel, powerful person comes one who is more cruel and powerful to put him down. This is what happened in Iraq.



Iraq avoids direct response to UN

Saddam still plays cat-and-mouse

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22 (Reuters) - Iraq avoided a direct response to an order from chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix to begin destroying missiles by March 1, saying all such issues could be resolved as part of ongoing cooperation.

Destruction of the Al-Samoud 2 missiles, which have a range that exceeds U.N. limits, would be a blow to Iraq as it prepares for a possible invasion by U.S. forces.

"First of all, cooperation is going on and contacts are going on between the Iraqi authorities and the inspection teams," Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri told reporters on Saturday on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement summit in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

"We think all pending issues can be solved between the two parties without any pressure being exacted on them by certain powers," he said in his first reaction to the Blix deadline.

Sabri declined to comment in any detail after Blix ordered Iraq on Friday to begin destroying by March 1 dozens of missiles and warheads, their engines and launchers. It is a key test of Iraq's willingness to comply with U.N. disarmament demands.

If it does not destroy them, the United States and Britain could use this as proof that Iraq is not cooperating with the United Nations and that war is justified.

"The appropriate arrangements should be made so that the destruction



A U.N. weapons inspector examines Iraq's Al Samoud missiles at Taji, 40km (25 miles) north of Baghdad in this Feb.16 photo. Iraq avoided on Feb. 22, a direct response to an order from chief U.S. weapons inspector Hans Blix to begin destroying missiles by March 1, saying all such issues could be resolved as part of ongoing cooperation. REUTERS

process can commence by March 1, 2003," Blix said in a four-page letter to Amir al-Saadi, a senior adviser to President Saddam Hussein.

The letter, distributed to Security Council members, said an expert panel Blix organised had concluded that the Al-Samoud 2 missiles exceeded by 33 km (20 miles) the 150-km (90-mile) range limit set by the U.N. Security Council in a 1991 resolution.

Sabri said he expected to win widespread support from among the 113 other members of the Non-Aligned Movement, which also includes Iran and North Korea — the two other nations bracketed with Iraq by U.S. President George W. Bush as an "axis of evil".

"We expect a strong position rejecting colonial war policies by Washington and calling for peace," Sabri said.

Blix did not say how long Iraq could have to destroy the equipment. But the deadline Blix gave would allow him to tell the Security Council in a written report due on March 1 whether Iraq had complied.

Baghdad's response will have an impact on a resolution the United States and Britain are seeking to authorise military action against Iraq.

U.N. envoy slammed

New UN plan for Turkey in war?

NICOSIA, Feb 21 (Reuters) - Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriots, said on Friday it was "disgraceful" the U.N. envoy to Cyprus had not consulted them before presenting Turkey with what he said were revisions to a plan to unite the island.

Denktash, who has held months of face-to-face talks with the Greek Cypriots on a U.N. plan to unite Cyprus ahead of its accession to the EU in 2004, said he had received minutes from Ankara of a meeting envoy Alvaro de Soto held with Turkish officials earlier in the week.

"It is disgraceful that de Soto presented such a document to Turkey without receiving our input or reaction," Denktash told reporters in his Nicosia office.

"It is obvious that Turkey did not pay any heed to his game of going to them first in order to pressure us," he added.

Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul said U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan might present a revised version of the U.N. plan after he arrives in Ankara on Sunday, when Annan is expected to request Greece and Turkey press the Cypriots for a solution on the island by the February 28 U.N. deadline.

The United Nations has yet to announce the existence of any revisions to the plan, which has been criticised by Denktash for its failure to recognise the Turkish Cypriot north as a legitimate state.

"That's not something I'm ready

to admit. It (existence of the revised plan) is possible but I can't confirm," de Soto said in Ankara on Friday.

Denktash outlined details he said were contained within the revised document, including proposals to keep the Karpasia (known as Karpaz to Turkish Cypriots) area of the island in the hands of Turkish

"It is disgraceful de Soto presented such a document to Turkey without receiving our input or reaction."

Rauf Denktash

Cypriots in exchange for more territory in the Morphou (Guzelyurt) region for the Greek Cypriots.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when Turkey invaded from the north in response to a brief military coup by Greek Cypriots backed by the military government then ruling Athens.

"I can see again there is a fear that the 28th is going to come and go...They (the Greek Cypriots) say it will not be finished by February 28. We are all saying this," Denktash said.

De Soto was more upbeat. "It is certainly possible and it will require considerable courage on the part of all concerned."

Iraq

US wants new puppet: Hizbollah

BEIRUT, Feb 21 (Reuters) - Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrilla group said on Friday the U.S.-led drive to use force to disarm Iraq was a ploy to install new pro-Western governments in the Middle East.

Hizbollah chief Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah also accused Washington of supporting dictators in the region and supplying Iraq with the weapons of mass destruction it now says Baghdad is hiding. "America is the partner of every regime that committed crimes against its people and we can therefore not imagine salvation from the partner in the crime," Nasrallah said after laying the foundation stone of a mosque in Beirut.

"All the United States of America...is searching for is an excuse to swap regimes and governments loyal to it with (other) regimes and governments loyal to

it, but under new titles."

The United States, which labels Syrian and Iranian-backed Hizbollah as a "terrorist" group, has threatened to attack Iraq over allegations that Baghdad is hiding weapons of mass destruction. Iraq denies it has such weapons.

"America talks about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq but...we do not hear (U.S. Secretary of State) Colin Powell say who gave weapons of mass destruction to Iraq...because if he did he would be exposed," Nasrallah said.

Washington pushed ahead on Friday with its drive towards war by working on a U.N. Security Council resolution it hoped would secure support from an international community not convinced of the need to use force against Baghdad. As Nasrallah spoke, some 3000 anti-war protestors marched to the U.N. headquar-

At summit of Non-Alligned nations

Palestinians urge sanctions against Israel

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22 (Reuters) - A senior Palestinian official urged the Non-Aligned Movement on Saturday to use its influence in the United Nations to win the imposition of sanctions against Israel.

Israeli forces have carried out a series of armoured raids into the Gaza Strip in the past week, killing dozens of Palestinians in attacks that have overshadowed new international peace efforts and roused fresh Palestinian fury.

"We expect more terrorism in this part of the world," Farouq al-Qaddoumi, head of the political directorate in the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, said on the sidelines of a summit of the 114 members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Asked what NAM's members, who account for about two-thirds of the United Nations, could achieve at their three-yearly summit, al-Qaddoumi suggested sanctions to force Israel to give up what the Palestinians call "terrorism" against their people.

"NAM countries represent two-thirds of the countries of the world and have to shoulder the task in the U.N. of trying to impose sanctions — as they were imposed on the apartheid regime in South Africa," he said.

He did not give details of what type of sanctions he would want the developing nations — mainly from Africa, the Middle East and Asia — that comprise NAM to demand.

At this summit, South Africa is handing over chairmanship of the movement to Malaysia.

It was not clear whether the summit



Palestinian Hamas fighter carrying a rocket launcher and machine guns march during the funeral of the military wing commander Riyad Abu Zeid in Gaza Feb. 21. Zeid died while being evacuated by a military helicopter to an Israeli hospital with wounds the Israeli army said had been sustained in an exchange of fire with soldiers trying to arrest him. Palestinians called his death an assassination by Israel. REUTERS

would take up such a call during a meeting dominated by discussion on how to tackle weapons of mass destruction, particularly the U.S. threat of war on Iraq and North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

In Gaza, tens of thousands of

Palestinians marched in a funeral procession of a leading militant on Friday, vowing revenge after a week of violence in which Israeli forces have killed 31 Palestinians.

The surge of violence, including the killing of three Palestinians in the Gaza

Strip and West Bank by Israeli forces on Friday, followed an attack last Saturday in which Hamas militants blew up an Israeli tank and killed its four crewmen.

At least 1,860 Palestinians and 705 Israelis have been killed since the uprising began in September 2000.

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302 dead in worst air crash in Iran's history

Relief teams battle weather in Iran

SIRCH, Iran, Feb 20 (Reuters) - Rescue teams battled strong winds and treacherous slopes on Thursday to find out why a Russian-made troop carrier slammed into a mountain killing 302 Revolutionary Guards in Iran's worst air disaster.

The death toll from Wednesday's crash was the highest in a string of air disasters in Iran involving Russian-made aircraft.

Officials said bad weather may have caused the crash in which all people on board, including 18 crew, died. The troops were returning from a mission near Iran's border with Pakistan to spend a long holiday weekend at home when their plane crashed into a mountainside in southeast Iran, they said.

The pilot of the Ilyushin-76 troop carrier complained of high winds shortly before losing radio contact.

Officials said rescue teams were looking for the flight data recorder, which could shed light on the cause of the crash. But they said their efforts had so far been impeded by the poor weather and deep snow.

A large blackened circle surrounded by pure white snow could be seen from a distance marking the spot where the plane went down, close to the summit of the Sirch mountain chain which rises to over 3,000 metres (9,900 feet).

Further down the slope, streams of cars ferried scores of distraught relatives from the nearby city of Kerman to temporary shelters set up by the Revolutionary Guards and Red Crescent.

Groups of four or five sobbing Revolutionary Guards soldiers sat on the ground huddled together, mourning lost comrades.

A senior source close to the government told Reuters scores of high-ranking military officials were among those killed.

Force created after Islamic revolution

Formed shortly after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, the Revolutionary Guards force is independent of the regular army and played a key role in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Today it numbers about 120,000 personnel and answers directly to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — the head of



An Iranian revolutionary guard grieves over killed comrades after Iran's worst air disaster a revolutionary guard (R) grieves over his dead comrades as a group of rescue workers look on, on a mountainside in southeastern Iran where a Russian-made Ilyushin-76 troop carrier military plane crashed killing all 302 Revolutionary Guards on board, Feb. 20. REUTERS

Iran's Shi'ite Muslim establishment.

Dazed relatives who had rushed to the scene sheltered from the gusting wind and waited for information on the victims.

"I've been here since last night but I'm hoping my brother-in-law was not among them," Reza Mezamadadi said as tears streamed down his face.

Rescue workers returning from the crash site spoke of finding fist-sized body parts among the burned wreckage.

"It was one of the worst scenes I've witnessed. The bodies are just destroyed," said Mohammad, a Red Crescent worker.

Rescue workers said strong winds, fog and deep snow made it virtually impossible to work.

"There is a lot of snow, up to your thigh. Near the mountain peak one can hardly walk due to the thick ice underfoot," said Ali, 19, a Red Crescent volunteer.

Russia's civil aviation authorities said the aircraft was an Ilyushin-76, a large

military transport plane and the workhorse of the country's military since Soviet times.

It was the second Ilyushin-76 plane crash this year. A cargo plane crashed in East Timor at the end of January killing all six Russian crew.

The Iranian plane was on a short flight from Zahedan, close to Iran's border with Pakistan, to the city of Kerman, 1,075 km (670 miles) southeast of Tehran. Most of the victims were from Kerman province.

It crashed 35 km (22 miles) southeast of Kerman into the Sirch mountain chain which rises abruptly from the plains of the surrounding desert and contains the highest peaks in the region.

Explosion lit up sky

Shahab, 19, from a nearby village said he heard the plane smash into the mountain around 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. local time (1400 to 1430 GMT) on Wednesday.

"We suddenly heard a noise like an explosion and the sky became like day

time. We ran out of the house because we thought it was Iraqi planes," he said.

Kerman state governor Mohammad Ali Karimi told IRNA contact with the plane was lost as the pilot began his landing approach.

"In his last radio contact, the pilot said 'I am trying to approach the airport; maybe the weather conditions will get better'. At that moment, the contact was lost," Karimi said.

The crash was the latest in a series of aviation disasters in Iran, most of which involved Russian-designed aircraft.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Western sanctions had forced Iran to supplement its fleet of Boeing and European-made Airbus aircraft with planes bought or leased from the former Soviet Union.

Last December, a Ukrainian Antonov An-140 plane crashed in central Iran, killing all 46 aboard. Most of the passengers were top Ukrainian and Russian aerospace officials travelling to Iran to test fly an Iranian-built copy of the plane.

Jittery markets

Will OPEC act if war halts Iraqi oil?

ABU DHABI, Feb 22 (Reuters) - UAE Oil Minister Obaid bin Saif al-Nasseri said on Saturday that OPEC would act to cover any break in Iraqi supplies if war erupts, but said it was too early to say whether the cartel would suspend its output quotas.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has sought to assure jittery oil markets that it stands ready to fill any shortage resulting from an interruption of Iraq's two million barrels per day (bpd) of exports.

"If something drastic happens, then we have to discuss that event and take necessary action," Nasseri told reporters after meeting his Russian counterpart Igor Yusufov in Abu Dhabi.

"The producers will carry out their responsibility."

OPEC, due to hold a policy meeting on March 11, raised output limits twice this year for an unexpected strike in Venezuela, with most members — except Saudi Arabia and the

UAE — now pushed to full capacity.

A Gulf source said earlier this week that OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia would support a temporary suspension of quotas if an attack on Iraq halted supplies from the world's eighth largest exporter.

OPEC Secretary General Alvaro Silva said on Friday that a suspension of the quota system had yet to be discussed. UAE's Nasseri also said it was too early to look into this option.

"On March 11, we have to review the market situation... and the price," Nasseri said. "Then if we see there is no need to change the ceiling, we will be happy to continue with it."

"But if there is a need to change the ceiling, whether to raise or reduce it, then we have to take that action which will help stabilise the market and get a fair price."

OPEC agreed last month to raise its output ceiling by 1.5 million bpd to 24.5 million bpd to cover a shortage from strike-bound member Venezuela.

Ivorian deal tested

Chirac has new vision for Africa

PARIS, Feb 21 (Reuters) - President Jacques Chirac defended a vision of a new role for France in Africa on Friday and urged warring factions in Ivory Coast to honour a French-brokered deal in the former colony that has sorely tested Paris's approach.

Winding up two days of grand summitry in Paris with dozens of African leaders, Chirac brushed off criticism of invitations to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and others accused of abusing human rights. He pledged to speak for African interests in international trade and other negotiations.

The conflict in once peaceful Ivory Coast, where Chirac has despatched 3,000 troops since rebellion broke out five months ago, overshadowed meetings with 51 other African governments. Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo stayed away in apparent protest at what he sees as French complicity with the rebels.

With fighting worsening on Thursday despite a peace accord reached in France a month ago, Chirac issued an urgent appeal.

"I would like this process to conclude; that is for the prime minister appointed and confirmed at the end of this reconciliation process to be able to pick his government as quickly as possible," he told a news conference.

Key rebel leaders flew in to Paris on Friday for talks with the new Prime Minister Seydou Diarra, whom Gbagbo appointed to appease his opponents as part of the peace process.

France, which Chirac said wanted to play a major role in Africa but one of "partnership" rather than domination, said on Thursday that its troops would join forces from the regional bloc ECOWAS to guarantee the security of the new government.

Catalyst role

Chirac, keen to extend France's global role in a world dominated by the United States, rejected suggestions that France was acting more out of self-interest than to foster democracy.

He offered to act as a "catalyst" to help Africans tackle poverty, violence and health threats like AIDS.

And, conscious of the outrage

among human rights groups at his rubbing shoulders with some of the world's less scrupulous rulers, he warned his guests they could no longer claim immunity from international law if they abused their power.

Some denounced France's tone as paternalistic, reminiscent of the days when the French ruled a vast empire in west and central Africa. "The French are acting as if they were in another era," said one delegate.

Among the proposals Chirac plans to submit to wealthy nations is suspending subsidies on farm exports to Africa during the current round of world trade talks to protect subsistence farmers threatened by a flood of cheap imports.

"There is no French selfishness, there is a commitment on the part of France," he insisted on Friday.

However, France's renewed assertiveness in Africa is already raising eyebrows among some of its European partners.

Britain, a historic rival for influence on the continent, was furious at his invitation to Mugabe, who has been under an EU travel ban since his controversial re-election a year ago.

France argued that it was better to talk to Mugabe than to isolate him. But the argument carried little weight with papers in Zimbabwe's former colonial power, which plastered Chirac's handshake with Mugabe all over its front pages on Friday.

"Now wash your hands," captioned the tabloid Sun, whose editorial called Chirac as "an unscrupulous, conniving, preening, lying, cheating hypocrite".

Mugabe, who left for Harare as soon as the summit ended, held talks with Chirac late on Thursday.

Challenged by Paris-based media watchdog Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) over the presence of 23 leaders RSF said had arrested, tortured or killed journalists, Chirac said: "The problem exists, nobody is denying it."

"I want to believe, I am sure even, that step by step, as rapidly as possible, and given the mobilisation of a maximum number of people of goodwill, progress will be assured."

Sudan's Bashir says peace close

PARIS, Feb 21 (Reuters) - Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir was quoted on Friday as saying an end was near to a 20-year civil war in his country, sounding more optimistic than usual ahead of fresh talks with rebels next month.

"I truly feel that peace is near," Bashir told French daily Le Monde during a Franco-African summit in Paris.

"The important questions still to be solved are the even distribution of riches, sharing of power and security measures which must be taken in the transition period," he added.

Rebels from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Sudan's Islamist government are due to resume negotiations on March 1.

Around two million people have died since the SPLA began fighting in 1983 to win more autonomy for the mostly animist and Christian south from the mainly Muslim north.

The south accounts for around one-third of the 30 million population of Sudan, Africa's largest country.

Around two million people have died since the SPLA began fighting in 1983.

The two sides have already agreed to a waiver on Islamic law in non-Muslim areas and a referendum on southern secession after six years.

Bashir's comments echoed those of Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail earlier in the week, who said the chance for peace was closer than ever.

Horn of Africa

U.S. vows to get al-Qaeda

ADDIS ABABA, Feb 21 (Reuters) - The United States is committed to flushing out al Qaeda militants it believes are in the Horn of Africa, however long it takes, a U.S. army official said on Friday.

Washington fears al Qaeda members may have fled to the Horn of Africa from Afghanistan after a U.S.-led coalition drove the Taliban regime from Kabul. U.S. officials see countries like lawless Somalia as potential hiding places for militants.

"We will find and defeat the al Qaeda terrorist network which moved out of Afghanistan and are coming across the Gulf of Aden into the Horn of Africa," Major General John Sattler, Commander of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, told a news conference in Addis Ababa.

"The Combined Joint Task Force is

prepared for an extended war on terrorism," Sattler said. "We will press the fight at every turn, as long as it takes, against those who seek to spread hatred and fear, both in the Horn of Africa region and around the world, with the help of our coalition partners."

The force based in Djibouti began work in December, patrolling the seas off the Horn of Africa and hunting down any militant networks. The United States blames al Qaeda for the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington in 2001.

The Task Force's mission covers Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Yemen and Sudan. The region was thrust into the spotlight in November, when suicide bombers attacked an Israeli-owned hotel in the Kenyan resort of Mombasa.

Cause unknown

Pakistan air force chief, 16 others die in crash

TAULANJ, Pakistan, Feb 20 (Reuters) - The commander of Pakistan's air force, Air Chief Marshal Mushaf Ali Mir, his wife and several senior officers were among 17 people killed when their plane crashed on Thursday.

Air force spokesman Air Commodore Sarfraz Ahmed Khan called the crash of air force Fokker F-27 turboprop about 27 km (17 miles) from the town of Kohat an accident. All those aboard died.

State-run Pakistan Television said the crash in the northwest of the country was caused by "technical reasons", but did not elaborate.

Khan told a news conference the exact cause of the crash would have to be

determined by a board of inquiry.

"It was absolutely a routine flight for a routine activity. The weather was fit for flying," he said.

Asked if sabotage was a possibility, he replied: "It is premature to say anything about the reason and I sincerely request you to refrain from speculative analysis."

Those killed included two air vice marshals, two air force commodores and Mir's wife Bilqees.

President Pervez Musharraf called the deaths a great national loss and Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali announced a day of national mourning on Friday, when funerals for the dead are to be held.

The plane came down near the village of Taulanj, in an area of low hills about 27 km (17 miles) from the town of Kohat.

Villager Zarmast Khan said he heard explosions as the plane hit the ground. "I heard a bang, followed by another big bang, and then I saw flames and smoke on the hills," he told Reuters.

The crash came after Pakistan experienced four successive days of heavy rain, some of the heaviest downpours in decades. Zarmast Khan said the weather was foggy at the time of the crash, but there was only a very light drizzle.

It was the worst military air crash since 1988, when Pakistan's then-president and army chief, General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, died in a mysterious crash in Punjab province.

The cause of that crash, which also killed the intelligence chief and the U.S. ambassador, has never been established.

Smoke rises from wreckage

The body of the Fokker came down behind a small, rocky hill. A wing could



A Pakistan army soldier stands guard near the wreckage of a Fokker 27 military plane that crashed in the mountainous area near Kohat Feb. 20. The commander of Pakistan's air force marshal Mushaf Ali Mir and 16 other people were killed when the military plane crashed on Thursday, the air force said. REUTERS

be seen on a larger hill in the distance and smoke was rising from the site hours after the crash.

The aircraft had been on a flight from Islamabad, 116 km (72 miles) east of Kohat. Sarfraz Ahmed Khan, the air force spokesman, said it took off at 8 a.m. (0300 GMT) and lost contact with the control tower 27 minutes later.

A senior air force officer said Mir's wife had been travelling in her official role as chairwoman of the Pakistan Air Force Women's Welfare Association. All

the other dead were air force personnel, including eight crew, state television said.

The air force officer said the Fokker was used to transport VIPs. The F-27 is a model that first flew in 1958 and continued to be built until the mid-1980s.

Military officials said the air chief, who was 55 and had held his job since November 2000, and the others had been on their way to Kohat air base, where they planned to spend a few hours for an annual inspection before returning to

Islamabad.

Air force spokesman Khan said the vice chief of air staff, Air Marshal Syed Qaiser Hussain, had been appointed acting air force chief.

Asked what impact the loss of the senior officers would have, he replied: "It is indeed a great loss, but the air force continues to function normally."

Pakistan's air force, which has a strength of some 40,000 service personnel, has more than 10 air vice marshals and many more air commodores.

Manila stresses U.S. troops not in combat role

MANILA, Feb 22 (Reuters) - The Philippines insisted on Saturday that U.S. troops coming to the country to help local forces battle a Muslim rebel group would be barred from engaging in offensive combat operations.

Around 1,750 U.S. troops are heading to the southern Philippines including 350 elite Special Operations soldiers who will be deployed on the island of Jolo, one of the lairs of the Abu Sayyaf. The group is linked to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, blamed for the September 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S.

On Thursday Pentagon officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the American forces would be involved in an offensive role.

"They are going to conduct joint operations to disrupt and defeat the Abu Sayyaf group," one official said.

The Philippine constitution bars foreign troops from engaging in combat and local military chiefs have rejected talk of a pro-active American role in fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

"The position of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is that the U.S. forces are here only to give training, advice and assistance," said a senior Philippine military official, who declined to be named.

Earlier presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye, who called the Pentagon reports misinformed, stressed that American troops would be under the command of Philippine army chiefs at all times and their activities would be "strictly in accordance with our laws and constitution".

Manila has been a strong supporter of the U.S.-led war on terror but left-wing groups fear the country is becoming too closely allied with Washington.

Some politicians also doubt government assurances that the American forces would not be used in a combat role.

"If U.S. forces will be involved in combat operations and possibly kill Filipinos they will be violating our sovereignty," warned Vice-President Teofisto Guingona at a media briefing on Friday. Guingona has been at loggerheads with the Arroyo government over the U.S. military presence and was stripped last year of his second post as foreign minister.

Philippine Defence Secretary Angelo Reyes, who has declined to confirm or deny the reports from Pentagon sources, is heading to Hawaii on Sunday for talks with U.S. military planners on the coming exercises.

After that he heads to Washington to meet U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Around 1,000 U.S. troops conducted counter-terrorism exercises with local soldiers in the southern Philippines last year. They accompanied local troops in the field but stopped short of fighting although they were allowed to fire back in self-defence.

Bunye said the same conditions would apply for the latest exercises.

"Commonsense dictates that (firing in self-defence). It's essentially the same terms and conditions as previously," he said.

The Abu Sayyaf is one of several groups in the southern Philippines claiming to be fighting for an Islamic homeland, although they have been branded a mere kidnap-for-ransom gang after a series of hostage-taking incidents in the past three years.

Summit in Malaysia

Third World wants Iraq disarmed: without war

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22 (Reuters) - The world's developing nations called on Saturday for Iraq to surrender any weapons of mass destruction but the countries that account for two-thirds of the United Nations said no to war.

Opening their three-yearly ministerial meeting in the Malaysian capital, members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) said there was no question that Iraq must comply with U.N. resolutions but they challenged Washington with vociferous opposition to any U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

"Iraq must be disarmed if it possesses weapons of mass destruction, but the question is how best to achieve it," said South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-zuma.

"We believe that it is possible and desirable that we do this through peaceful means," she said. "We must assert the centrality of the United Nations in settling such matters."

The issue of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and North Korea has dominated the run-up to a two-day summit on Monday and Tuesday of leaders of the 114-member NAM.

The United States and Britain are massing 150,000 troops on Iraq's border, threatening war unless President Saddam Hussein surrenders alleged stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction.

Later in the day NAM foreign ministers were to approve a resolution that "categorically rejects the current threat of war".

Iraq seized the opportunity to lobby furiously for support to counter the United States in the final declaration.

"We hope this statement truly expresses the feelings of the peoples of NAM, totally rejecting the idea of aggression, hegemony and war planned by Washington,"

Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri told reporters.

"NO TO WAR"

But the tone of the gathering did not go entirely Iraq's way.

The grouping, which includes Iran, Iraq and North Korea — the three states branded by U.S. President George W. Bush as an "axis of evil" — has rejected a request by Baghdad to deny Washington use of their soil for any Middle East war.

Ministers have been fiercely critical of the United States, with several in their speeches taking swipes at what they called "the unilateral use of force".

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi said the growing influence of "just one superpower" had brought the world to the brink of conflict.

"A conflict which the peoples of the world have loudly and clearly opposed," he said, adding that the collective voice of the global majority had said "no to war".

Iraq has welcomed the support it has received from the movement that was founded during the Cold War as a counterweight to the Eastern and Western blocs.

Baghdad says it is doing everything it can to cooperate with U.N. inspectors combing the country for weapons.

Ministers have said the inspectors, headed by Hans Blix, should be given ample time to make a proper assessment and not coaxed into accelerating the drive to war.

U.S. ally Pakistan was among those opposed to war and willing to consider more time for U.N. inspections, but insisted that Iraq must comply with United Nations resolutions on disarming.

"All means must be found to avoid war, if that means more time has to be given to

the inspectors," Foreign Minister Khurshed Mehmood Kasuri told reporters. "And there's that report from Mr Blix, let's wait for that report."

"A WAR THAT CAN WAIT"

The foreign minister of newly independent East Timor, Jose Ramos-Horta, said war plans by the United States were premature.

"It's a war that can wait," he told a news conference.

Members have stressed the weight of NAM's views.

Six non-aligned countries currently have seats on the 15-member U.N. Security Council and nine votes would be enough to kill a resolution. The six non-aligned nations on the Security Council are Angola, Guinea, Syria, Pakistan, Chile and Cameroon.

Malaysia expects 56 heads of state to attend the two-day summit, with several Middle East nations sending substitutes due to uncertainty over the timing of an emergency Arab Summit in Egypt to discuss the Iraq crisis.

Apparent agreement over the question of war with Iraq was not matched by consensus on the North Korean nuclear crisis.

Pyeongyang was set to snub the group by sticking to its position that it would discuss its nuclear ambitions with the United States alone and disagreeing with requests from its 113 fellow members that it reconsider its decision to quit the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The working group on disarmament failed to win North Korea's agreement to a statement opposing Pyongyang's decision last month to withdraw from the NPT and moved instead to raise the deadlock to a higher level, an Indonesian delegate said.

Afghanistan Warlords still armed problem

TOKYO, Feb 22 (Reuters) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai appealed to the world community on Saturday to keep backing his efforts to disarm the country's powerful private armies, and pledged not to play favourites among its diverse ethnic and tribal groups.

"My government is committed to the full implementation of DDR (demilitarisation, demobilisation and re-integration) and I would like to express my gratitude to our international partners, particularly Japan and the United Nations, for their continued support for this undertaking," Karzai told delegates to a one-day conference on consolidating peace in Afghanistan.

Noting that the United States, Britain and Canada had also given steady backing, Karzai added: "Today, I hope that their commitment and the continuing leadership of the Government of Japan

will encourage all our friends to join in a broad partnership to further consolidate our plans to build a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan," he said.

Karzai arrived on Thursday for his first visit to Tokyo since a donors conference in January 2002 produced aid pledges worth more than \$4.5 billion.

On Wednesday Afghanistan received nearly \$100 million in new aid pledges covering such projects as stamping out drugs and disarming the militias, including \$35 million from Japan.

Ultimately, about \$140 million is expected to be spent on the disarmament programme, under which some fighters will be absorbed into an Afghan National Army and others into civilian jobs.

There has been concern that Afghanistan will slip down the international community's agenda if the United States carries out a military strike on Iraq.



U.S. soldiers guard the Baghran Valley where Taliban and possibly al Qaeda have been sighted, Feb. 19. Troops descended in Baghran Valley south of the Helmand River Valley in "Operation Viper," an operation expected to last at least three weeks. REUTERS

In Rhode Island

At least 96 killed in club blaze

WEST WARWICK, R.I., Feb 21 (Reuters) - At least 96 people were killed and more than 180 injured in one of the worst nightclub disasters ever when a rock band's pyrotechnics set fire to a Rhode Island club, witnesses and officials said on Friday.

The blaze at the Station club erupted late Thursday night at a concert by heavy metal band Great White, prompting a stampede by panicked fans. The nightclub was swallowed by flames minutes after sparks shot from the back of the stage as the group kicked off their set.

Most of the victims appeared to have died from severe burns, said Rhode Island Gov. Donald Carcieri, who said late on

Friday that 96 bodies had been found. Officials said others succumbed to smoke inhalation, were

crushed in the stampede or were struck by collapsing debris.

The death toll rose steadily as crews removed charred bodies. They ended their recovery efforts Friday evening, but Carcieri told Rhode Islanders to brace for more bad news.

"It would not surprise me to see a fatality number of over 100," the governor told reporters, saying he feared some of the victims in hospitals may still die of their injuries.

The blaze occurred four days after 21 people were killed in a stampede at a Chicago nightclub when they tried to escape pepper spray and were crushed behind blocked doors.

Carcieri said he could not recall a bigger disaster in the state's history, and said the investigation was focusing on the use of pyrotechnics in the small wooden building.

"There was no business putting off

pyrotechnics in that building. This didn't need to happen — it shouldn't have happened," the governor said. "If there was criminal wrongdoing, believe me it will be prosecuted."

Domenic Santana, a nightclub owner in New Jersey, said Great White had played at his venue last week without warning in advance that they had a pyrotechnic show.

Music industry Web site Billboard.com quoted Kathleen Hagerty, a lawyer representing the Station's owner, as saying the pyrotechnics were used without permission from the club.

But Paul Woolnough, president of Great White's management company, told Billboard.com that Great White's tour manager Dan Biechele "always checks" with club officials before using pyrotechnics.



Fire personnel inspect the remains of the night club "The Station" in West Warwick, Rhode Island, Feb. 21 following a fire that started during a "Great White" concert. REUTERS

Keeps position

France still sees no need for war

PARIS, Feb 21 (Reuters) - France, which can veto at the U.N. Security Council, remains opposed to using force to disarm Iraq and repeated on Friday it saw no need for a new U.N. resolution.

The United States and Britain plan to introduce as early as Monday a draft resolution that could seek U.N. approval for war on the grounds Baghdad had breached the existing resolution.

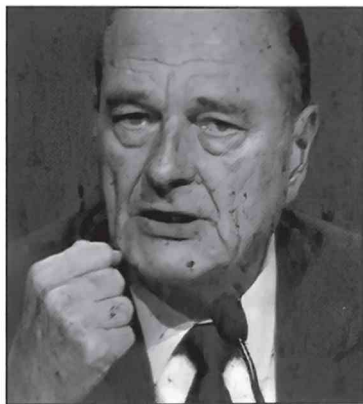
French diplomatic sources, however, welcomed an idea, being circulated at the United Nations, that Baghdad could be set specific tasks that might serve as "benchmarks" for compliance.

Addressing a Paris summit where African leaders, including the three African members of the Security Council who signed up to the French position, President Jacques Chirac reaffirmed his view that it would be premature to launch military action.

One of five permanent members of the 15-nation U.N. Security Council, France has threatened to use its veto and is trying to consolidate a majority for its argument that inspectors be given more time to ensure Iraqi disarmament.

FRANCE BACKS BENCHMARKS

France backs the idea of making



French President Jacques Chirac inspections more effective by introducing benchmarks that could be used to show objectively whether Iraq is complying, a French diplomatic source said.

"Using benchmarks is where we could overlap with the U.S. and British line of thought — but we think we can do that without a new resolution," he said.

He said France was as keen as ever to try and avert war.

"The only arguments we have that can sway the U.S. are to convince them that bypassing the U.N. would be very costly, or to suggest a credible alternative to war," the source said.

Were the United States to press ahead with a war in Iraq without the backing of the United Nations, it alone would foot the bill for the war and for any post-war reconstruction.

U.S. officials say Washington is preparing a resolution that declares Iraq in "further material breach" of the existing resolution 1441 and opening the way for military action.

Doesn't help terror jitters

Gasoline explodes off New York

NEW YORK, Feb 21 (Reuters) - A barge carrying unleaded gasoline exploded and caught fire at an oil storage terminal off New York's Staten Island on Friday, but law enforcement officials said there were no indications it was anything but an accident.

The blast at 10:10 a.m. EST (1510 GMT) sent flames and huge clouds of black smoke billowing into the sky about 16 miles (25 km) southwest of the southern tip of Manhattan, where residents have been jittery and police on the highest security alert possible since the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked plane attacks on the World Trade Center.

Initial reports from the New York fire department and shipping sources said the barge was carrying propane or heating oil at the Port Mobil terminal owned by Exxon Mobil Corp. but the company later said it contained unleaded gasoline.

"Shortly after the explosion we saw a huge plume of smoke rising up from the area," said Yehuda Farkas of the New York State emergency medical services on Staten Island, one of the city's five boroughs.

The terminal is in an industrial area but people on Staten Island and nearby New Jersey towns felt a blast and could smell the fumes. Police said they were prepared to evacuate residents if necessary, but no one had been asked to leave their homes. Waterways leading into New York Harbor were open, except for the Arthur Kill between Staten Island and New Jersey.

A New York Fire Department spokeswoman and Exxon Mobil said one person was seriously burned in the fire and two other terminal workers were unaccounted for. Officials said the fire was burning itself out.



A boat takes people in close to inspect the fuel storage fire in Staten Island from the Seward section of Woodbridge on Feb. 21. REUTERS

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YT Business

*Need better land**Yemen's cotton farms:
Help wanted, please*

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Cotton growers in Yemen need more support and funding to increase production and exports, especially due to the deterioration of arable lands.

Agriculture sources say lands for cotton plantation in Tabn delta, in Abyan in particular, are in need of irrigation.

This shortage in water deprives soil of nutritious such as calcium potassium and phosphorus.

There are opportunities for investments on water dams to help plant new land with cotton.

Experts are also of the opinion that cotton cultivation is deteriorating because of a shortage in fertilizers needed for production.

Cotton plantation owners believe a lack of good centers for exports have also led to drop of its revenues, which affects their ability to buy fertilizers.

Farmers are asking for investor and government assistance to counter the pending threat to this important crop.

Researchers confirm that cotton grown in land areas specified for experimental cultivation with good

seeds yields good production.

An acre's yield in experimental cotton plantation lands produced 500 pounds, whereas in other agricultural



A cotton plant.

farms the yield did not exceed 250 pounds per acre. This means that production of each acre of poor land drops by at least 50 per cent.

Agricultural research centers also note that they need better workers and equipment for conducting research aimed to develop cotton agriculture in Yemen.

The research centers need Arab and foreign experts to expand the research process and increase areas for cotton plantation.

There exists a capability of expanding cotton plantations by building water dams, fertilization of arable lands, encouraging production and development of exportation, preparing feasibility studies on investment in cotton agriculture and getting new lands.

Moreover, attention must be given to expansion in planting of qat trees in fertile, well-irrigated lands.

The qat tree has become a threat to other crops because it consumes more water than cotton does.

In conclusion it is very important to tackle deterioration of lands needed for cotton cultivation to avoid the country's loss of an important source of hard currencies.



Rows of cotton grow on a farm.

The Road Ahead**Ready, Aim, Fire!**BY RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
r_saqqaf@hotmail.com

The goal of yesterday will be the starting point of tomorrow. That is true, but putting it into the sense of "should be the starting point of tomorrow" is even truer because it is what you see. There is a difference between what *will* happen and what *should* happen. This is because yesterday's goal hasn't become the starting point of tomorrow where it should be.

That is the price of incompetence and tolerance of incompetence. Sadly, it is spreading like a disease in our country. I am not referring to government organizations only, but private sector also shares the blame. Most organizations have become too sluggish to take remedial action, even when they face an explosive situation.

The best thing that they do is some short-term solution that leads only to similar situations, especially with this kind of incompetence. How do we expect the goals of yesterday to be the starting point of tomorrow or even a week later?

On the other hand, there are also good leaders who struggle against incompetence in their organizations in order to create win-win situations. In fact, when they can't get what they want out of their employees, it's time they should get what they are paid for, i.e. leadership.

Leadership involves more than conducting successful negotiations or people management. It also involves getting the best out of those working with or under you. It is essential for a leader to feel passionately about his work, have tremendous powers of persuasion and be able to delegate work to those who are capable of handling it.

People are a company's most sustainable competitive advantage, if they have an opportunity to succeed, they will. And if they have clear and easy to understand goals, they will meet them. And if you, as a leader, set the bar high, they should and will raise themselves to meet it in order to succeed.

Success is also a matter of attitude, it's a matter of what you think you are capable of, and it is a matter of futuristic thinking and planning. People are reluctant to investigate their strengths simply because they do not think much of their own selves. We wonder whether we are as talented as everyone else who sets up a good example for a leader.

However, if we do not invest in ourselves, we will take our strengths, and they are the ones that make us extraordinary. It was never certificates and qualifications that made the leader. It is the natural talent they have and you've got to investigate yours.

Remember: If you want to ensure that yesterday's goals will be the starting point of tomorrow, then invest in yourself, be a leader, fight incompetence and aim before you fire!

*Is it an election ploy?***Government wants talks with private sector**BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government has called for dialogue with the private sector to try to find solutions to economic problems, and to work on improving production.

The dialogue also aims at utilizing facilities offered to investors to develop exports and surmount negative features of marketing. Prime Minister Abdulqader ba Jammal says the purpose of dialogue is to encourage investment projects and help businessmen get acquainted with economic measures the government will take for

the improvement of economic performance in general.

The invitation to dialogue comes after a drop in the private sector's production and weakness of the national economy.

All that happens despite that the state's continual work for developing investment legislation.

Nevertheless, the government dialogue with the private sector comes under circumstances, investors deem as complicated. Investors have based say the causes are:

- an absence of transparency in economic decisions taken by the government,
- no development and reform achieved in judiciary system for resolving trade disputes,
- heavy taxes on private industrial sector,

- increases in electricity bill prices,
- weakness of free market structure,
- domination of bureaucracy on measures of parties granting investment licenses.

For these reasons the private sector has become weak especially for the establishment of effective partnerships in governmental investment.

Private sector capitalists have failed to gain profitable results from their industrial, agricultural activities and to invigorate exports.

Hence, there is a failure of government administration in managing its investment plans and that has negative effects on the performance of the private sector.

The gap of confidence has widened between the two groups, and dialogue, aimed to mend bridges and combine the two sides' interests, has become

hard due to the approach of the scheduled parliamentary elections.

The implied objective of such a government move could be alleviation of acuteness of the economic crisis to an extent to realize a face-saving image before voters.

Also, the government is willing to give promises to private sector concerning preparation of proper circumstances for investment following the elections, adopting economic measures and offering investment facilities to investors.

It is predicted that the proposed dialogue would be entangled, leading to more losses among investors and public sector businessmen.

Meanwhile, the government would extend support to capitalists and businessmen having close interests with it.

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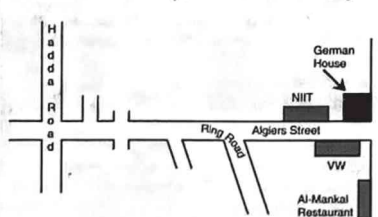
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YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ATanzanian trade and investment delegation is due in Yemen this month to implement help enhance trade between the two countries, a recommendation reached at recent meeting of the Yemeni-Tanzanian joint committee.

Trade sources in Sana'a have said the Tanzanian trade and industry min-

ister would head a delegation comprising a group of businessmen for talks with Yemeni chambers of commerce and industry.

The upcoming talks are expected to discuss consolidation of the two countries, tourism, agricultural sectors, as well as other traditional industries.

The visiting delegation will also meet with senior officials to help carry out economic agreements the two governments concluded in 2002.

Yemen hopes to export oil products, fruits and vegetables to Tanzanian markets and to import Tanzanian animals, meats and some agricultural products.

The Tanzanian delegation is also expected to conduct discussions with Yemeni chambers of commerce and industry for studying opportunities for investment partnerships between their respective private sectors.

**Tanzanians
here soon**



Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2002

The Central Bank of Yemen has approved the Financial Statements of National Bank of Yemen (NBY) in its letter No. 010399 dated 06/2/2003.



AUDITORS' REPORT TO H.E. VICE PRIME MINISTER THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the National Bank of Yemen composed of the balance sheet as of 31 December 2002 and the related statements of income, cash flows and changes in owner's equity for the year then ended and the notes to the financial statements in the pages from (6) to (23). These financial statements are the responsibility of the Bank's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. These Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The financial statements, in our opinion, present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Bank as at 31 December 2002, and the results of its operations, its cash flows and changes in owner's equity for the year then ended in accordance with International Accounting Standards.

We also confirm that, in our opinion, proper accounting records have been kept by the Bank and the financial statements and the contents of the report of the Board of Directors relating to these financial statements are in agreement therewith. We have obtained all the information and explanations which we required for the purpose of our audit.

[Signature]
Dahman Awadh Dahman, FCCA
Registered Licensed Accountant No. 384
of Dahman, RSM

26 January 2003,
Aden, Republic of Yemen

Balance Sheet As On 31 December 2002

	Note	2002 YR'000	2001 YR'000
ASSETS			
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	5	4,547,801	4,115,176
Due from banks	6	14,329,788	13,190,313
Treasury bills, net	7	14,936,545	12,310,411
Certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen	8	5,450,000	4,800,000
Loans and advances to customers and banks, net of provision	9	1,774,360	1,573,447
Available for sale investments, net	10	20,124	1,201
Debit balances and other assets	11	235,285	222,609
Property, plant and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	12	1,680,457	1,647,438
TOTAL ASSETS		43,504,358	37,860,595
LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S EQUITY			
LIABILITIES			
Due to banks	13	29,950	74,046
Customers' deposits	14	38,891,455	33,847,232
Credit balances and other balances	15	885,937	832,192
Income tax payable	16	367,967	251,009
TOTAL LIABILITIES		40,174,309	35,004,479
OWNER'S EQUITY			
Capital	17	1,850,000	1,600,000
Revaluation of properties reserve	17	639,762	639,762
Reserves	17	821,364	616,354
Cumulative changes in the fair value reserve	17	19,523	-
TOTAL OWNER'S EQUITY		3,330,499	2,856,116
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S EQUITY		43,504,358	37,860,595
CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, net	18	6,230,215	4,474,974

The attached notes 1 to 36 form an integral part of these financial statements

Reviewers' report attached,

[Signature] *[Signature]* *[Signature]*
Abdul Rahman Mohammed, Al-Kohali
Chairman and General Manager
Jawad Abdullah Al Alas
First Deputy General Manager
Sami Abdul Hamid Mackawi
Deputy General Manager

Statement of Income And Profit Appropriation For The Year Ended December 2002

	Note	2002 YR'000	2001 YR'000
Interest on loans and due from banks	19	700,785	897,621
Interest on treasury bills		1,938,883	1,810,222
Interest on certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen		625,532	432,811
Less: Cost of deposits	20	1,776,589	1,654,679
Net interest income		1,488,611	1,485,975
Commissions and fee income on banking services	21	236,613	193,171
Income on available for sale investments		1,046	1,010
Profit from disposal of available for sale investments		4,396	-
Gain on foreign currency transactions	22	48,510	20,078
Other operating income	23	38,581	112,849
NET OPERATING INCOME		1,817,759	1,813,083
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Commissions and fee expenses on banking services		15,788	11,677
General and administration expenses	24	611,362	596,024
Provisions	25	106,276	172,498
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		733,425	780,199
NET PROFIT BEFORE ZAKAT AND INCOME TAX		1,084,334	1,032,884
Zakat	26	(33,000)	(30,000)
NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR AFTER ZAKAT AND BEFORE INCOME TAX		1,051,334	1,002,884
Provision for income tax	16	(367,967)	(251,009)
NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		683,367	651,875
Earnings per share	27	YR 422	YR 407
STATEMENT OF PROFIT APPROPRIATION			
Transfer to statutory reserve	17	(102,505)	(97,781)
Transfer to general reserve	17	(102,505)	(97,781)
Government's share in net profit for the year	15(c)	(444,189)	(423,719)
Employees' share in net profit for the year		(34,168)	(32,594)
Balance at 31 December		-	-

Statement Of Cash Flows For The Year Ended 31 December 2002

	2002 YR'000	2001 YR'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit for the year before zakat and income tax	1,084,334	1,032,884
Adjustments for:		
Provisions for loan loss and contra accounts made during the year	86,279	172,498
Provisions for loan loss and contra accounts written back during the year	(251,009)	(115,625)
Income tax paid	(33,000)	(30,000)
Employees' leave entitlements paid	39,399	10,383
Zakat paid	(33,000)	(30,000)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	39,399	33,447
Operating profit before changes in assets and liabilities related to operating activities: (1)	895,095	978,547
CHANGES IN BANKING ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	(432,966)	(353,475)
Due from banks maturing after three months	(2,720,007)	1,637,778
Treasury bills maturing after three months	-	173,071
Loans and advances to customers and banks	(242,518)	(543,174)
Debit balances and other assets	(76,442)	(96,824)
Net (increase) / decrease in Assets (2)	(3,471,933)	817,376
Due to banks	(45,096)	7,769
Customers' deposits	5,044,223	2,888,807
Credit balances and other liabilities	53,745	303,992
Net increase in liabilities (3)	5,052,872	3,200,568
CASH FLOWS (USED IN) INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(52,418)	(73,331)
Surplus on revaluation of properties	-	2,669
Net disposal of assets and amount written off from investments	-	(809)
Net cash flows (used in) investing activities (4)	(52,418)	(71,471)
CASH FLOWS (USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Government's share in net profit for the year	(444,189)	(423,719)
Increase on the capital	250,000	-
Employees' share in net profit for the year	(34,168)	(32,594)
Net cash flows (used in) financing activities (5)	(228,357)	(456,313)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents (1+2+3+4+5)	2,595,259	4,468,707
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	30,664,625	26,195,918
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	32,859,884	30,664,625
Consist of:		
Cash in hand and reserve balances with Central Bank of Yemen	4,547,801	4,115,176
Due from banks	14,829,788	13,190,313
Treasury bills and certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen	20,388,545	17,110,411
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	(3,712,331)	(3,279,365)
Due from banks maturing after three months	(3,191,917)	(471,910)
	32,859,884	30,664,625

Statements of Change In Owner's Equity For The Year Ended 2002

	Capital YR'000	Statutory Reserve YR'000	General Reserve YR'000	Revaluation Reserve YR'000	Cumulative changes in fair value Reserve YR'000	Net profit for the year YR'000	Total YR'000
At 31 December 2000	1,600,000	167,845	252,947	637,093	-	-	2,657,885
Additional land	-	-	-	2,669	-	-	2,669
Net profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	651,875	651,875
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	97,781	-	-	-	(97,781)	-
Transfer to general reserve	-	-	97,781	-	-	(97,781)	-
Government's share in net profit	-	-	-	-	-	(423,719)	(423,719)
Employees' share in net profit	-	-	-	-	-	(32,594)	(32,594)
At 31 December 2001	1,600,000	265,626	350,728	639,762	-	2,856,116	5,651,826
Restatement in accordance with IAS 39	-	-	-	-	16,392	-	16,392
Realised profits from the disposal of available for sale investments	-	-	-	-	(4,398)	-	(4,398)
Net movement in fair value	-	-	-	-	6,329	-	6,329
Net profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	683,367	683,367
Transfer to capital	250,000	-	-	-	-	-	250,000
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	102,505	-	-	-	(102,505)	-
Transfer to general reserve	-	-	102,505	-	-	(102,505)	-
Government's share in net profit	-	-	-	-	-	(444,189)	(444,189)
Employees' share in net profit	-	-	-	-	-	(34,168)	(34,168)
At 31 December 2002	1,850,000	368,131	453,233	639,762	18,923	-	3,330,049

The Bank's Board of Directors, in its meeting held on 30 December 2002, resolved to comply with the instructions of H.E. the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Finance in his letter dated 4 September 2002 to the Bank's management to increase the capital of the Bank by YR 500 million in two equal instalments of YR 250,000 thousand from the Government's share of net profit of the Bank for the years 2002 and 2003 (note 15-c).

Notes to the Financial Statements - 31 December 2002

1 INCORPORATION AND ACTIVITIES

The National Bank of Yemen (The Bank), which was incorporated in Aden, in 1969, is wholly owned by the Government of Yemen. The Bank has its head office in Aden and undertakes all banking activities through its head office and 28 branches spread all over the Southern and Eastern Governorates and through two branches in Sana'a, and one in Hodeidah.

The number of employees with the Bank were 592 employees as on 31 December 2002 (31 December 2001: 608 employees).

In its meeting held on 26 January 2003, the Bank's Board of Directors approved the financial statements of the Bank.

2 PREPARATION BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the Interpretations of the Standing Accounting Committee of the IASB, the current local prevailing laws and regulations and the rules and instructions issued by the Central Bank of Yemen. There are no significant differences between International Accounting Standards and those required by the Central Bank of Yemen except for the following:

- i) The adoption of minimum fixed percentages for losses on loan and advances in accordance with the Central Bank of Yemen circular no. (6) of 1996 and circular no. (5) of 1998;
- ii) The inclusion of the general provision for risk calculated on the performing loans in the general provision for loans and advances rather than including it within the owner's equity.

The effect of these deviations is immaterial on the financial statements of the Bank as on 31 December 2002.

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies applied on a consistent basis are as follows:

- a) Accounting policy: The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention except as modified for the revaluation of land and buildings to market value and the measurement of "available for sale" investments to the fair value.
- b) Change in accounting policy: The Bank has adopted IAS 39 "Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement" for the year ended 31 December 2002. As agreed with the Central Bank of Yemen and in accordance with the transitional provisions of the standard, the comparative figures were not restated. The adoption of IAS 39 has resulted in significant changes in the accounting policies of the Bank in respect of the recognition and measurement of financial instruments. The Bank has adopted IAS 39 and accounted for the changes in accounting policy as of 1 January 2002. The main changes in accounting policy are as follows:

- Investments

Previously, the Bank valued all investments in which the Bank has a long-term interest at amortised cost, less provision for impairment. Subsequent to the implementation of IAS 39, the Bank reclassified such investments as "available for sale" since it does not have any investments that could be classified as "held to maturity". The Bank re-measured those investments classified as available for sale to fair value on 1 January 2002 and included the gain or loss on re-measuring to fair value in owner's equity. The gain or loss arising from a change in fair value of such investments is recognised directly in equity until the financial asset is sold, collected or otherwise disposed of, or until the financial asset is determined to be impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in equity is included in the statement of income for the year.

- Impairment of financial instruments

The calculation of impairment for loans and advances and other financial assets is based on the net present value of future cash flows by reference to original interest rates. Previously future recoveries were not discounted to present values. Since there were no permanent impairment of the loans and advances, no material adjustments were required on the date of adoption of IAS 39.

c) Effect of the changes in accounting policies

The adoption of IAS 39 resulted in a credit amount of YR 16,392 thousand. This amount has been taken to the cumulative changes in fair value reserve in owner's equity.

d) Foreign currencies

- i) The Bank maintains its records in Yemeni Riyals. Transactions in other currencies are recorded during the financial year at the prevailing exchange rates at the value dates of the transactions. Balances of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are re-valued at the prevailing exchange rates on that date. Gains or losses resulting from revaluation are taken to the statement of income.

- ii) The differences arising from the re-measurement of "available for sale" investments to fair value which relates to changes in foreign exchange rates are considered as part of the change in fair value. Accordingly, these differences are not taken to the statement of income, rather they are taken directly to equity.
- iii) The Bank does not enter into forward exchange contracts.

e) Revenue recognition

- i) Revenues are recognized on the accrual basis. However, in order to comply with the Central Bank of Yemen Circular no. (6) of 1996, the Bank does not recognise interest on non-performing loans and credit facilities. When an account is treated as non-performing, all uncollected interest related to the three months prior to categorizing the loan as non-performing is reversed from income and recorded as uncollected interest.
- ii) In accordance with the Central Bank of Yemen guideline no. (2) of 2002, any provisions written back are included under "other operating income".

f) Treasury bills and certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen

Treasury bills issued by the Central Bank of Yemen on behalf of the Ministry of Finance are stated at their nominal value, adjusted for any unamortised discount. Certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen are stated at cost.

g) Valuation of investments

All investments are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration given including acquisition charges associated with the investment. After initial recognition, investments which are classified as "available for sale" are measured at fair value. The gain or loss arising from a change in fair value of such investments is recognised directly in equity until the financial asset is sold, collected or otherwise disposed of, or until the financial asset is determined to be impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in equity is included in the statement of income for the year.

h) Provision for losses on loans and contingent liabilities

In order to comply with the Central Bank of Yemen circulars no. (6) of 1996 and no. (5) of 1998, provision is made for other loans, overdrafts and contingent liabilities, in addition to a percentage for general risks calculated on the total specific loans, overdrafts and contingent liabilities after deducting balances secured by deposits and banks' guarantees. Provision is determined based on periodic comprehensive reviews of the credit portfolio and contingent liabilities. Accordingly, provision is made in accordance with the following rates:

- Performing loans including watch loans 2%
- Performing contingencies including watch accounts 1%
- Non-performing loans and contingencies:
 - Substandard debts 15%
 - Doubtful debts 45%
 - Bad debts 100%

Loans and advances are written off by debiting the provision, if procedures taken towards their collection prove useless, or if directed by the Central Bank of Yemen upon review of the portfolio. Proceeds from loans and advances previously written off in prior years are credited to the provision. Loans and advances to customers are presented in the balance sheet net of provision and uncollected interest.

- i) Property, plant and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation: Property comprising land and buildings are recorded at their revalued amounts. Equipment are recorded at cost on the date of purchase. Cost includes purchase price and related expenses. Freehold land is not depreciated. Other property and equipment items are stated at cost or revalued amounts less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value based on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition, of each asset over its expected useful life using the straight line method at the rates shown below:

Buildings on freehold land	20%
Vehicles	10%
Furniture and equipment	20%
Computers and software programs	2%
Security vaults	Years of lease or estimated useful life whichever is lower.
Improvements to leasehold property	

Expected future cash flows are not discounted to their present values in determining the recoverable amount of items of property and equipment.

- j) Real estate properties acquired from customers: In accordance with the provisions of the Banks Law No. (39) of 1998 and the instructions of the Central Bank of Yemen, real estate properties acquired from customers in settlement of loans are included in the balance sheet under "debit balances and other assets" using the value at which these properties were acquired for less any decline in their value. Any decline is charged to the statement of income.

- k) Contingent liabilities and commitments: Contingent liabilities and commitments, in which the Bank is a party, are presented off-balance sheet under "contingent liabilities and commitments" as they do not represent actual assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date.

l) Cash and cash equivalent

For the purpose of preparing the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent consist of cash in hand, cash balances with the Central Bank of Yemen other than statutory reserve balances, demand deposits with other banks and investments in treasury bills which are due within three months from the issuance date and certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen.

m) Taxation

Taxation for the year is provided for in accordance with the relevant Income Tax Law (as amended) and regulations and the Banks Law No. (38) of 1998.

n) Zakat

The Bank pays zakat, in accordance with the relevant laws, to the government which decides on its allocation.

o) Related party transactions

Disclosures are made in the financial statements of loans and advances and contingent liabilities to related parties and particular members of the board of directors and companies in which they own more than 25% of the capital.

p) Fiduciary assets

Assets held in trust or in a fiduciary capacity are not treated as assets of the Bank and accordingly are not included in the financial statements.

q) Impairment of financial assets

At each balance sheet date an assessment is made of whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or portfolio of assets is impaired. If this evidence exists, the recoverable amounts of the assets or group of assets is determined and any impairment loss are recognised immediately in the statement of income based on the present value of the anticipated future cash flows.

r) Fair values

The estimated fair value of interest-bearing items is based on discounted cash flows using interest rates for items with similar remaining maturity. No fair values are estimated for deposits with no fixed maturity as their balances are payable on demand.

For investments where there is no quoted market price, a reasonable estimate of the fair value is determined by reference to the current market value of another instrument which is substantially the same, or is based on the expected cash flows or the underlying net asset base of the investment.

s) Trade and settlement date accounting

All regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on the trade date, i.e. the date that the Bank commits to purchase the asset. Regular way purchases or sales are purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the time frame generally established by regulation or convention in the market place.

4 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND MANAGING THEIR RELATED RISKS

4.1 Financial instruments

a) The Bank's financial instruments are represented in financial assets and liabilities. Financial assets include cash balances, current accounts and deposits with banks, treasury bills, certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen, investments, and loans and advances to customers and banks. Financial liabilities include customers' deposits and balances due to banks. Also, financial instruments include rights and obligations stated in contingent liabilities and commitments.

Audited Financial Statements for the Year Wnded 31 December 2002

The Central Bank of Yemen has approved the Financial Statements of National Bank of Yemen (NBY) in its letter No. 010399 dated 06/2/2003.



البنك الأهلي اليمني
National Bank Of Yemen

c) Due to the Owner (the Government)

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Balance at 1 January	423,719	99,845
Add: Government's net share of the profit for the year		
Government's gross share of the profit for the year	444,189	423,719
Transferred to paid up capital	(250,000)	-
Net Government's share of the profit for the year	194,189	423,719
Less: amounts paid during the year	(200,719)	(99,845)
Balance at 31 December	417,189	423,719

The Bank's Board of Directors, in its meeting held on 30 December 2002, resolved to comply with the instructions of H.E the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Finance in his letter dated 4 September 2002 to the Bank's management to increase the capital of the Bank by YR 500 million in two equal installments of YR 250,000 thousand from the Government's share of net profit for the years 2002 and 2003.

16 INCOME TAX PAYABLE

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Amounts due to the tax authority		
Balance at 1 January	251,009	15,625
Charged in the Statement of Income for the period / year	367,967	351,009
Total amounts due to the Tax Authority	618,976	366,634
Amounts paid to the tax authority		
Amount paid for 2000 tax liability	-	(15,625)
Amount paid for 2001 tax liability	(251,009)	(100,000)
Total amounts paid to the Tax Authority	(251,009)	(115,625)
Total income tax payable	367,967	251,009

a) Charge for the year

The charge for the year has been calculated on the basis of the net profit for the year. In accordance with the letter of H. E. The Minister of Finance to the Tax Authority dated 17 April 2000, the tax assessment of the Bank for each year shall be based on the results determined in the Bank's financial statements audited by an external auditing firm.

b) Prior year tax assessments

The Bank received on 7 August 2002, the final tax clearance for the income tax liability for the financial year ending 31 December 2001.

17 OWNER'S EQUITY

a) Authorized capital

The authorized share capital amounting YR. 2,100 million (2001 – YR 1,600 million) consists of 2,100 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each. (2001 – of 1,600 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each).

b) Declared and paid up capital

The authorized share capital amounting YR. 1,850 million (2001 – YR 1,600 million) consists of 1,850 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each. (2001 – of 1,600 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each).

c) Net profit distribution

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Corporations and Establishments Law No. (35) of 1991, the net profit after income tax shall be allocated as follows:

- o 15% to statutory reserve.
- o 15% to general reserve.
- o 65% to the Government for its share of profits.
- o 2% to employee's incentives.
- o 3% to employees' social fund

d) Surplus on revaluation property reserve

This represents the difference between the revalued amounts of the freehold land and the buildings and their net book value as at 31 December, 1999.

e) Cumulative changes in fair value reserve

In accordance with the provisions of IAS 39 Financial Instruments – Measurement and Recognition, the differences between the fair values and the book values of the "available for sale" investments are recognised in the cumulative changes in fair value until they are sold, collected, disposed off, or until the are determined to be impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised is included in the statement of income for the year.

18 CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, net

At 31 December 2002	Gross Com- mitments	Covered by margin	Net com- mitments
	YR'000	YR'000	YR'000
Commitments on behalf of customers for which there were corresponding liabilities by the customers concerned:			
Documentary letters of credit	2,646,435	494,160	2,152,275
Letters of guarantees - customers	2,103,936	621,757	1,482,179
Letters of guarantees - correspondent banks	2,190,554	-	2,190,554
Customers' acceptances	320,846	-	320,846
Travelers' cheques	79,889	-	79,889
Credit cards	7,155	2,683	4,472
Other contingent liabilities	-	-	-
Total contra accounts and other commitments	7,348,815	1,118,600	6,230,215

At 31 December 2001	Gross Com- mitments	Covered by margin	Net com- mitments
	YR'000	YR'000	YR'000
Commitments on behalf of customers for which there were corresponding liabilities by the customers concerned:			
Documentary letters of credit	1,564,820	584,167	980,653
Letters of guarantees - customers	1,106,900	364,296	742,604
Letters of guarantees - correspondent banks	2,300,991	-	2,300,991
Customers' acceptances	350,729	-	350,729
Travelers' cheques	96,632	-	96,632
Credit cards	1,733	866	867
Other contingent liabilities	2,498	-	2,498
Total contra accounts and other commitments	5,424,303	949,329	4,474,974

19 INTEREST ON LOANS AND ADVANCES DUE FROM BANKS

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Interest on loans and advances to customer and banks		
Interest on loans and advances to customers	189,610	184,243
Interest on commercial papers discounted	19,412	21,417
Interest on other facilities	2,052	776
Interest on loans to banks	3,226	6,374
Total interest on loans and advances to customers and banks (a)	214,300	212,810
Interest on deposits with foreign banks		
Interest on current accounts	13,814	44,548
Interest on call accounts	4,754	26,025
Interest on deposits	208,474	373,316
Total interest on deposits with foreign banks (b)	227,042	443,889
Interest on deposits with local banks		
Interest on statutory reserves with the Central Bank of Yemen (c)	259,443	240,922
Total interest on deposits with local banks (d) = (b)+(c)	486,485	684,811
Total interest on loans and due from banks (e) = (a)+(d)	700,785	897,621

20 COST OF DEPOSITS

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Interest on savings accounts	1,008,766	918,876
Interest on time deposits	767,823	735,803
Total interest	1,776,589	1,654,679

21 COMMISSIONS AND FEES INCOME ON BANKING SERVICES

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Commissions on documentary letters of credit	40,323	27,270
Commissions on letters of guarantee	73,359	51,087
Commissions on transfer of funds	21,579	18,837
Commissions on acceptances	4,213	3,095
Commissions on cheques	66,537	62,469
Banking services fees	13,636	15,142
Other service fees	16,966	15,271
Total commissions and fee income on banking services	236,613	193,171

22 GAIN ON FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Revaluation differences on foreign currency transactions	28,992	15,830
Gain on foreign exchange trading transactions	19,518	4,248
Total gain on foreign exchange transactions	48,510	20,078

23 OTHER OPERATING INCOME

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Provision for loan losses no longer required (note 9-b)	23,879	86,133
Provision for off-balance sheet items no longer required (note 15-b)	7,029	18,141
Provision for employees' leave pay no longer required	-	2,868
Sundry income	7,673	5,707
Total other operating income	38,581	112,849

24 GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Salaries, wages and related costs	391,786	392,706
Depreciation of property and equipment (note 12)	39,399	33,447
Rents	27,598	23,563
Water and electricity	19,371	18,861
Repairs and maintenance	14,716	11,632
Telephone, telexes and postage	21,301	20,528
Transportation and communication	14,088	16,420
Promotions and publications	9,154	5,763
Computer maintenance expenses	13,841	13,258
Training	12,949	10,127
Taxes and fees	1,436	985
Donations	4,288	3,252
Stationery and printing supplies	11,999	11,274
Loss on disposal of properties acquired from customers (note 11)	1,266	-
Other general and administration expenses	28,170	34,208
Total general and administration expenses	611,362	596,024

25 PROVISIONS

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Provision for losses on loans and advances (note 9 - b)	72,198	170,290
Provision for off-balance sheet items (note 15 - b)	14,081	2,208
Provision for employees' leave pay	19,996	-
Total provisions	106,275	172,498

26 ZAKAT

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Zakat expense for the current year - paid	33,000	30,000

27 EARNINGS PER SHARE

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Net profit for the year	683,367	651,875
Weighted average of number of shares (increase from 1 December 2002)	1,620,833	1,600,000
Earnings per share	YR 422	YR 407

28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

These represent transactions with certain related parties (owner for government entities, directors and officers of the Bank, their families and companies of which they are principal owners) who were customers of the Bank during the year. The terms of these transactions are approved by the Bank's management.

The year end balances included in the financial statements are as follows:

	2002	2001
	YR'000	YR'000
Government owned entities		
Loans and advances, gross	47,083	45,247
Customers' deposits	276,057	477,893
Board members and parties related to them		
Loans and advances, gross	1,713	1,309
Customers' deposits	4,876	2,708
Interest income for the year	163	144
Interest expense for the year	585	214

29 MATURITIES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

a) 31 December 2002

ASSETS	Less than 3 months	from 3 to 6 months	From 6 months to 1 year	Over 1 year	total
	YR'000	YR'000	YR'000	YR'000	YR'000
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	4,547,801	-	-	-	4,547,801
Due from banks	11,637,869	143,453	3,048,464	-	14,829,786
Treasury bills	14,936,545	-	-	-	14,936,545
Certificates of deposit	5,450,000	-	-	-	5,450,000
Loans and advances to customers and banks, net of provision	99,664	46,986	279,682	1,348,028	1,774,360
Investments available for sale	-	-	-	20,124	20,124
TOTAL ASSETS	36,671,879	190,439	3,328,146	1,368,152	41,558,616
LIABILITIES					
Due to banks	28,950	-	-	-	28,950
Customers' deposits	22,534,169	5,071,013	11,251,851	34,422	38,891,455
TOTAL LIABILITIES	22,563,119	5,071,013	11,251,851	34,422	38,920,405

b) 31 December 2001

ASSETS	Less than 3 months	From 6 months to 1 year	Over 1 year	total
	YR'000	YR'000	YR'000	YR'000
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	4,115,176	-	-	4,115,176
Due from banks	12,718,403	471,910	-	13,190,313
Treasury bills	12,310,411	-	-	12,310,411
Certificates of deposit	4,800,000	-	-	4,800,000
Loans and advances to customers and banks, net of provision	80,468	233,680	270,773	988,526
Investments available for sale	-	-	-	1,201
TOTAL ASSETS	34,024,458	705,590	270,773	35,990,548
LIABILITIES				
Due to banks	74,046	-	-	74,046
Customers' deposits	19,406,203	4,820,147	9,568,607	33,847,232
TOTAL LIABILITIES	19,480,249	4,820,147	9,568,607	33,921,278

30 AVERAGE INTEREST RATES ON ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

a) The average interest rates on assets and liabilities applied during the year 2002 were as follows:

Assets	Yemeni Riyal %	US Dollar %	Saudi Riyal %	Sterling Pound %	Euro %
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	13.00	-	-	-	-
Due from banks:	-	-	-	-	-
Current accounts	-	0.85	-	1.41	2.80
Time deposits	13.00	1.64	2.40	3.92	2.73
Due to banks:	-	-	-	-	-
Treasury bills	13.99	-	-	-	-
Certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen	14.00	-	-	-	-
Loans to customers	18.00	6.50	-	-	-
Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Time deposits - customers	13.00	1.20	-	2.79	-

b) The average interest rates on assets and liabilities applied during the year 2001 were as follows:

Assets	Yemeni Riyal %	US Dollar %	Saudi Riyal %	Sterling Pound %	Euro %
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	13.00	-	-	-	-
Due from banks:	-	-	-	-	-
Current accounts	-	2.69	4.35	3.19	4.35
Time deposits	13.00	4.51	-	5.00	-
Due to banks:	-	-	-	-	-
Treasury bills	14.00	-	-	-	-
Certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen	14.00	-	-	-	-
Loans to customers	19.00	8.00	-	-	-
Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Time deposits - customers	13.00	2.62	-	3.07	-

31 DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

a) The distribution of the assets and liabilities and contingent liabilities and commitments as at 31 December 2002 were as follows:

	Manufac- turing YR'000	Agricul- ture YR'000	Trade YR'000	Service YR'000	Finance YR'000	Personal YR'000	Total YR'000
Assets							
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	-	-	-	-	4,547,801	-	4,547,801
Due from banks	-	-	-	-	14,829,786	-	14,829,786
Treasury bills, net	-	-	-	-	14,936,545	-	14,936,545
Certificates of deposit	-	-	-	-	5,450,000	-	5,450,000
Loans to customers and banks, net of provision	237,824	-	1,106,865	3,339	-	426,332	1,774,360
Long term investments, net	-	-	-	-	20,124	-	20,124
Total Assets	237,824	-	1,106,865	3,339	39,784,256	426,332	41,558,616
LIABILITIES							
Due to banks	-	-	-	-	28,950	-	28,950
Customers' deposits	821,378	93,115	2,729,113	1,818,216	-	33,429,633	38,891,455
Total Liabilities	821,378	93,115	2,697,288	1,818,216	28,950	33,429,633	38,920,405
Contra accounts and other commitments	223,708	703	4,117,130	1,446,270	711,787	849,217	7,348,815

b) The distribution of the assets and liabilities and contingent liabilities and commitments as at 31 December 2001 were as follows

	Manufac- turing YR'000	Agricul- ture YR'000	Trade YR'000	Service YR'000	Finance YR'000	Personal YR'000	Total YR'000
ASSETS							
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	-	-	-	-	4,115,176	-	4,115,176
Due from banks	-	-	-	-	13,190,313	-	13,190,313
Treasury bills, net	-	-	-	-	12,310,411	-	12,310,411
Certificates of deposit	-	-	-	-	4,800,000	-	4,800,000
Loans to customers and banks, net of provision	330,219	3,552	462,148	41,229	457,365	278,934	1,573,447
Long term investments, net	-	-	-	-	1,201	-	1,201
Total Assets	330,219	3,552	462,148	41,229	34,874,466	278,934	35,990,548
LIABILITIES							
Due to banks	-	-	-	-	74,046	-	74,04

Words of Wisdom



The main comment that kept coming time and again is that the Yemen Times has become the most widely used source on current information in English on Yemen. The accuracy and objective reporting have made the paper the "most reliable" source on Yemen.

But it is not just that. It also has to do with the broad-based coverage. The Yemen Times does stories on law, diplomacy, business, culture, social issues, health, environment, sports and many other aspects of life in Yemen. That does give a comprehensive and balanced view of the situation.

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

OUR
OPINIONOppressive leaders,
weak nations

Never has the Arab world been in such a weak and pathetic situation. We have come to see with our own eyes a brotherly country on the verge of being attacked, while the whole Arab world is silent. It is even more bizarre to see that some Arab countries find no other alternative but to serve the US plans by offering them their military bases.

How did we arrive to such miserable conditions?

In my opinion, the main cause is the oppression and lack of freedom in Arab countries. First, one could ask why this is the case. But if we look into our daily lives closely and study our habits and day-to-day interactions, we can easily find out that it is only normal for us to be in such humiliating conditions.

In other words, you or I cannot imagine a nation with 99.9 per cent of its population under oppression to be a strong nation. Isn't it logical that a strong nation can only be strong if its people are free?

Might not that of military power. And even though there may have been past oppressive regimes that were mighty because of their wealth and military capacities, they eventually collapsed because their people were suffering.

It is the people's power that makes a mighty nation. If citizens are too oppressed and weak to express their opinions freely to their bosses, managers, or presidents, how can they participate in building a strong nation?

As Arab countries, we need to fix our own houses from the inside before we can even think of having any role in the international arena.

It seems that our regimes are slowly and painfully realizing the consequences of long years of oppression.

Here's one example of how oppression results in the destruction of a nation. If a family's father is oppressive to his children, beating them continuously and applying no justice in the house, those children would grow up in continuous fear, not only of him, but of everything they do. They lose their decision-making abilities and think that anything they do should be monitored and approved by their father.

After some time, the whole house is filled with fear and weakness. None of the children will present any ideas for change or innovation. They would all be following their father's orders and wouldn't have their own independent personalities.

It is hence very easy to realize that if there is anyone to blame for the weakness we reached today, then it is our leaders. Thanks to them, we are among the least developed, least free, least productive, and least efficient countries in the world.

I would have a little bit of hope that things could be better in the future if our leaders at least would identify this problem and start opening the way for freedom in their countries and leave behind their oppressive nature.

But unfortunately, even that isn't happening.

The Editor



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf

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Perspective depends on where you are
What is 'terrorism'?

ABDUALBARI TAHER

From the very beginning of the national resistance on the countries which termed as the third world countries, the struggle towards independence called terror by colonizers.

The Algerian struggle against French colonization considered to be a terror, the peaceful struggle for the Great India against Britain was also considered to be terror. The same thing can be applied to China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Korea when they fought against Japanese invaders also. Then, the British and French and now the Americans.

Since the tragic incidents on September 11 against Washington DC and New York, the US has intended to regain the use of the term "terror" and therefore the term itself has been misapprehended.

No clear identification has been yet determined and as a result the US couldn't differentiate between terror and the right of national resistance of nations.

Attacking the twin towers is an aggression against one of the strongest human civilizations.

The whole nations have strongly condemned that horrible terror.

It signifies the depression, frustration and targeting the innocent civilians.

Destroying the twin towers, the US administration has found an excuse to launch more aggressive wars and crimes which have threatened the international safety and security.

The US has amassed fleets and armies to the Arab Peninsula. Thousands of Americans as well as British soldiers have been deployed to wage war against Iraq after Afghanistan.

This has reminded us of returning to the 'Old Colonization'.

It is time for the US administration to complete its waging inferno policies to strike and invade Iraq.

After the terrible September 11 incidents, the US has been attempting to impose its power and seize silence prevailed on the entire Arab nations.

The US sovereignty and security has been given priority compared to the security of other nations in the world.

On this basis, the US security means the security and safety of the entire mankind.

As opposed to this, destabilizing the US safety and its interests means showing enmity towards those nations.

The limited sovereignty of nations has been removed by the US policies. i.e., any challenge or threat against the colonized interest is called 'terror'.

The US after the September 11

attacks is not just concerned to remove the right of the national resistance, it gives itself the right to resist and fight possible threat, "US-led war campaign against terror". US measures its right to govern the world by its power and its military superiority.

As a superpower, the US has the absolute right to dominate the world and also fought tooth and nails to force the world to side with the US, otherwise, those countries will be convicted of terror and that they will not escape punishment.

It also has given itself the right to determine what is good and what is bad for the humanity.

The US is the only superpower to choose democracy for nations along with its system.

The US-led war against Iraq is a liberation for Iraq itself. Similarly, the US sees that the war against Palestinians is another form of counter-terrorism.

The Palestinian where his land has been occupied for about 48 years, perceived as a terrorist and that the Israelis, the colonizers, are perceived as strugglers against terror and called peace-lovers. Undoubtedly, it is a kind US-Israeli imperial policies.

The French, German, Russian, Chinese stance towards aggression against Iraq has made clear that the US insists on exceeding the Security Council resolutions and its desire to remove those members from participation in self-determining in one of the most dangerous regions in the world.

This is not only attributed to the oil existence, it is also due to its historical significance all the history long.

US also have the desire to marginalize those permanent members from the decision-making.

It also bits of imposing the reality as it sees that the USSR disintegration and the weak stance of Arab nations and other world countries will enable the US to lead the war choice.

Despite of the international community objection as well as the increasing officially and non-officially opposition against war, US has been making hasty steps recklessly and arrogantly towards war.

The US administration cherishes to enact forcibly a new international resolution to make US lead the war.

But at the same time the US is ready to launch war single-handedly along with other remaining allies.

The US sees that during the 29th century and 21st century that the world will accept at length of what has been imposed by a superpower.

The US-led war against Iraq has become (semidefinite) in the presence of thousands American as well as British soldiers and around \$13 billion have been spent on amassing military armies in the region.

The international community is not

able to resist before the US arrogance where the Security Council seems to be docile as if its orders were unquestioned.

The international community has got a weak stance towards the Security Council compared to the US where it has more pressures more than the Congress.

The US wants to single-handedly take the decision making and then denate its order on other members.

The US's attitude in the Middle East is no longer needed to conceal its hidden motives and wants to reshape the map of the region according to its own oil interests where it has the lion's share in this regard.

It wants to impose normalization and siding with Israel in the Palestinian issue and this undoubtedly terror No. #. America after 11 September attack has divided the world into good and evil axis and labeled Iraq, Iran and North Korea as evil axis countries.

Accordingly, the weak stance of the Arab regimes and its dictatorship has made the Arab a convenient magnet for applying anti-racial and ugly aggressiveness.

The US violent terror manifests itself in imposing single-handed dictatorship on the world trying to remove alteration, change, and differences of the international decision-making centers.

The African leader's cry, Nilson Mandela, against cowboy has come from Texas, "Bush" has a deep indication to realize the discriminative dimension to insult the, Kofi Anan, the Secretary General.

The US power which diverts to sacred and absolute right can not remove human heritage based on resisting the right of nations to fight aggressors and that the human history is based on these great moral values.

As a strongest superpower, the US will not be able to remove the existing nature of the world which includes diversity, differences, similarities of the civilization centers and human history.

The history repeat itself, tyrants and oppressors such as Niroon, Holoko, Jenkeez Khan, Shamshon, the dictator and now Bush remove the difference between fighting invaders, imperialists, and terrorism. Taliban and al-Qaeda are a real terrorists made by the US in a given time.

Any super power in the world during the phases of history couldn't deface injustice or mix with it.

The gravest thing is that the US arrogance has reached to a level where it thinks that its power is sacred and everlasting.

The US couldn't remove the right of resisting terror in the Arab nations and allowing its lands to be blundered by invaders.

The US can declare the beginning of its war but can not declare its end.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Awakening to
the 'Likudniks'

It is hard to say for certain whether President George Bush, the Younger, is beginning to see what his Zionists friends are railroading him into. For sure, however, the rest of the United States is not sleeping idly, while their president takes them on a merry-go-round of death and destruction akin to what Ariel Sharon is doing to his people, who might have had a chance to enjoy peace, even if on stolen land.

Lately, many American writers and journalists have raised the question, why is the Bush administration acting so monstrously aggressive? Some answers like this are appearing: "Michael Kinsley attempted to raise a few months ago, namely the influence among the administration's hawks, of what Kaiser carefully calls people with "loyalty to strong positions in support of Israel and Likud." Kinsley wrote that "the role of Israel in the thinking of [President Bush] is the "proverbial elephant in the room: Everybody sees it, no one mentions it."

Like the New Yorker's Nicholas Lemann, Kaiser notes without much comment that three top Bush hawks (Richard Perle, Douglas Feith, David Wurmser) were on an eight-person committee that in 1996 proposed to incoming Likud Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: "...that he abandon the Oslo peace accords negotiated in 1993 and reject the basis for them — the idea of trading "land for peace."

Israel should insist on Arab recognition of its claim to the biblical land of Israel, the 1996 report suggested, and should "focus on removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq." I think that there is really not much explanation that one can add to this demonstration of enlightenment to facts, which this column has often brought to surface on a number of occasions.

Needless to say the YT has received outlandish criticism for pointing the facts to a world that has become submerged in Zionist hate propaganda and a powerful media campaign to attach American destiny with Israeli destiny, like the Yemeni phrase of cozy as "honey and butter."

It is inconceivable that the Zionist ideologies in the Bush Administration can get away with the murder of hundreds of America's finest young men and women and thousands of Arabs, just to quench the thirst for blood, which Sharon and the Bush Likudniks never seems to be able to quench.

While not so much in the same context, it was also refreshing to hear Mr. Gore Vidal, author of among other things "1876" and other literary masterpieces, point out that the Bush administration has achieved great successes "in uniting people. He has successfully united one billion Moslems against the United States; he has successfully united all of Western Europe against the United States, etc. What can one expect from a "policy of arrogance" as Vidal calls it?

Moreover, it is noteworthy to mention that the millions of protesters throughout the world have demonstrated their awareness of the link between the latest hate mongering by Mr. Bush and his clique of "Likudnik" hawks and the barbaric massacre of the Palestinians that Sharon enjoys, thanks to the "double loyalty of the Likudniks that crawl all over the Bush administration.

Yet, Mr. Bush continues his unleashing real anti Semitic streak, with his attorney general proudly pointing out Wednesday that he has arrested a displaced Palestinian colleague (who has been living in the United States for 25 years), and engineering professor and some other Palestinians, as "dangerous terrorists that undermine the safety of the American people."

Hogwash! The fact is obvious that the only people who are undermining the safety and security of the United States is George Bush and his clique of evil advisors. To these people, 9/11 is a license to kill and destroy and carry out their chauvinistic ethnic cleansing campaigns for Eretz. Israel has now become part and parcel of American foreign policy, more so than the destruction of Al-Qaeda and Osama Ben Ladin, who is suspected of responsibility for 9/11. (We have yet to see the legal and undeniable truth.)

Surely there are many Americans, who realize that what Mr. Bush is doing is the antithesis of what the framers of the US Constitution had in mind when envisioning what the United States ought to be. As a matter of fact, many American lawyers are raising a suit against the Bush administration, because they see the US invasion of Iraq as a violation of the United States Constitution, as Congress has not declared war on Iraq.

One should never underestimate the ability of the American people to see the difference between right and wrong, even by their own goaded leadership, which has fallen into the ugly trap of misguided American Zionist double loyalty.

Bush among 'Most Wanted'



BY YAZAN AL-SAGHIRY

One of the most famous programs in the USA is "America's Most Wanted." As we all know, crime in the greatest power in the world is very high, although the government is waging a cruel war against it.

I've been told that the American people are really dying in waiting this program every week just to know those who are very dangerous.

As for me, I believe that Mr. George W. Bush deserves to be the most important hero in this program, and I elect his name to rise above all of his colleagues of crime since the time of independence of the United States of America until about thirty decades from now!

One above all, the man has a very especial quality that distinguishing him from his other "wanted" colleagues. He has the most powerful weapons in the world for free.

The thing that is really dangerous when a Bush like him has the right to order to use them, especially when we hear an American official source not assuring that U.S.A will not use nuclear weapon if it strikes Iraq!

We've never heard anything like that from U.S.A since Harry Truman! Anyway, I'm sorry to say "a Bush" because I could not - and no one really

can - find any other word to describe the man or his attitude.

Beside, he has a very pure Arabic leader characteristic, which is lying. Is his first speech he delivered, he said, "the American policy will be very humble."

Now, as see the American policy has become everything but humble! And I remember now his colleague Clinton when he lied under oath, all America raised against him, although the man lied to save his dignity and made no harm to anyone but himself, while Mr. Bush lied to disturb the world's dignity, and has made a harm to everyone but himself!

Furthermore, there are two disastrous things about his lying. He is making his assistance to do it. And they are doing it very badly as if they are addressing a five years old kid!

The lovely example is when a CNN interviewer interviewed those responsible for external affairs in the White House. I will not comment on what was said because the phrase will prove my vision automatically.

It was said "there is a misunderstanding" from all, the mission of the inspectors is not to search for weapons of mass destruction! The mission is just to destroy them because they exist! Then if Iraq did not give the inspectors its weapons, this means Iraq is not cooperating and we must disarm it by force!

Another reason is his adhering to his father cowboy lessons in ruling the world. The first lesson says, "Son, if you have any internal problem, just strike any weak nation."

"And I do believe" - the father is still talking- "that Iraq is a very great target. I tried it and it worked amazingly."

"Iraq it is!" shouted Bush the junior ordered the world to follow him.

The final and strongest reason is his stupidity! I heard in one occasion - during the crisis of Afghanistan - one expresident of the United States describing Bush as a hunk of stupidity walking on two legs! By the way, there is an American woman I've chatted with a couple of times on the Internet. Her name is N. Hopkins from South Carolina, and she has very funny comments in this field.

She wrote to me once "We had no good president since Gerald Ford and we had no worse president than Bush!"

Another time she wrote, "If we got a chance to have three or four like Bush I guaranty that U.S.A will be poorer and smaller than Comoro Islands!"

Anyway, no good example is better than Bush's claims about a magic relation between Iraq and Al Qaida! The funny thing is C.I.A former leaders commented "what kind of relation can be found between a strict Islamic gang aiming to fight the west and the Communists including socialists and a Socialist party which has a very cruel history fighting with strict Islamic Groups?"

With all these reasons I don't know if he can go more than this; with his faults that we pay for. But even if he can, this does not mean he is good or right but it means that we - the world and Arabic humans - are even worse than him.

Pressure to claim hollow victory

Fear on the home front

BY BILL KELLER
NEW YORK TIMES

With our troops massed against Iraq, Americans are apprehensive and divided. The polls show us still torn between containment and war, between the instinct to give it time and the yearning to get it done. We worry about civilian carnage, American casualties and terrorist reprisals, about further shocks to a shaken economy, about being a nation alone. The Pentagon is ordering body bags by the thousand.

President Bush has enlarged the war agenda: we are not just eliminating a threat, we are delivering a promise of democracy to a region steeped in tyranny. Many, though, remain suspicious of his motives. "No Blood for Oil," the protest placards insist, and others mutter that this is somehow, too much, about Israel. The question of what comes after war has revived our longstanding fear of getting bogged down in unfriendly places.

Colin Powell, after trying to slow the march to war, has fallen loyally into step with his commander in chief. But the world, whose collaboration we crave, is in no hurry. The Germans are paralyzed by war angst. The French, deeply invested in Saddam and always happy to tweak the Americans, have been maddening. Democrats are straining for a way to be patriots without forfeiting independent judgment. The pope is calling for more "dialogue." Susan Sarandon is rallying opposition outside the United Nations. Saddam watches it all on CNN, and assures us we will be bloodily humbled.

The memories

Ah, the memories. The paragraphs above are constructed entirely from coverage of our national mood in the winter of 1991. Reading those old files made me wonder if maybe George Santayana was

only half right: even those who remember history are condemned to repeat it.

A little time in the archives is a reminder that this war is in many respects a continuation of that war. We are calling to account a tyrant who has flouted the terms of his surrender. It's not just that we have been here before; technically, we never left.

Another thing that strikes you when you revisit the first gulf war is that much of what we anticipate with such confidence today will turn out to be wrong. Both the dire foreboding and the high hopes of Desert Storm proved exaggerated. The victory was not so difficult. Nor did it plant freedom in the Middle East — as the abandoned Kurdish resistance, the miserable inmates of Iraq and those yet-to-be-democratized Kuwaitis can all testify.

What leaps out most powerfully, though, comparing then and now, is the visceral fear that this time war will admit new horrors into our own lives. In the reporting of 1991 you find occasional mentions of a possible terrorist backlash, but they are hypothetical. Americans then, four years before Oklahoma City, were mostly innocent on the subject of terror. This time, when the C.I.A. predicts that invading Iraq will provoke new assaults on our cities, Americans know in our stomachs what that means.

Expressing anxieties

These anxieties are amplified by doubts about the president who leads us. Some Americans question Mr. Bush's very legitimacy as president and as commander. I doubt anyone ever referred to his father as a "chicken hawk," or to the first Bush administration as a "junta." These are insults, not arguments, but they add heat to an opposition that is more passionate than time.

Our uncertainty about whether we are in safe hands has been compounded by

Mr. Bush's own leadership. We have the skewed priorities of an administration that bids \$26 billion for Turkish basing rights but shortchanges local emergency preparedness, that declines to call for any sacrifice, even from those who can best afford it. We have Mr. Bush's manhandling of our partners in security — beginning with the gratuitous decision to take a project that could have been framed from the beginning as the enforcement of United Nations resolutions and elevate it to an America-first doctrine of pre-emptive power. We have the loopy alarms of the Department of Homeland Security — what Garrison Keillor calls the Department of Scaring People Into Staying Home — which is prescribing duct tape one day and Prozac the next.

What most of all animates our national anxiety, I think, is the fear that war will backfire. Most people did not imagine themselves anywhere near the front line in 1991. Now the front line is where we live, and we are afraid.

We fear that in pursuing Iraq, we are diverting money and attention from the hunt for Osama's villains and from the fortification of America.

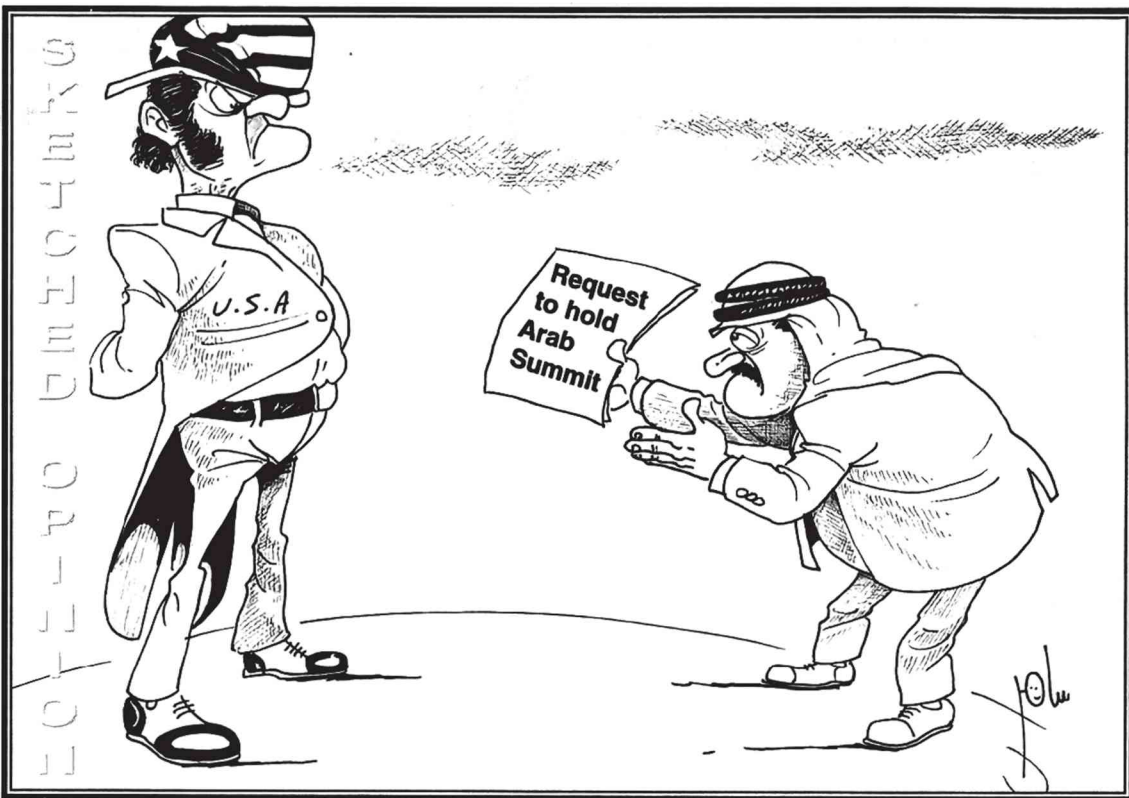
We fear that if we attack Iraq, Saddam will have every reason to arm the terrorist brigades against us, which we have no evidence he has done so far.

We fear that every civilian killed by American bombs will inflame the hatred that much of the Islamic world already feels for us.

We fear that if we occupy Arab land, new recruits will flock to the martyr brigades.

And we fear that fracturing our most vital alliances will leave us to face our legions of new enemies alone.

Those of us who have come to believe Saddam should be ousted must concede that all of those dangers are real — and they are also, to use the most abused adjective of this debate, "imminent."



These fearsome possibilities can be minimized, but in the short run it is entirely possible that attacking Iraq makes us less safe.

The problem is, not attacking does not eliminate the risks. At best, it postpones them. At worst, it allows small nightmares to grow into big ones.

Inevitable attack

First, Al Qaeda terrorists do not need the pretext of an Iraq war to come after us. They will attack us, unprovoked, repeatedly and in as spectacular a fashion as their lethal ingenuity allows, regardless of what we do in Iraq. We know this, because they have done it.

Second, any containment regime we can conceive in place of war will eventually unravel, because the outside world does not have the resolve to maintain it and because a dictator with oil has the market on his side. We know this, too, because we have been through it. Saddam is likely to outlast our inspections and our sanctions, and certain to return to the production of the nuclear weapons that he sees as essential to his personal mythology and that any sober person regards as inimical to our well-being.

Third, any clampdown sufficiently draconian to reassure us would amount to a United Nations occupation, which would be a grave humiliation to Saddam. It

seems to me a year or two of this would be as likely to stimulate vengeance as war itself.

Fourth, we come to the murky relationship between the terrorist state and stateless terrorism. The administration has surely strained our trust hyping the connections between Saddam and Al Qaeda, but skeptics have just as badly understated the mutual interests of these two thugs. Yes, Saddam came to power as a secular, pan-Arab extremist and Osama bin Laden as a virulent Islamic fundamentalist. Stalin and Hitler were ideologically incompatible too, when they signed their nonaggression pact. All these monsters are at heart power-hungry, history-seeking opportunists. None have a record of being terribly fastidious about doctrine when it stands in the way of expedience.

Are we fine with that?

No one has stated this quite as baldly as bin Laden himself, in his latest taped screed. The Iraqi leadership may consist of "infidels" and ungodly "socialists," he said, but "it does no harm in these circumstances that the interests of Muslims and socialists agree in the fighting against the Crusaders." I would not be so quick to rule out Saddam's giving weapons to the Qaeda killers, but suppose he only gives them safe passage. Are we fine with that?

And finally, there is the price America

would pay for backing down now with Saddam still in power.

Hawks within the administration have for some time dreaded the possibility that Saddam would make a good show of capitulating. Faced with a serious U.N. ultimatum, they worried, he would "discover" the missing toxins and offer them up for destruction. France and Russia would lead a new campaign to lift economic sanctions — keeping a skeleton crew of inspectors on hand. At this point President Bush would face enormous pressure to claim his hollow victory and bring home the troops. Saddam would remain smugly in place, biding his time. America's job would be unfinished once again, and our credibility severely compromised.

The peace camp will dismiss this as schoolyard machismo. But credibility is a great peacekeeper, because enemies who trust your word are less likely to test it. Which, as much as any other reason, is why we can count on going to war.

The protests last weekend and the anguish in the polls represent something genuine, a force that Mr. Bush will have to reckon with and that some of his foreign allies may not survive. But what the anti-war camp offers as an antidote to fear is a false sense of security. In the short run, war is perilous. In the long run, peace can be a killer, too.

The view from Academia

The UN and the future of humanity

AHMAD Y. MAJDOUBEH
JORDAN TIMES

All the good inhabitants of our small globe are in agreement on weapons of mass destruction: these weapons pose a serious, direct and immediate threat, not just to world security and peace but to human life — in fact all forms of life — all over our planet; and therefore they must be not just controlled or curtailed but eliminated. No one should manufacture, import, export or keep these weapons for any reason. If human beings cannot settle their differences through peaceful means, and if wars are inevitable, let people fight using conventional weapons.

The positions of governments differ somewhat from those of the good people. While all governments agree in principle that our globe should be free of weapons of mass destruction, several of them — those whose possession of such weapons is proven and those whose possession is presumed — argue that their existence is necessary for deterrence.

Countries of the so-called developed world, who think no country in the developing or underdeveloped part of the world should have weapons of mass destruction, think the weapons they possess are in safe hands. In the hands of the rest of the globe, they are not safe. These latter countries should therefore disarm — unless they are friends or allies, of course, in which case they can be permitted either to import or manufacture such weapons. A flagrant case of

double standards, of course.

The developing or underdeveloped world, which follows in the steps of the developed in almost everything it does, thinks it should also have weapons of mass destruction: you never know when the need arises for them or when your villainous neighbour acquires or manufactures them.

The bottom line here is — and this has become obvious, I believe — once weapons of mass destruction are manufactured, even if they are manufactured by one single country, it is not only unavoidable but also inevitable and almost axiomatic that they will find their way to another country, and then another, and another.

The matter of weapons of mass destruction is, in fact, much like the matter of personal secrets. Once a secret exists, it becomes known to someone. Once it becomes known to someone, no matter how reliable or trustworthy that person is, it will unavoidably and inevitably find its way to another, and then another. And this is why several countries in the world today (we are told that even several "groups" of sorts, terrorist or non-terrorist), have weapons of mass destruction or their secret recipes.

This also means that the whole argument about weapons of mass destruction being safer in the hands of some than in those of others is a big fallacy. Having weapons of mass destruction is like having a handgun. You never know when you find yourself in a situation where you think you have to use it. History has shown how unsafe such weapons become in those so-called safe hands, be

it when a mighty country is attacked by another or when reactors or manufacturing facilities leak.

But weapons of mass destruction are not like personal secrets or handguns in their effects. While the lives of a limited number of people are affected by the leaking of secrets or the use of handguns, the future of the whole globe is at stake in the case of the use of weapons of mass destruction.

What is the other bottom line then? It is that these weapons should be destroyed and their production, not just their trafficking, prevented? How is this to be done?

One interesting element in the whole discourse about Iraq's presumed possession of mass destruction weapons and how to go about disarming it is the role of the UN. No UN member, including Iraq itself, is saying Iraq should have weapons of mass destruction. They are all in agreement that should Iraq have weapons of mass destruction, such weapons should be destroyed. The disagreement, or a substantial part of it, is about how to go about doing it and when.

Directly or indirectly, however, the so-called stand off on Iraq is about the role of the UN, and it is becoming also (increasingly so) about weapons of mass destruction in other parts of the world — primarily in the developing or underdeveloped. No matter what happens in the days to come with respect to the war on Iraq, three points have become crucial to tackle.

The first is that all action against countries possessing weapons of mass

destruction should be done not just through the UN but through a strong UN. And the more countries involved in the decision, and not just the big five or seven or ten, the better. No action outside the UN is trustworthy. Equally importantly, any action through a weak, coerced UN is equally suspect and untrustworthy.

The second is that there should continue to be no double standards regarding the matter of weapons of mass destruction. If you are so eager, insistent and adamant about disarming one country, you should be equally eager, insistent and adamant about disarming another and then another until the world is free of this plague. No exceptions or favours should be made. And if you have to begin with the developing or underdeveloped world, so be it. Eventually, however, you need to get to the rest of the world.

The third is that, for this noble aim to be realised (a world free of weapons of mass destruction, that is), a strategy needs to be drawn up with respect to disarmament, carefully and meticulously. The strategy should include names and locations throughout the world, but also a timetable.

Unless the world confronts these three points and lives up to its responsibilities, and unless the UN is both respected and empowered, many of us will continue to be both sceptical and cynical about intentions and efforts to make our world a safer place by targeting this or that country or party, and many of us will continue to fear for their lives and for the life of this planet.

In London one million march

So where are the Arabs?

BY ROBERT FISK
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

Could anything be more pathetic than the Arab demonstration against war? A million Britons marched in London, more than half a million Spaniards in Madrid; 200,000 in Paris and New York. And Cairo? Well, just 600 Egyptians turned up in their capital to protest at America's forthcoming invasion of brotherly Iraq surrounded by 3,000 security police. By way of contrast brave contrast 2,000 Israelis protested in Tel Aviv against the war.

What on earth is it with the Arabs? Of all people, they and they alone are likely to suffer in this American invasion of their homeland. They and they alone have the will and the ability to understand that this US military adventure is intended as Colin Powell, the Secretary of State, frankly declared last week to change the map of the Middle East.

Yet, faced with catastrophe, the Arabs are like mice. Their leaders may agree with their people but they will not let their people say so.

President Mubarak of Egypt has made it all too clear there is little he can do to rein in President Bush. King Abdullah of Jordan has said there is almost "nothing" the Arabs can do to avert war. Which means Arabs ask, more and more, what their leaders are for. The presidents and kings of the Arab world agree with their people, it seems, but do not wish them to express the views they themselves hold.

It's one thing for Mr Mubarak to criticise the United States quite another for Egyptians to do so. What on earth, one wonders, did the 3,000 Egyptian security police think as they surrounded their

protesting brothers and sisters?

True, 200,000 Syrians protested against the war in Damascus. But no one protests in Syria unless they are in accord with their government, which means that the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party of Syria arranged this particular "popular" protest. But at least the Syrians did not carry, as their neighbours in Beirut did, portraits of Saddam Hussein. For in Arab capital cities, there is a special problem. Repeatedly, Arab opposition to war is trammelled up with Arab support for the Iraqi dictator.

In Cairo two weeks ago, pictures of the Iraqi leader detracted from anti-war protests. In Beirut on Saturday, men who had fought each other in Lebanon's 15-year civil war came together to oppose America's invasion of Iraq, but were then demeaned by far greater numbers of Lebanese who supported Saddam Hussein and carried pictures of the wretched man to prove it.

Syed Hassan Nasrallah, the head of the Lebanese Hizbollah guerrilla army, castigated the Arabs for their "silence" and urged them to "re-evaluate" their attitude towards Europe following the protests against war this, remember, from the man who leads an organisation whose satellite groups once held dozens of Westerners hostage in Lebanon during the 1980s.

Syed Nasrallah also deplored the fact that "the greatest Muslim demonstration in history" the gathering of two million Muslim pilgrims at Mecca for the Hajj had not used the slogan "Death to America" or "No to War". Nasrallah also accused "certain" Arab regimes of "supporting the war or approving of it in secret". And, of course, we all know who they are.

Prosperity and judgement

Saba and the Arim flood

BY HARUN YAHYA
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Saba, built in southern Arabia in the 11th century BC, was a great civilization. The Qur'an relates the story of the Queen of Saba and the Prophet Sulayman in considerable detail. However, there is another story in the Qur'an regarding this people, who appear before us in a violent act of destruction.

The oldest texts to refer to the people of Saba in their annual war chronicles from the time of the Assyrian King Sargon 11. According to these inscriptions, Sargon mentions Saba as one of the states that pays tribute to him.

This record is the oldest text giving firm information about the state of Saba.

Ancient texts that speak of the people of Saba say that like the Phoenicians, they were a state that engaged in wide commercial activities, and that some of the most important trade routes in northern Arabia were in their hands.

The Sabaeans were known in history as a civilized people. The inscriptions of the Sabaeans rulers frequently speak of "endowing", and "building".

Ruins have survived

The Ma'rib Dam, the ruins of which have survived down to the present day, is a major indication of Sabaean technology. Thanks to that dam, a bright green world was built in the middle of the desert.

The capital that benefited from that dam was Ma'rib, which had grown wealthy because of its many geographical advantages. The capital stood close by the Adhanah River.

The Sabaeans made use of this and built a dam here as they were constructing their civilization and began irrigating the area. Agriculture prospered, and they were thus able to enjoy high levels of well-being.

The capital Ma'rib was one of the most beautiful cities of the time. The Greek writer Pliny, who traveled in the area and had great praise for this land,

spoke in his works of the way it was all so verdant.

The dam at Ma'rib was 16 meters high, 60 meters wide and 620 meters long. Calculations have shown that two wide plains on both sides of the city could be watered by means of it.

These two plains are sometimes described on Sabaeen inscriptions as "Ma'rib and the twin plains". The expression "two gardens to the right and to the left" in the Qur'an in all probability refers to the impressive vineyards and gardens in these two valleys.

Region was famous

Thanks to the dam and its watering facilities, the region became famous as the best-irrigated and most fertile in Yemen. When we examine the verses in the Qur'an in the light of these historical facts we can see enormous compatibility between them.

Archaeological discoveries and historical facts are totally compatible with what is written in the Qur'an. The people refused to heed the warning of the prophet who was sent to them and were ungrateful for the blessing of God, and were eventually punished with a terrible catastrophe.

There was also a sign for Saba in their dwelling place: two gardens - one to the right and one to the left. "Eat of your Lord's provision and give thanks to Him: a bountiful land and a forgiving lord". But they turned away so we unleashed against them the flood from the great dam and exchanged their two gardens for two others containing bitter-tasting plants and tamarisk and a few lot trees.

That is how we repaid them for their ingratitude. Are any but the ungrateful repaid like this? (Qur'an, 34:15-17).

The people of Saba lay across trade routes and thus enjoyed a high level of prosperity, making it one of the most prominent cities of the age. What the people of Saba needed to do under such agreeable conditions was to "eat of the sustenance provided by their Lord and be grateful to Him". Yet they did not do so.

As a verse puts it, "they turned away

from God..." their arrogance in their well being caused them to lose it. The whole country was flattened in a terrible flood. The vineyards and gardens of the people of Saba were suddenly left under the waters.

The punishment visited on the people of Saba is described in the Qur'an as "Seyl al-Arim" or the Arim flood. This term in the Qur'an also tell us the way this disaster occurred.

The word "Arim" means "dam" or "dike". "Seyl al-Arim" describes the way a flood occurs after a dike has been breached. The Christian archaeologist Werner Keller agrees that the Arim flood came about in line with the description of the Qur'an, and writes: for 1,500 years this garden of spices bloomed around Ma'rib.

Dam burst

That was until 542 B.C then the dam burst. The importunate desert crept over fertile lands and destroyed them.

"The people of Sheba", says the Qur'an, "had beautiful gardens in which the most costly fruits ripened."

But then the people turned their backs upon God, wherefore he punished them by causing the dam to burst. Thereafter nothing but bitter fruit grew in the gardens of Saba.

The dam, that may be considered the most important sources of the people of Saba's wealth and well being, was also the means of that ungrateful people's destruction.

After the disaster of the Arim flood, the area turned into a desert and as the agricultural field disappeared the people of Saba lost their most important sources of revenue.

The people of Saba, who ignored God's call to believe in Him and give thanks, were thus chastised.

Following the terrible damage wreaked by the flood, the people of Saba began to fall apart. They abandoned their homes and migrated to Northern Arabia, Mecca and Syria.

Ma'rib, where the people of Saba had once dwelt, was now a desolate ruin, and is most definitely a warning to everyone who commits the same mistake as the people of Saba.

Continued from last page

Hodiedah's history and beauty

John Poldery mentioned that Hodiedah was established during the Rasouli period at the end of the second Hijrah century, that is 797 AD. Poldery added that Jazan and had been once the most famous port for exporting coffee, but afterwards Hodiedah and Luhaiya became the most important coffee exporting harbors.

The flourishing of Hodiedah began when the Dutch established commercial zones in Shiher, Mukha and Hodiedah in 1689 AD.

Turning attention to historical sites in Hodiedah, one can admire a number of castle forts, old towns like, Al Shareef castle, Bait Al Fakeeh castle, Zabeed castle and Hayss castle.

The most attractive on the above is Zabeed town with its famous four gates; Al Shabareeq Gate in the east, Siham gate in the north, Al Nakheel gate in the west and Al Kartab gate in the south which are still standing recounting the great history of Yemenis who lived in that area.

The town of Zabeed was a very famous educational place where a

number of very old schools are scattered here and there.

Many of the above mentioned sites are subjected these days to rehabilitation process to keep there unique features. Zabeed had been the capital of three states, Bani Zeyad in 204 after Hijra, Bani Najah in 412 after Hijrah and Bani Rasool in 625 after Hijrah.

We can say that most of the towns in Hodiedah have a rich history and tourist places are at every single town.

In Hodiedah you get natural protected areas and mineral baths used to treatment of a number of diseases like Al Sokhna bath.

Once you make up your mind and decide to visit Hodiedah you would enjoy visiting the popular markets to be held on weekly basis and people from across Hodiedah to joint such traditions followed for hundreds of years. For tourists, locals as well as foreigners, the pottery industry is the most eye-catching places to visit. Like other Yemeni towns and cities, Hodiedah has its own popular, social and cultural diversity where modern civilization is

mixed with great history of the past.

You can find the golden coasts, and resorts as in Khawkha which is considered the best resort in Yemen.

The people of Hodiedah can be classified into three categories, those working in the field of agriculture, cattle, and fishing.

A special dressing is common in Hodiedah during certain religious and national feasts.

Wedding ceremonies are of different way in Hodiedah than in other Yemeni cities.

Poetry nights are being held from time. There is Shami poetry, Yamana poetry, and Humaini, which is the most popular category of poetry.

People of Hodiedah sing Al waider, Al Tatweyah, Al Hazfah, Al Zawamel and others. Singing is usually accompanied by folkloric dancing such as, Al Zar dance, Al Saheli, Al Muhangal and al Shargi.

These are some of the traditions and ways of life characterized the city of Hodiedah, which we think deserve to be visited and admired.



Fishing boats in Hodiedah



INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD ESSAY COMPETITION - 2002

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION: 15 MARCH, 2003

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations has pleasure in announcing the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Essay Competition in Arabic Language for the year 2002. The competitions is open to all, below the age of thirty. The topic for essay competition is

TOPIC

INDIA AS A CRADLE OF RELIGIONS : WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MAULANA AZAD'S WRITINGS

الهند ك مهد للديانات في ضوء كتابات مولانا أبو الكلام آزاد

Each participant must submit one original and three copies of his/her essays. The essay should be typed or neatly written in double space. The pages should be clearly numbered. The length of the essays should not exceed 5000 words.

Any participant who resorts to plagiarism will be disqualified. Applicants are required to be under the age of 30 years as on 15 March, 2003. A certificate/proof of the age indicating the date of birth and a photograph should be enclosed with the essay. The essay may be sent through registered post/courier or hand-delivered to the under mentioned address so as to reach the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Azad Bhavan, Indraprasta Estate, New Delhi-110 002 by 15 March, 2003. Essays received after the last date will not be acceptable.

PRIZES for winners

First Prize: Rs. 25,000/-Second Prize: Rs 20,000/-Third Prize: Rs 15,000/-

For any further query and details contact: Embassy of India, Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off Haddah Street, P.O. Box 1154, Sana'a. (Tel. 441251/ 441252, Fax. 441257, E-mail: indiaembassy@y.net.ye.

MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series published in a newspaper

45

Written by
Abdulrahman MutahharTranslated by
Janet Watson

Certificates



Ma - What's up with you today, you're so bad tempered and cross! Relax! You need to be patient in life. As the Yemeni saying goes, 'One nice word can break a dry stick.'

M - That one nice word didn't break a dry stick and didn't even bend a fresh one. All it did was break my back and empty my pocket!

Ma - You shouldn't ever say anything like that about your children, and go on at them about how much you do for them! Pull yourself together! They're your children. Today they need you, but tomorrow you'll need them. Our children are our only support and our life blood.

M - So are you saying I shouldn't tell them right from wrong or give them any advice, Mus'ida? Should I just leave them to make a mess of their lives and waste their time?

Ma - Of course you should give them advice and talk to them, but kindly and by setting them a good example. Jumping down their throats and speaking roughly and yelling at them only makes things worse. I wish you'd listen!

M - Oh I really hadn't realised how clever you've become!

Ma - That's enough of 'how clever you've become!' Your sons are men now, and it's not right for you to show them up in front of their friends. Say what you want to them in private, but treat them with respect in front of other people.

M - Mus'ida, all I want is for them to behave like men. They're my sons, they're not my guests. Don't you see what I mean?

Ma - If you're thinking about learning and

studying, then wait for the certificates I guarantee they'll get at the end of the year.

M - That's all very well, but you've forgotten one thing. The house is full of certificates. Every one of them has twelve certificates - six certificates from primary school, three certificates from preparatory school, and three certificates from secondary school. That makes a total of twelve certificates for each one of them, and the marks for each of these certificates are identical. They never get any better and never get any worse!

Ma - That doesn't matter, they're at University now, and good luck to the lot of them!

M - Mus'ida!

Ma - What?

M - Schools, institutes, colleges, and universities are not there simply to dole out certificates and wish good luck to the lot of them! They're there for knowledge and learning, for seekers of knowledge, the brilliant, the genius, for those who strive for the best marks, for those who seek to stand beside the brilliant, for those who others look up to, and for those who are depended upon to do the very best for themselves, their society and their country.

Ma - With our sons bent over their books and lecture handouts all hours, they certainly should get the best marks and become university assistants. Just don't worry about them!

M - And just when are they studying, Mus'ida? Halfway through the month of Sha'ban, or when the cock crows?

Ma - I'm sick up to here of your sarcasm!

They're studying right in front of your nose in your house. They don't go anywhere! Just stop giving me all this nonsense!

M - But I'm talking about all this knowledge. Your sons, Mus'ida, have got all their studying and learning sewn up, and they insist they can't do it without gat. It's become an addiction, Mus'ida!

Ma - Just like all other boys of their age, and that's the fact of the matter throughout the country!

M - Too right! Your sons have lunch, then meet up with their friends, and chew, and chat, and watch television, from 3 o'clock in the afternoon to 9 o'clock at night. They keep half a mind on the programme, and leave half a mind for their books and lectures.

Ma - All I know is that come 9 o'clock they're absolutely shattered from all their studying.

M - With all due respect, they're certainly not shattered! They're numbed by gat and the television, and because of this they crawl under the blankets and talk to themselves, and have weird thoughts, and toss and turn, until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. Then they wake up exhausted, a bag of nerves, confused, depressed, so they turn over and go back to sleep. And if they do actually manage to drag themselves to the lecture hall, they nod off, and yawn, and the only thing they're concerned about is the television and the price of gat. They're not bothered about the lecture, and they don't have a clue what the lecturer's going on about!

Al-Akwa', p. 879.

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Annas weekly, 17 Feb. 2003.

Main Headlines:

- JMP to draw up a vision on national forces aligning
- German judiciary sets March 3, a date for deciding al-Mouyad case
- Gangsters kill a young man injure another in a street in the capital

In a leading front-page article the newspaper confirms that Paris, London, Rome, Berlin and many other world capitals have witnessed in recent days demonstrations in protest to a US possible attack on Iraq.

Millions of demonstrations in Europe, Asia, and Africa carried banners that condemn war: "No Blood for Oil. Drop Bush instead of Bombs". However, under intensive security measures, which humiliated the Arab nation and assassinated the spirit of initiative and rejection, hundreds of Arab demonstrators in Arab capitals stormed the streets to say No war.

Meantime, the Arab leaders prepare for a new round of submission and cowardice to announce renunciation of the Iraqis' blood through an Arab summit. Only those who have high voices and flagrant stances were enthusiastic for this summit. The free and live people of the world who are able to select their rules and bring them down themselves whenever those rulers violate their will, have taken to the streets to protest the war on Iraq.

They also showed solidarity with the Arabs who fight each other's and race to woo America. We are in a critical historical stage at a time the whole world rise up to support an Arab issue. We also see the Arabs, peoples and rulers, let their brethren down. This is because they have been deprived of their freedom, which all live peoples and nations enjoy and submitted, to despotism and suppression exercised by all regimes against their peoples. We are declaring our protest and sor-

row for the humiliation, which was driven by leaders and rulers of Arab countries, and we say to the men and women of Europe, Asia and Africa and in every spot in the world that witnessed a voice against the war and stood against the American arrogance: "You are the best and your women who applaud for the fall of "Bush" are better than our men, leaders, educated people, and intellectuals, who knelt down to their knees to Bush's ambassadors, and presented nothing but more concessions and acts of treason toward Allah, the nation, the history.



ATTARIQ weekly, 18 Feb. 2003.

Main Headlines:

- Parliament Speaker: Weapons law not yet referred to parliament
- YSP& Islah statements indicate differences on woman candidacy to elections
- RAY party calls for conducting charges before enforcing them

A front-page article by the editor in chief says there are indicators on probable war in the Arab region. Grouping of world peace is joining force nowadays in the face of the Anglo-Saxon war.

There are serious indicators that the real goal of the war against Iraq does not lie in disarming it and changing its regime. It is rather aimed at dominating its oil wealth and forces a control on quarter of world oil reserve as well as an inlet to political re-division of the area.

The U.S., as a colonialistic mentality has its justifications, which are wrapped with other issues. Many of the neo-colonialism thinkers consider the present division is an outcome of Sykes-Picot agreement between Britain and France, during the world war I. The U.S. was then still a state having limited global capabilities and preoccupied with its own affairs. The U.S. was always in lake of a strong

motivating factor to make it embark on causing a new political division of the region, compatible with its international status as a sole superpower. The events of 11 September came to meet what Washington was looking for.

They have given Washington a strong reason to redeploy its forces and worldwide movements after the cold war epoch.

They have also provided Washington with an internal impetus, namely, "patriotic identity" to mobilizes the people towards a war whose dimensions and consequences are unknown.



26 September, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 20 Feb. 2003.

Main Headlines:

- President Saleh lands relations with Germany and its stand opposing war
- Unified criteria must be applied in dealing with international resolutions
- Al-Mouyad issue to be decided end of March, German authorities a waiting American evidence
- World insurance companies delegation due in Sana'a this week
- Committee on preparation of national aligning charter, convenes Monday
- GPC party selects more than 85 percent of its candidates to parliamentary elections

"26 September" editorial says the balance of the exchange of interests and benefits the international relations are founded on, is at present placed at crossroads. This situation is caused by developments and escalations of the situation in the region and the world. The United States of America insists on waging war on Iraq despite the latter's commitment implementation of international resolutions, the latest of which is resolution 1441, which president Bush claims that Iraq has not implemented and not cooperated with

UN inspectors, using this allegation as reason for stepping up the option of war and for seeking another UN resolution to warn Iraq. The new U.S. direction leads to more dangerous aggravation of the situation and threatened world stability, security and peace.

Upon this U.S. feverish tendency to war could we understand the European and world stands rejecting the war, under pretext of disarming Iraq of its alleged mass destruction weapons.

Reports of UN chief inspectors, briefing the UN security council meeting on 14 February have given preponderance to views and stands of the forces opposing the war is so vital and sensitive region of the world with an important strategic situation for all world interests. Hence comes the rational and courageous German and French stand against the war and calling giving priority to the peaceful solution to the present crisis between Iraq and the U.S., supported by Britain.

France, Germany and other world countries that follow suit, have not taken this stand but out of their realization of danger of the situation with regards to the war catastrophic impact and to undermining of the UN and international law, if America insisted to go to war without a UN mandate.

The U.S. administration hawks insist on their war policy although the facts on the ground show that UN inspectors regarding mass destruction weapons are performing their tasks in Iraq very well and with tangible Iraqi cooperation.

All this confirms there is not any reason for launching a war on Iraq. This is supported by several world countries, mainly France, Germany, Russia, China and Belgium, that adopt stands stemming from a political, moral and humanitarian vision and from their understanding of disasters, tragedies and pains wars would leave behind to humanity.

These countries have their bitter experiences with wars, unlike the U.S. that has not experienced such calamities

ties within its borders. In this context, all should realize that the war is of no interest to anyone and would also lead to dismantling the international alliance against terrorism, which up till now the U.S. is leading.



Al-Shomou weekly, 22 Feb. 2003.

Main headlines:

- Washington heads for assassination of military commanders, its embassy in Sanaa demands preventing religious preachers from assailing it
- Yemeni citizen disappears in Bangkok
- Saudi ambassador to Washington: We are committed to offer facilities for launching war on Iraq
- America behind incidents in Iran, Pakistan
- Ministers and officials practice corruption
- Head of Antiquities Authority defies cabinet decision

The newspaper's political editor says the incidents of two military planes crash, one Iranian carrying senior military commanders from Revolutionary Guard and the second a Pakistani carrying airforce commander and a number of army officers have aroused strong skepticism on causes of their crash in this particular time and circumstances in the region.

The strongest of probabilities is that the two incidents are not ruled out to be machined and that the U.S. intelligence is behind them with the aim of destroying the strongest opponents to the American policy and its terroristic approach against the Arab and Muslim nations.

This U.S. strategy angers the high-ranking military commanders who are against the American arrogance and see in it a dangerous indicator aimed at life, safety and security of senior military commanders who are closely watched by the American intelligence

and works for ending them in a terrorist manner.

This means that the United States is working in coordination with the Zionist entity in aiming at military commands of the Arab and Muslim armies. It is certain that the increase of these terrorist acts at this time and under these difficult circumstances in the region means that both American and Zionist intelligence organizations, that are supplied with information, have a list of names of the highest ranking military commanders who are against their policies.



Al-Raie al-A'am weekly, 18 Feb. 2003.

Main Headlines:

- RAY party to boycott upcoming parliamentary elections
- President Saleh to attend Arab summit meetings
- 14 person droned, 2 others wounded with fire shots in Mukalla
- German & American intelligence entrapped al-Mouyad
- Army troops manage to release a kidnapped person from Sanhan tribe
- Differences inside Islah party on candidates to coming parliamentary elections

In its editorial the newspaper says at last was concluded the Cairo meeting of Arab league foreign ministers preparing for an emergency Arab summit. The meeting issued a closing statement following the traditional Arab statements indicating desire for not attaching any Arab state, if it would affect Arab leaders thrones and interests. Arab foreign minister emergency meeting has not come out with any thing new. The closing statement's compromising shape clearly shows that the participants are merely employees for their regimes rather than officials responsible for issuing a decision and deciding matters concerning and threatening the nation.

World Press

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

Egypt

Al Ahram

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Friday received a message from Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul-Aziz on the regional issues, especially the Iraqi crisis, and the upcoming Arab summit due in Cairo on March 1.

Al Akhbar

Holding an Arab summit on March 1 proves that Arabs are determined to play a pivotal role and face up to the basic challenges, particularly the Iraqi crisis, said Osama Al-Baz, President Mubarak's political advisor.

Al Gomhuria

Thousands of Egyptian prayer performers on Friday massed at Al-Azhar mosque and denounced the US policy on striking Iraq.

The demonstrators chanted slogans calling for providing military support to Baghdad to face the US aggression.

Egyptian Mail

The 36th International Exhibitions and Fairs will be held in Cairo on March 19-28. About 50 states and 2,500 companies from around the world will attend the fair.

Britain

Daily Telegraph

Michael Portillo, seen as the standard bearer of the modernizers of Britain's Conservative Party, plunged the party into open civil war Friday night by firing the opening salvos in a campaign to replace Iain Duncan Smith as the party leader.

The Times

British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott is preparing to cap local authority spending to prevent a damaging political backlash from huge council tax rises.

The Independent

British Prime Minister Tony Blair meets the Pope Saturday, resolute in his conviction that war

with Iraq "as a last resort" is just, and that John Paul II, who has been vigorous in his denunciation of the war option, has no monopoly of the moral high ground.

The Financial Times

Britain and the United States Friday signaled they were ready to open the final diplomatic battle at the United Nations for a new resolution against Iraq, as preparations for war appeared to be nearing completion. The Guardian: — The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, Friday warned Prime Minister Tony Blair and US President George W. Bush to tone down their moral rhetoric in the drive to war with Iraq.

Germany

Die Welt

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has said that American troops are ready for military actions in Iraq.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

German defense forces, or Bundeswehr, will be re-equipped for multi-national missions abroad.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung:

The US government has once again sharpened its warning to Iraq by declaring readiness of a war with Iraq.

Pakistan

Daily Times

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali on Friday di cussed Pakistan's position on a possible war on Iraq.

The Frontier Post

The United States will continue to provide assistance to Pakistani border militia, security personnel and law enforcement agencies in future, assured the US Ambassador Nancy Powell on Friday.

Down

As the nation mourned the death of the Pakistan Air Force Chief and 16 others in Thursday's plane crash, the government said on Friday it would publish an inquiry report on one of the country's worst air tragedy.

Japan

Nihon Keizai

U.S. semiconductor giant Intel Corp. is to provide support for Japanese DRAM maker Elpida.

Asahi

Japanese government panel eyes extending duration limit of temporary work from one year to three years.

Yomiuri

The Japanese government decided to launch Japan's first intelligence-gathering satellite on March 28.

Kenya

Kenya Times

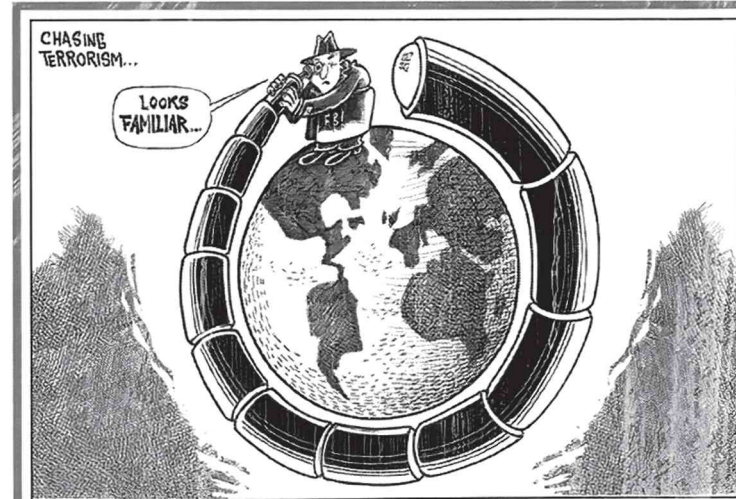
Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki on Friday appointed long-serving appeal judge Johnson Gicheru as acting Chief Justice and a five-member tribunal to investigate the conduct of former chief justice Bernard Chunga who is suspended from office over graft and torture claims.

Daily Nation

China has donated 32 vehicles, including 24 buses and 8 ambulances, to the Kenyan armed forces for its administrative duties in military bases countrywide.

East African Standard

The Kenyan government pledged on Friday to tackle issues of serious human rights abuses in prisons after it learnt that some female inmates have been impregnated by prison officers while other inmates were tortured to death.



Arab News - Khalil's cartoon

India

Hindustan Times

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee leaves for Kuala Lumpur Saturday to participate in the Non-Aligned Summit where India would focus on multilateral economic issues and cooperation among the developing countries besides highlighting the need to counter international terrorism.

The Times of India

India Friday rejected as "completely

untrue" Pakistan's allegations that its intelligence agencies had blocked entry to all visitors and visa-seekers at the Pakistan High Commission.

The Indian Express

Indian Air Chief S Krishnaswamy Friday mourned the death of his Pakistani counterpart Air Marshal Mushaf Ali Mir and 16 other top Pakistan Air Force officials in an air crash.

Philippine

Philippine Daily Inquirer

American defense officials announced Thursday in Washington that hundreds of US special operation troops would soon join Philippine forces in combat operations "to disrupt and defeat the Abu Sayyaf." While the Philippine Presidential Palace Friday insisted that Balikatan 03-1 would only be "a joint training exercise."

The Philippine Star

As two more bombs exploded Friday in Cotabato in the southern Philippines, the Philippine govern-

ment threatened to push for the inclusion of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the United States' terror blacklist.

Manila Bulletin

The Philippine Muslim leaders will meet Saturday in Davao City in the southern Philippines to assess the peace and development processes in Muslim Mindanao following recent adverse developments that undermine the government's efforts to end the decades-old insurgency in the South.

الفائزون في مسابقة الملايين

Million Riyals Winner, Ahmed Naser Azzan

I was trembling with joy!

Ahmed, from the village of Azzan in Al-Mahwait was the lucky winner of the Yemen Times competition. Sharing with the Yemen Times and all our readers his great experience he told us:

- How was it like when you got the news?
I was at Shiekh Ahmed Al-Noaira's house when Nassri, the competition in charge, called my home and told my wife the good news. Although he was quite in a quiet manner and kindly but she was thrilled and called me immediately screaming the brilliant news. I felt my body trembling with joy, I almost believed that I am jinxed until I won this prize.

- Did you decide yet what to do with the money?
First thing I will help my brother who is the dreariest person to me cover his debts, and I will use the rest to cover my own debts and I hope to continue my doctorate studies in India which I could not until now for financial reasons.

- And how many coupons did it take you to win the first prize?
Well actually I think it's a matter of luck, because two years ago I contributed with more than 60 coupons but still I didn't win anything. This time I sent 185 coupons in my wife's name, and children as well as mine, and thanks god this time it worked.

- Did you join any other competitions?
Yes, I joined many television and newspapers competitions. Like Kanz Al-Attar, Waznak Thahab, Man Sayarbah Al-Mallion, in Saydati Magazine, Al-Thowra Newspaper, Al-Musabaqa Al-Ama for Ramadan and Musabaqat Al-Quran Al-Kareem, but I never won in any of them.

- Last word?
I want to tell everyone never to give up. That there will be a break through if we try hard enough. And also I would like to thank the Yemen Times for everything it presents to its readers. The Yemen Times is an intellectual treasure before it is anything else, especially as many agree with me, that it is the first source for English.

الفائز بالمليون احمد ناصر عزان

كنت ارتعش من الفرح



احمد صالح عزان
«الفائز بالمليون»

وبالباقي ساسدد ديني واستكمل دراستي للدكتوراه في الهند فقد كانت الفلوس عانقي الاول.

هل سبق وان فزت في مسابقات اخرى؟
شارك في مسابقات كثيرة تلفزيونية وصحفية، مثل كنز العطار، ووزنت ذهب، ومن سيربح المليون، ومجلة سيدتي ومسابقة صحيفة الثورة، والمسابقة العامة، ومسابقة القران الكريم. ولم يحالفني الحظ في اي منها..

ماذا تقول لمن لم يحالفهم الحظ؟
انصحهم بان لا يياسوا فلا حياة مع الياس، اشكر هذه الصحيفة الرائدة والتي هي كنز علمي قبل ان تكون كنز مادي، وهي في الحقيقة المصدر الاول للغة الانجليزية كما يشهد الكثيرون..

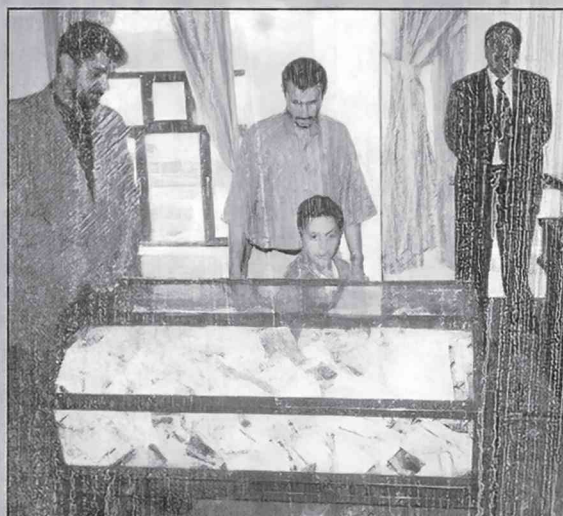
اجرت يمن تايمز مقابلة سريعة مع الفائز بالمليون فكان هذا الحوار:
احمد ناصر عزان
من قرية عزان، مديرية خبت النويرة - محافظة المحويت

كيف استقبلت خبر فوزك بالمليون؟
اتصل الاخ نصري، مسؤول المسابقة الى منزلي واجابته زوجتي فابلغها الخبر بأسلوب علمي وفي منتهي اللطف، حيث كنت في منزل الشيخ احمد النويرة، فاتصلت بي تصرخ وهي في منتهي السرور «لقد فزت بالمليون»، فاحسست برعشة في جسمي من الفرح!!

بكم من الكوبونات شاركت؟ وهل فزت في مسابقات سابقة لليمن تايمز؟
شارك بـ 185 كوبون، باسمي واسم اولادي وزوجتي، وكنت قد شاركت قبل سنتين باكثر من ستين كوبون لكن لم يحالفني الحظ.

هل كنت تتوقع ان تفوز بالمليون؟
لم اكن احلم إطلاقاً بالفوز، فحظي دائماً سيئ!! لكن الحمد لله على توفيقه

ماذا ستفعل بالجائزة؟
اهم ما سافعله، ساسدد بالجزء الاكبر من المبلغ ديون اخي الذي هو اعز انسان عندي وله افضال كثيرة علي، لكن جار الزمن عليه خصوصاً في هذا الظروف الاقتصادية الصعبة،



طفل يقوم بسحب احد الكوبونات الفائزة

احمد ناصر حسن عزان - صنعاء

مليون ريال

منصور علي حسن الفقيه - صنعاء

مائتا الف ريال

عبدالله احمد صالح السعدي - حجة

مائة الف ريال

خالد عبده سيف نعمان - صنعاء

مائة الف ريال

احمد عبده احمد الحذيفي - صنعاء

مائة الف ريال



جانب من الذين حضروا سحب الكوبونات الفائزة

الفائز الأول:

الفائز الثاني:

الفائز الثالث:

الفائز الرابع:

الفائز الخامس:

سيتم توزيع الجوائز للخمسة الأوائل في السادس من مارس في الاحتفال الثاني عشر لعيد ميلاد الصحيفة، وبقية الفائزين يستطيعون الحضور لتسلم جوائزهم ابتداءً من يوم السبت الثامن من مارس (يرجى عدم التأخر عن شهر من تاريخ 8 مارس)

تهانينا لجميع الفائزين.. وحظاً أوفر لبقية المشاركين في مسابقات قادمة

اسم الفائز	المدينة	الجائزة	اسم الفائز	المدينة	الجائزة	اسم الفائز	المدينة	الجائزة	اسم الفائز	المدينة	الجائزة
6- عمرو قائد ديوان علي	صنعاء	مولد كهرتاني ماركة سوزوكي بالمعروف	84- فتحيه صالح محمد الليثاني	تعز	جائزة	45- جمال أمين محمد منصور	صنعاء	محاضرة قهوة بريميم 253 كرويس	163- نجيب محمد محمد يحيى القلبي	صنعاء	جائزة
7- واد محمد عبد الرحيم	تعز	تذكرة سفر مفتوحة من اليمنية	85- احمد ناصر حسن عزان	صنعاء	جائزة	46- ماجد محمد ابراهيم حجوري	الحديدة	مطبخة بن وياهات 203 كرويس	164- محمد سعيد علي العزاني	صنعاء	تشجيعية
8- نجلاء سعيد سيف	صنعاء	-----	86- عبد الستار مانع صالح القويزي	صنعاء	جائزة	47- محمد علي سعيد سمود	لحج	مجفف شعر كوباك 421 كرويس	165- Flojo .V Leslie	صنعاء	جائزة
9- عبد الستار مانع صالح	صنعاء	-----	87- وضاح عقيل عبد الله	صنعاء	جائزة	48- محمد عبد الله علي الخلفي	صنعاء	مجفف شعر ديونجي ايطالي	166- جابر ناصر ناصر السعدي	حجة	جائزة
10- لبيبة نجيب احمد الدجعي	صنعاء	-----	88- منيد قاسم عبد الله	صنعاء	جائزة	49- جلال عبد الرحمن احمد سعيد	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	167- عبد الفتاح صالح احمد	صنعاء	جائزة
11- عبد الله احمد لطيف الغواني	صنعاء	شفاط لمؤوية منطوق	89- محمد اسماعيل ...	صنعاء	جائزة	50- مهدي محمد قائد قائد	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	168- سلطان شريف علي	صنعاء	جائزة
12- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	90- وليد ناصر عبد الحبيب	صنعاء	جائزة	51- جوهرة علفه عبد الوهاب	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	169- القيس احمد عبد العزيز	صنعاء	جائزة
13- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	91- محمد علي علي مشول	صنعاء	جائزة	52- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	170- صلاح احمد سالم	صنعاء	جائزة
14- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	92- محمد احمد عبد الحبيب	صنعاء	جائزة	53- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	171- نبيله احمد عثمان سعيد	صنعاء	جائزة
15- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	93- علي محمد هادي علي	صنعاء	جائزة	54- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	172- عبد الكريم عبد الله قاسم	صنعاء	جائزة
16- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	94- علي محمد هادي علي	صنعاء	جائزة	55- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	173- الهزوة فيصل محمد عبد الطيف	صنعاء	جائزة
17- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	95- محمد زكي محمد زكي	صنعاء	جائزة	56- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	174- احمد عبد الله احمد باوزير	صنعاء	جائزة
18- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	96- محمد زكي محمد زكي	صنعاء	جائزة	57- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	175- عمر هاشم محمد	صنعاء	جائزة
19- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	97- علي محمد هادي علي	صنعاء	جائزة	58- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	176- محمد يحيى قائد العزاني	صنعاء	جائزة
20- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	98- علي محمد هادي علي	صنعاء	جائزة	59- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	177- صلاح علي عوض باسائر	صنعاء	جائزة
21- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	99- محمد زكي محمد زكي	صنعاء	جائزة	60- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	178- احمد محمد نعمان	صنعاء	جائزة
22- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	100- عادل صالح محمد ابو شلة	صنعاء	جائزة	61- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	179- امون حسن اسماعيل زمراري	صنعاء	جائزة
23- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	101- احمد عبد الرحمن النويرة	صنعاء	جائزة	62- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	180- لبيب نجيب احمد	صنعاء	جائزة
24- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	102- ابراهيم عبد محمد الصليحي	صنعاء	جائزة	63- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	181- امه الرحيم عبد الله ناصر	صنعاء	جائزة
25- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	103- اسماعيل محمد باقر السويدي	صنعاء	جائزة	64- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	182- محمد عبد ابراهيم سيف	صنعاء	جائزة
26- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	104- شيرين احمد محمد	صنعاء	جائزة	65- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	183- منصور علي يحيى الرقيب	صنعاء	جائزة
27- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	105- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	66- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	184- زهو احمد غالب عبده	صنعاء	جائزة
28- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	106- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	67- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	185- ماجد عبده علي محمد	صنعاء	جائزة
29- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	107- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	68- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	186- صدام احمد غالب	صنعاء	جائزة
30- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	108- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	69- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	187- علي احمد عبد الله النعاسي	صنعاء	جائزة
31- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	109- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	70- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	188- قائد ديوان علي هادي	صنعاء	جائزة
32- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	110- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	71- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	189- عبد القوي محمد محمد باهارون	صنعاء	جائزة
33- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	111- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	72- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	190- ودي عبد الولي قائد باجي	صنعاء	جائزة
34- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	112- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	73- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	191- حسن عبد الله منصور علي	صنعاء	جائزة
35- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	113- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	74- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	192- محمد عادل سعد الشيباني	صنعاء	جائزة
36- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	114- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	75- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	193- محمد ضيف الله الشيباني	صنعاء	جائزة
37- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	115- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	76- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	194- محمد علي محمد العتيبي	صنعاء	جائزة
38- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	116- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	77- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	195- علي محمد محمد علي	صنعاء	جائزة
39- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	117- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	78- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	196- ماجد مصطفى حسن	صنعاء	جائزة
40- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	118- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	79- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	197- محمد نوح علي النعيري	صنعاء	جائزة
41- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	119- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	80- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	198- نجلاء علي محمد	صنعاء	جائزة
42- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	120- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	81- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	199- عبد الملك محمد سعيد الاتي	صنعاء	جائزة
43- محمد احمد عبد الرحمن	صنعاء	تلفزيون 21 بوصة من هيدوكون	121- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة	82- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة تشجيعية	200- فاضل جعفر جعفر	صنعاء	جائزة

Improve Your English



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College of Education,
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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (42):
Making requests (I)

Request is asking for or being asked for something. As such, request is tantamount to a polite demand. There are several ways of making a request. Knowing how to make a request means knowing different types of requests, the language in which request is clothed and the context in which it is used.

If the speaker knows the listener well, he may choose one of the following strategies to convey his request.

- Highlight the urgency of need**
 - I **urgently/badly** need some help for shifting to my new apartment.
- Use a yes/no question**
 - Do you have** some money to spare?
 - Have you** a spare pen?
- Ask about a possibility /an ability (If the speaker does not know the listener well and is not sure of a positive request).**
 - Is it **possible** for you to give me a lift?
 - Are you able/will you be able** to give me ...?
 - Could/can you oblige** by moving your car a little bit?
 - Would it be difficult** for you to lend me ...
 - Would it be extremely **inconvenient** if I borrowed your car for an hour?
- Use a more direct expression**
 - May I** borrow your dictionary for a while?
- Ask for permission**
 - Would you permit** me to use your computer?
 - May I please be permitted** to borrow your bicycle for an hour or so?
 - May I borrow** your calculator?
- Use a hypothetical expression / expression of curiosity**
 - I was wondering** if you could spare your PC for sometime.
 - I wonder** if you could help me with my assignment.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences.

- His mother kept on to encourage him to study.
- Is it any use to try to persuade him?
- He seldom or ever goes to his village home.
- It is nothing else than pride.
- Amani is very slower than Isra.

Answers to last week's questions

- He **hung** the lamp on the wall.
 - He was **hanged** for murder.
- Note:** The word 'hang' has two different meanings:
- to put a person to death by hanging. The past tense form of 'hang', used in this sense, is 'hanged'.
 - to suspend from or attach loosely to some other object. The past tense of 'hang', in this case, is 'hung'.
- I have not **borne** and shall not **bear** this insult.
Note: The present form of a verb cannot be used for both the present perfect tense and to indicate simple future. The present perfect tense takes the past participle form of the verb (ie, bear: borne) and the simple future takes the present form of the verb.
 - He has finished **mending** the puncture.
Note: Some verbs take an -ing form and not an infinitive.
 - She knows **how to** sing and dance.
Note: The verb 'know' is never followed directly by an infinitive. We generally use the expression **know how to**.

III. Increase your Word Power

A) How to express it in one word

- A terrible fate, unavoidable destruction or death.
- The last day of the world's existence, when God will judge all men.
- A person who guards the main door of a large building and lets people in and out.

- A large room containing a number of beds.
- A measured amount of medicine given or to be taken at a time.

Answers to last week's questions

- The study of the skills of house keeping: **domestic science** (n)
- Power or right to rule: **domination** (n)
- To make a gift of something for a good cause: **donation** (n)
- A small engine on a ship: **donkey engine**
- The hard uninteresting part of a piece of work: **donkey work**

B) Foreign phrases and expressions

Use the following foreign phrases in sentences:
1. avant garde; 2. Ave Maria; 3. art moderne;
4. avant courier; 5. beau monde

Answers to last week's questions

- attaché** (Fr) (a person whose job is to help the Ambassador): I applied to the Cultural Attaché of India for a visitor's visa.
- Au fait** (Fr) (fully familiar): He has newly arrived in Yemen and not yet au fait with the way of life here.
- au fond** (Fr) (in truth): Your problem is, au fond, not poverty of means, but poverty of mind.
- au pair** (Fr) (a young girl who lives with a family in return for doing light work in the house): She managed her accommodation in UK as an au pair girl.
- au revoir** (Fr) (till we meet again): I won't say goodbye, but just au revoir.

C) Words Commonly Confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- annunciation, renunciation
- aberration, anomaly
- abatement, abetment
- abdicate, renounce
- abject, object

Answers to last week's questions

- elementary** (adj) (simple, in the beginning stage): My daughter goes to an elementary school.
elemental (adj) (relating to the great force of nature): Many people lost their lives in the elemental fury of the storm in Orissa in eastern India.
- ablutions** (n) (the washing of part of the body as part of a religious ceremony): We pray after ablutions.
oblation (n) (offering made to God): The devotee offered oblations to God.
- problem** (n) (a difficult question to be decided or solved): The government has decided to solve the problems of youth on a priority basis.
trouble (n) (something that causes worry, discomfort, anxiety or inconvenience): I'm sorry for giving you this trouble.
- risk** (n) (possibility of meeting danger, suffering, loss or injury): There is great risk involved for astronauts to travel to space.
responsibility (n) (being morally liable or accountable for the carrying out of some duty): The teacher's responsibility is not merely to teach, but to create an environment for learning.
- annual** (adj) (coming or happening every year): I shall go to India during my annual leave.
annular (adj) (ring-like): There is an annular, bright halo round the planet Jupiter.

D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases and idiomatic expressions in sentences so as to illustrate their meanings:

- bear upon;
- beard the lion in his den;
- bear in mind;
- like a bear with a sore head
- full of beans

Answers to last week's questions

- the beauty of** (the point that gives satisfaction): Learners' satisfaction is the beauty of the

teaching profession.

- beat down** (to persuade someone to reduce the price of): The man was asking \$100 for the electronic gadget, but I beat him down to \$90.
- beat about** (to search anxiously): The prisoner beat about for a way to escape.
- off one's beat** (different from one's usual activities): Although this piece of work is off my beat, I decided to take the challenge and do it.
- can you beat it!** (have you ever seen or heard as surprising as that): I slept the whole day and night yesterday. Can you beat it!

IV. Grammar and Composition

A) Grammar

Choose the correct words or phrases given in brackets.

- Green organizations are trying to save rainforests that have been _____ by developers and farmers. (created/ruined/threatened).
- One way to inform the public about factories that pollute the environment is through _____ programs on TV. (agricultural/educational/industrial)
- The ozone layer has been _____ more in the southern hemisphere than in the northern hemisphere. (depleted/destroyed/polluted)
- Agricultural sprays are _____ the soil in many countries. (damaging/acting up/lowering)
- _____ is an enormous problem in many large cities where whole families can only afford to live in one room. (pollution/poverty/waste)

Answers to last week's questions

(change from active to passive voice)

- Our drinking water is being supplied by rivers full of dead fish.
- The taste of our drinking water has been ruined due to additives such as chlorine.
- Agricultural crops are being contaminated because of traffic pollution.
- Mysterious new illnesses have been caused by agricultural sprays.
- Extremely dangerous chemicals are being burnt by factories.
- People's lives in many large cities have been endangered as a result of smog.
- Plants and wild life have been damaged through global warming.
- Bigger and bigger deserts are being created because of reduced rainfall.

B) Composition

Expand the idea contained in the proverb:
ROME WAS NOT BUILT IN A DAY

Answers to last week's question

6. ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD
People are often attracted by the outward brightness of things. The superficial brilliance dazzles their eyes and the eyes deceive their minds. The result is that they are prone to take every shining thing for gold. But appearance is not reality. This deceptiveness of appearances and the proneness of people to be disillusioned by the showy exterior is quite a common phenomenon. We are cheated at every step of our life if we are not constantly on the look out. Every day we are guided more by the impression of our eyes than the critical perception of our minds. The proverb gives us a valuable warning against the folly of being taken in by deceptive appearances.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"That we worship none but Allah;
That we associate no partners with Him;
That we erect not, from among ourselves;
Lords and patrons other than Allah."
S3:A64

VI. Word of Wisdom

"Anger is short madness"
—Horace Epistles

Humanistic Education (PART 2)

Implications for the classroom

DR. RAMAKANTA SAHU.

In the first part of this article we looked at some of the major themes, approaches and goals of "Humanistic education". We discuss, in this article, what these themes have to offer to the practical classroom teacher.

Process concerns the way in which the content of a lesson, syllabus or curriculum is taught and learnt from the point of view of the learner, and how that content can be relevant to the life of the learner. Further more "Process" focuses on the immediate subjective reality of the individuals in a learning group, and is concerned with how participants relate to themselves and each other in order to carry out the task. In other words, whatever contributes to the ambient learning atmosphere, including the attitudes values and awareness of the teacher and of the learners, is part of the "Process".

The dynamics of process revolve around issues such as authority and determination, cooperation and competition, expectation and motivation, the individual and the group, security and risk, failure and success, self-esteem and its absence, personal meaning, and how participants feel, think and act in relation to themselves, to others and to what their doing. If a teacher feels it is not his job to take these phenomena into account, he may miss out some of the most essential ingredients in the management of successful learning.

An efficient and a successful teacher should be reasonably alert to some of the processes that go on in his classroom. As a matter of fact, the aim of a facilitator is to become more awake to the processes while at the same time, fulfilling the requirements of the tasks arising out of the processes from time to time.

The first and foremost resource that the teacher would do well to capitalize on in the classroom is the learners' subjective experience. An insightful teacher systematically tries to build in his pupils the qualities of introspective self-awareness. It is a matter of common experience that the learners' self-esteem (feelings about themselves), and metacognitive awareness (feelings about what they are studying and the way they are studying), have a significant effect on the quality of their learning. If the students don't understand the teacher's aims, or if they are bored, or anxious or frustrated, then that adversely affects the pace, quality and

the quantum of their learning. Conversely, if they are to be engaged in a significant learning experience they must find that their learning is personally meaningful. Thus feelings are an essential part of the learning experience. To that extent feelings are part of the powerhouse of the classroom process, since how we are feeling at any given moment colours the way we perceive things. The Humanistic education, therefore, puts high premium on the feelings of the learning organism. The implications of this importance attached to learner's feelings for the classroom teacher are that the teacher should try and take care of the affective needs of the learners. Teachers need to be aware of the fact that every lesson has the potential to offer windows into the world of the learner's experience.

When a learner discovers himself as a member of a group, such as a class of learners, he is likely to find himself in a situation where he feels a partial or a total loss of identity. Some of the students may feel insecure as to whether conscious and unconscious needs are adequately met. They may be threatened with apparent risks and dangers of being neglected and uncared for and may be asking themselves questions such as:

To what extent my affective needs for acceptance, regard and love will be met?

Will I be included or excluded from the group or from subgroups?

Will I make a fool of myself?

How safe will it be to be myself, and what masks, roles and defenses may I have to adopt to protect my self-esteem?

What power networks will evolve in the group and where will I stand in relation to them?

How competitive will people be? How cooperative? How aware of all this will the group leader/ teacher be?

These apprehensions and reactions to group processes affect the way students work, feel and participate in the tasks and the processes of groups.

The teacher involved in Humanistic education should strive to evolve more or less effective ways of meeting these uncertainties in the groups. Humanistic values emphasize the importance of the teacher's sensitivity and skill in helping learners to face these issues in ways that enhance both the learning of the lessons and their experience of being successful at learning.



Unforgettable Echoes in the Heart

How do I tell you I'm really moved?
With a gesture?, a look?, or a touch?
How is it that I never realized I loved you so very much?
Three months for ever have passed
To bring us to this day
When I come out with these words I never thought I'd have to say.
Those months have enriched me remarkably
They have really made me wise.
The day I met you
I found many a friend
And friendship that I know will never end.
Oh dears,
Forgetting you is just impossible
Why? Why?
One may ask or think:
Teachers and learners have an eternal bond
All of you were and still are a part of my being



A better person, indeed, you all made me
Thus thankful I am to all of you.
Yes.
Good bye is so hard to say
But I am leaving a piece of me with each of you.
It seems to be over, but it is not so
My love for you will ever be there
Like footprints on the sands of time
And whenever you look inside
you will find me there smiling for your brilliant start ...
Remember the days we were together
May come back again
And give us the strength
To look at the future
From a past
That is ever Present .
Dedicated with love and best wishes to my first
year students, Lab. Dept. Hodeidah University.

Arif Ahmed Al-Ahdal
Demonstrator, College of Education,
Hodeidah
arif_al_ahdal@yahoo.com

Readers' Forum

Dear Dr. Sahu

With much respect I write my first letter to you, and at the same time express my feelings towards your commendable efforts through the column 'Improve Your English'. Really it's marvelous and useful.
I'm a regular reader of Yemen Times. Will you please answer the following queries?
1. I have read in one of the previous issues about the word 'Carrier'.
You have mentioned that it means "a person or animal that carries or transmits a disease". Can it also be used for a company who carries and conveys different goods?
2. May you bring out the differences between these words:
password - countersign
caress - hug
Once again, thanks a lot for your efforts.
With best wishes.
Mohammed A. Al-Owaili

Dear Mohammed
Thanks for your compliments.

Regarding your query 'Carrier' is a word that has several meanings including the one you have mentioned. Please note that some words can be used in more sense than one. I usually mention one of the commonest senses in which the word is used in the word.
Coming to the word 'Countersign', it means 'to sign a paper that has already been signed by someone else'. It is done to further authenticate the contents of an official document.
'Password' is a secret word or phrase that someone has to speak before they are allowed to enter a sensitive place such as a military camp. Passwords are known to all the bonafide members of the camp and are a means of preventing entry of any undesirable person or one from the enemy camp.
The difference between 'caress' and 'hug' is as follows:
'hug' is the action of putting your arm around someone and holding them tightly to show love or friendship, whereas 'caress' means a gentle loving touch or kiss.

—Dr. Sahu

WONDERWORD

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

Account	Free	Memories	Rinse	Test
Audible	Fresh	Nail	Runs	Text
Bags	Gather	Nose	Safe	Throat
Bare	Glassy	Note	Sand	Track
Bright	Hail	Oral	Sales	Transparent
Button	Head	Over	Sell	True
Clarity	Hearing	Pardon	Serene	Unequivocal
Clog	House	Pass	Settle	Vacant
Coast	Intent	Patent	Sharp	Vacuous
Days	Land	Plain	Shiny	Vanish
Definite	Legible	Polish	Sight	Vault
Eliminate	Lines	Pool	Simple	Skies
Empty	Loss	Precise	Skin	View
Enlighten	Loud	Profit	Slate	Water
Erase	Lucent	Purify	Smooth	Weather
Evidence	Lucid	Quit	Spot	Whistle
Exonerate	Make	Rain	Stark	
Eyes	Manner	Read	Sure	
Finish	Marked	Release	Sweep	
	Mass	Removal		

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Shutters

IT'S CLEAR

U	G	T	A	O	R	H	T	V	A	N	I	S	H	N	T	R	A	C	K
S	N	N	R	E	S	I	M	P	L	E	W	E	I	V	I	S	S	A	P
E	I	E	H	A	F	D	A	Y	S	T	L	R	U	N	S	A	U	F	M
L	R	T	Q	O	N	E	N	T	S	H	O	U	S	E	T	L	R	T	A
L	A	A	R	U	S	S	E	I	I	G	A	E	C	H	S	E	E	X	R
G	E	P	S	K	I	N	P	R	A	I	A	R	N	I	S	S	N	E	K
B	H	S	I	E	N	V	W	A	F	L	E	B	P	H	D	I	O	T	E
E	A	E	S	P	O	A	O	L	R	N	P	U	R	I	F	Y	L	L	D
C	S	R	H	E	T	U	V	C	N	E	E	R	E	V	O	D	I	O	V
N	D	E	E	E	T	L	M	A	C	S	N	X	M	F	S	M	D	M	P
E	A	N	R	W	U	T	M	E	C	L	S	T	O	T	I	U	Q	A	D
D	B	E	A	S	B	R	L	A	S	A	A	T	V	N	O	N	U	S	A
I	O	R	A	L	A	B	T	E	K	T	N	Y	A	L	E	D	I	S	E
V	E	T	I	N	I	F	E	D	A	E	D	T	L	R	I	R	M	S	R
E	T	G	O	C	G	A	N	E	T	C	Y	E	P	R	B	K	O	A	E
T	S	O	E	L	H	I	E	U	C	E	U	M	L	P	O	O	L	T	C
H	A	L	P	A	A	T	L	S	O	S	W	E	A	T	H	E	R	T	E
G	O	C	I	S	I	S	U	O	U	C	A	V	H	P	A	R	D	O	N
I	C	O	N	S	L	E	S	O	N	O	T	E	E	S	I	C	E	R	P
S	H	I	N	Y	W	H	I	S	T	L	E	M	E	M	O	R	I	E	S

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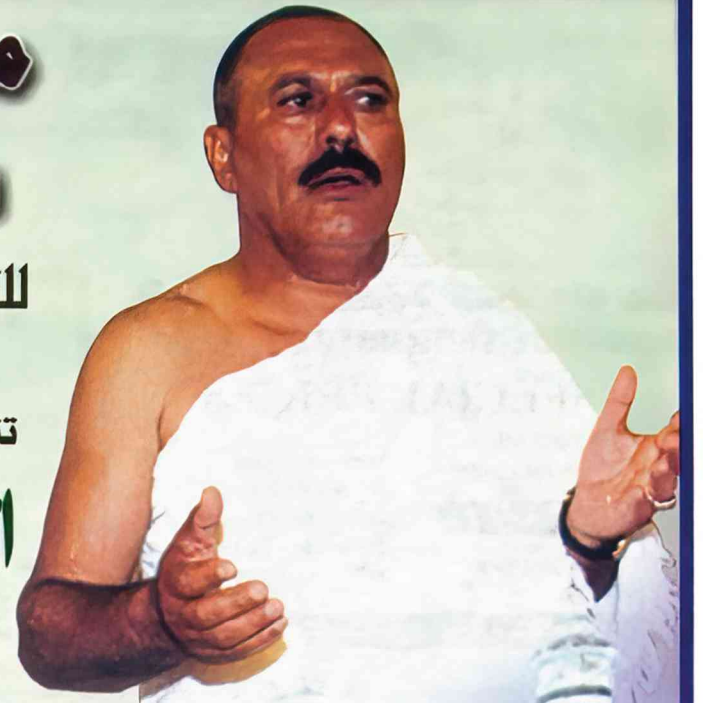
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H. E. Ali Abdullah Saleh,
and the Yemeni people

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On the occasion of performing
the rituals of the pilgrimage and
on the occasion of his safe return.

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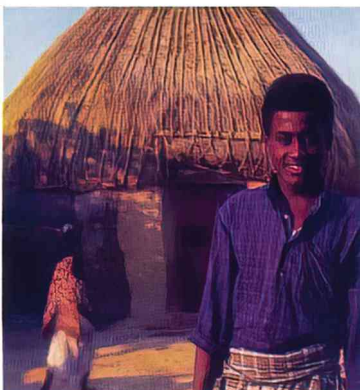
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Tradition says it's named after a woman

Hodiedah's history and beauty



By ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF



A man from Zabid clothed in a traditional costume and stands in front of a tomb-like house built from fronds and mud.

The history of Hodiedah is rich and old as one can imagine. Al Mukhtaf in Yemen's History, written by the Yemeni historian Abdullah Abdulkareem Al Gurafi, says that there was a lady named Hodiedah in the year 700 of Hijrah, owning a place for rest frequently visited by foreigners and travelers and from whom the name of the city originated.

Another book written by Judge Ahmed

Othman Mutair says that Hodiedah was first a small village and it came to be known as a governorate only in the year 946 of Hijrah, and it gained its fame from the strategic location it occupies on the

Red Sea. The location made it the target of Portuguese, Italians and Britons during the colonization period.

Continued on P. 17

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