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Yemeni protesters call for permission to fight US, UK troops

## Jihad calls...

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

As the war in Iraq enters its second week, protests against the US-UK war against Iraq continue and reached the level of calling for jihad.

Yemeni journalists joined the public on Saturday in expressing anger against the war that claimed many lives of innocent people. Last week both the Yemeni parliament and Shura council denounced the war and thousands of people protested Thursday and

Saturday in Sana'a.

They all called for an immediate cease for the war, demanding the Arab rulers to do something.

Protesters were led by some religious scholars and political parties in the opposition and ruling party. They denounced the defeatism of Arab regimes.

They gathered around at Al-Tahreer Square at the heart of the Yemeni capital where some speeches were delivered.

Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani said Jihad has become compulsory on all Muslims, who

should start fighting the enemy. He said "the aggression is a crime denounced by peoples all over the world. Bloodshed for the oil."

He pointed out that all people should be ready to face the colonialism, demanding the activation of the joint Arab defense treaty.

The protesters were very angry, demanding that borders should be opened for people to defend Iraq.

They shouted "America is a terrorist country," "Heroes of Um al-Kasr are heroes of Arabs," "Death to America, Death to Israel."

Continued on page 3

## Is this Iraqi freedom?



An Iraqi man carries his child, who was wounded during recent air strikes, into hospital on the outskirts of Baghdad March 22. The United States subjected Baghdad to another day of unrelenting air strikes on Saturday and Iraq hit back with a car bomb attack that killed at least five people at a U.S. military checkpoint in the south. Most Iraqis have expressed anger and dismay at the US-UK attack, which they say, has contradicted the US claim that its purpose is to liberate them. More inside... REUTERS

## ... and scholars approve it

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A statement calling for Jihad in all forms against US and UK troops in Iraq has been issued by the Yemeni Scholars Society, which is represented by a group of prominent religious scholars, who are well-respected throughout Yemen and the Muslim world. This comes in harmony with the statement of Sheikh

Abdulmajeed al-Zindani and many religious scholars in the Arab world, who assert that Jihad has now become an obligation on all Muslims.

The statement also banned any physical or moral support to the attack on Iraq, and declared protest against the war.

The statement called Islamic and Arab nations to offer support for their brothers in Palestine and Iraq as a part of a Jihad campaign, including donating blood to the Red Crescent

Society for Iraqi victims.

The scholars said that the "US-led war against Iraq is a violation of the three celestial religions, international laws, conventions of the security council, and resolutions of Islamic and Arab summits."

The scholars demanded immediate medical assistance for the Iraqi people and re-affirmed the duty of standing in solidarity with Iraqis in all possible means of Jihad.



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*So far, everything is on schedule for elections on April 27:*

# War won't stop election

MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
AND HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

War in Iraq won't stop preparations for the 27 April elections which are in full swing by the Supreme Committee for Election and Referendum, SCER.

Applications for candidates for the parliamentary membership has been still going on by the those who are politically affiliated or independents.

Preparations for the upcoming elections will last for a 10-day period starting from last Tuesday and will continue the coming Thursday.

The SCER officials have declared that the elections application of the eligible applicants will last 10- days and will be distributed to all 301 electoral constituencies.

A SCER official has denied any possibility to postpone the 27 April parliamentary elections due to the US-led war against Iraq.

Meanwhile, the General Peoples Conference, GPC has declared some of its candidates including a female candidate now a member of the current parliament.

Political observers and politicians feel disappointed due to the absence of female candidates in the parliament.

This has occurred in a time in which the PGC has earlier declared its total support for candidates.

Allotting 50 percent parliamentary seats has been repeatedly reiterated by the GPC leaders. But only one female candidate is up for reelection.

A host of politicians and political observers are desiring to increase female candidates in order to reach at least 10 female parliamentarians.

In the same context, al-Methaq, a weekly PGC-run newspaper, has published PGC candidates. Most of those candidates have been reelected or replaced by other parliamentarians.

In the same context, out of 301 constituencies only 100 were agreed upon by the Joint Meeting Parties, JMP where 201 constituencies have been still a controversial matter.

It is worthwhile mentioning that

Islah and Socialist parties disagreed about the constituencies in Aden, Taiz and Ibb where both parties claim right and priority over some constituencies.

In the same context, both parties agreed on constituencies in other governorates where political observers believe that the constituencies disagreed upon will be competitive ones.

The PGC has decided last Tuesday to contest in 277 constituencies so far but it said that it has added 24 other constituencies on Wednesday and Thursday, and thus the PGC will contest in all constituencies that numbered 301.

Although PGC has previously pledged to leave some constituencies for the Socialist Party and other parties claiming that it does not well to have an overwhelming majority.

Islah Party on its side has nominated its official candidates in 200 constituencies in addition to other candidates who will contest elections as independents.

Socialists party on its side - and amidst its disagreements with the Islah party- has decided so far to contest only in 60 constituencies.

Many political observers have expressed concerns over a possible untying among the JMP for many reasons one of which is attributed to Islah's reuniting with its old ally, the ruling party, PGC.

This has been manifested itself in some rumors that Sheikh Abdullah Bin Husien al-Ahmer might become the parliament speaker for the successive third time.

Contrary to rumors that Abd Alaziz A. al-Ghani, the Chairman of the Shura Council will replace sheik al-Ahmer, the former has ruled out his contest in constituency 11 in which Husien Almaswari Capital Secretariat ex-mayor and a current member of the Shura Council will contest.

The local political observers see that the upcoming 27 April parliamentary elections will be of a great democratic significance due to the coalition of the opposition parties on one hand and the GPC and the Islah party on the other.



*Following news about planned attacks in Sanaa*

## US embassy reduces staff

BY REUTERS  
& YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United States offered free flights home for some staff at its embassy in Sanaa Friday because of what it called 'credible reports of planned attacks on U.S. interests' there.

The offer, known as an authorized departure, applies to adult relatives of embassy staff and to "non-emergency personnel," the State Department said in a travel warning.

The United States had already made the Yemeni capital Sanaa a post to which embassy staff may not bring their children.

"Due to credible reports that terrorists have planned attacks against U.S. interests in Yemen and heightened tensions and increased security concerns resulting from the current situation in the region, the security threat to all American citizens in Yemen remains high," the warning said.

It repeated a warning that all U.S. citizens put off any plans to visit Yemen because of the alleged threats and the tension over the U.S. invasion

of Iraq.

The Washington Post had also reported on Saturday that authorities in Yemen have broken up plots by Iraqis who were preparing to bomb Western targets in the country in recent days, according to U.S. government officials.

"Yemeni authorities raided a house in the capital city of Sanaa Wednesday night, where they arrested a small group of Iraqis and seized a cache of explosives that they believe were to be used against the U.S. and British embassies," the paper said.

On another level, after Iraq, Yemen will be the next target of the United States, said Sundeep Waslekar, president of the Strategic Foresight Group, a Mumbai-based think-tank on foreign policy, security and governance issues.

Waslekar claims to have accurately predicted the US attack on Iraq way back in September 2001 and has released two reports on the future of India and Pakistan.

This prediction contradicts with the fact that Yemen has been a strong ally of the US, especially concerning the war against terror.

## Gas trucks seized in Marib

Gas trucks have been still seized by a number of tribesmen on the Marib-Sana'a highway.

The seizures of those gas trucks have come under the pretext of pressurizing the authority to oblige the merchants to give money to the tribesmen there.

The debts have been estimated at USD 3 million for those merchants.

The seizure of the gas trucks by the tribesmen in Marib constitutes a teething problem threatening the population of the capital Sana'a.

*A symposium on election control*

## Elections need transparency

Under the motto of "Toward Effective Participation and Neutral Control Electoral Process," a symposium organized by the Shura Council in cooperation with the National Organization for Election Control (NOEC) on election control was held on Saturday in Sanaa.

A speech was delivered by Mr. Fuad al-Kumaim representing the NOEC in which he emphasized on the need for transparency during the voting and vote counting processes of any free election.

On his part, the Chairman of the Shura Council, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani gave a statement focusing

on the significance of elections in enhancing Yemen's democratic experience and in promoting democratic values among the public.

The symposium aimed at determining notions relative to the election process and enhancing contacts among political parties in order to make the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for the 27th of April a success.

It is worth noting that a number local and international non-governmental organizations alongside international observers will work on monitoring those elections.



## Al-Zaidi deteriorates

Sources close to Mohammed al-Zaidi, who is now receiving treatment in a Sana'a hospital, say that his health condition has been deteriorating after three bullets hit him in his backbone smashing three vertebrae and injuring the spinal cord.

Al-Zaidi, whom authorities accused of kidnapping German diplomat Peter Burns, came back from Afghanistan five years ago.

He was attacked in his house by two soldiers of the 25th Regiment in Marib.

Official sources pointed out that the assassination attempt was successful despite the death of one of the perpetrators. Serawah district people in

Marib issued a statement asking Yemen's president, organizations and human rights activists to cooperate to stop such violations and transgression that are considered terrorist actions practiced by powerful security and military in Marib.

They numbered the killings of innocent citizens, forcible and random arrests of people, the destroying of people houses, hits on peaceful villages with tanks and artillery and the deliberate prevention from education, health and other services.

The statement pointed out also that they intend to file a lawsuit against the officials.

That's the first of its kind in Marib.

## Oil spill causes concern

Security officials told Yemen Times that the fire that erupted off a non-Yemeni ship near the port of Haidobo in Hadramout governorate resulted from spilled crude oil. "Several tons of oil spilled to the sea" the source said.

The sources added that the government requested from the Environment Protection Council to estimate the environmental damage caused by this incident so as to hold the owners of the ship responsible for the hazards and environmental damage caused to the area.

## Journalists charged

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The southwest capital court issued an order relating to the sentencing of three journalists for publishing articles for some of Arab writers such as Mohammed Hassannein Haikal, and Mr. Abdulbari Atwan.

Those writers are Ali Assaqqaf, editor-in-chief of al-Wahdawi newspaper, the organ of the Nasserite party, Ahmed Saeed Naser, editing secretary and Abdulaziz Ismael, an editor.

The lawsuit has been filed by the prime minister, Dr. Abdulqader

Bajammal against those writers for publishing articles which have harmed the Yemeni-Saudi relationships.

On its part, the Yemeni Union for Defending Journalists has expressed its concerns over issuing such an order.

The law is considered according to Yemeni Union for Defending Journalists to be prejudiced for the benefit of the prime minister.

The union has committed itself to appeal the order of the journalists and that journalists have the right of freedom of speech

## 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:**

**Do you think that the Yemeni leadership should allow Yemenis to go to Iraq for Jihad?**

- Yes,
- No,
- I don't know

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:**

**Do you sincerely think that the US-led war would eventually take over Iraq?**

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Yes                | 68.4% |
| No                 | 22.6% |
| Let's wait and see | 8.9%  |

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*In an anti-war sit-in in Sanaa, journalists denounce US-UK war on Iraq:*

# Iraq needs no liberation

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of journalists and writers from different political and social backgrounds staged an anti war sit-in for about three hours in the headquarters of the Yemeni Journalist's Syndicate (YJS) in Sana'a last Saturday.

During the sit-in, journalists protested the US-led war against Iraq and called upon the government and public

to work on stopping it.

A number of speeches were delivered by journalists and politicians during the event, in which they offered their total support to the Iraqi people.

The chairman of the YJS, Mr. Mahboob Ali said during his speech that the US-led "aggression targets the entire Islamic and Arab nations."

"Defending Iraq is a duty and obligation of all Arabs and Muslims," he said.

"Striking the Iraqi TV Satellite Channel and the radio station is against



Mahboob Ali

Mohammed Assabri

Ahmed Qasem Dammaj

Abdulbari Taher

international law. The main objective of the USA in this war is to terrorize and commit genocide against the Iraqi people."

Mr. Mahboob called upon the Arab regimes to take decisive and solid steps to support their brothers in Iraq and exert economical and political power against the US and Britain to stop this war because he speculates that it would eventually reach them as well.

Mr. Mohammed Assabri, a political writer and analyst said in his speech that "journalists have a pivotal role to play during this critical time. It is crystal clear that the media's influence comes before any military battle on the ground."

"The US administration is currently controlling international mass media in the world to serve its own interests and to promote its war against Iraqi people. America has recently attacked the Iraqi satellite TV channel and radio stations in a desperate attempt to silence the only voice of the Iraqis, who are resisting this invasion bravely. There is no doubt that this war would bring about the worst type of colonization ever witnessed in history," he said.

"We at the YJS have a humane and national obligation to help Iraqi people simply because as Arabs, we are part of Iraq and Iraq is part of us. Opposition as well as independent newspapers have to commit themselves to unveil the disgraceful crimes committed against humanity by the US invaders in

Iraq... As for the so called 'freedom for Iraqis', when in history did the US willingly desire to liberate any nation just for the sake of liberation? What we see today is an attempt by the US not only to enslave Iraqis, but also to commit genocide against them," he concluded.

Later on, a speech by Mr. Ahmed Qasem Dammaj, the Chairman of the Yemen Writers and Authors Union highlighted the passive role of the UN towards the Iraqi issue and stressed that the US war is only a beginning of a series of attacks on other Arab countries. "The US aggression targets not only Iraq, but the entire Arab world," he said.

Similarly, Mr. Abdulbari Taher, a prominent writer and political analyst, said that the regimes of the Arabian Peninsula have earlier called for Jihad in Afghanistan and therefore should also rally in support for Jihad calls against the US invasion in Iraq.

"We observe that by all measures, the US public's stance in defending Iraq is better than that of the Arabs...Public reactions taking place now in Iran and in Pakistan are far much stronger than those in Arab countries including Yemen" Taher said.

"We should build up faith in ourselves because our cause is just. We should join hands in support of Iraq and its people with genuine sincerity and without hypocrisy or deceptions," he concluded.

## Yemen's youth need support

Participants in a recent workshop on the needs of Yemen's youth stressed on importance of establishing youth homes in all Yemeni governorates.

The workshop concluded in Aden last week.

It also suggested that police need to care about juveniles and stressed the importance of paying attention to more education for the workers with juveniles, and the role of media programs for juveniles cases.

The participants also called for the

governmental and non-governmental organizations pay more attention to juveniles through studies and research.

They asked interested sides to include articles about child rights conventions and juveniles care laws in the secondary school curriculum, making campaigns to roll back begging in the cities and planting valuable religious principles.

The Yemeni Psyche Society in Aden organized the workshop.

## Cancer center coming

Preparations are in full swing to establish a cancer treatment center using nuclear rays in Aljumhori hospital in Sana'a.

A meeting was held recently at the Ministry of Public Health and Population centering on vital issues related to the installations to be used in the center.

The center will be established according to the international standards and will be officially inaugurated at the end of 2003.

Dr. Abdulnasser al-Munaibari, the

Minister of the Public Health and Population, also recently met officials in Dhamar governorate. The meeting was attended by the World Health Organizations representatives, the rector of Dhamar university, and Yemeni medical experts.

The health minister discussed with the attendees the results achieved during the last year, and difficulties encountered by the council.

"The best way to promote health services in Yemen is to train local doctors," said Dr. al-Munaibari.



Minister of the Public Health and Population meets with the official in Dhamar



Journalist during anti-war sit-in staged at the head quarter of YJS, February 29.

Continued from page 1

## Jihad calls...

Hundreds of demonstrators moved to al-Sabeen Square and wanted to head towards the UK embassy. But, the riot police prevented them. They threw stones.

The protest was highly protected by riot police which feared any violence like the week before where as many as four Yemenis were killed.

The Yemeni government put several opposition leaders in jail, claiming they were behind the violence. The authorities also demanded that the

ue their protests condemning the war and it stressed that the Security Council should take a move to stop the war.

It considered the war as a great challenge to the international law and UN charter. It also said that the warring coalition claim that they want to establish a democratic system in Iraq is not acceptable as "each nation has the freedom to chose its political regime."

Democracy can not be imposed by



Angry protestors near Al-Tahreer square, Sanaa

diplomatic immunity of two of them should be withdrawn.

But the parliament and Shura council refused such a demand made by the General prosecutors.

Abdulwahed Hawash, Assistant Secretary General of Baath Party, showed dissatisfaction over the statement issued by the scholars and said it should have called for closure of the aggressive countries embassies and that their ambassadors should be expelled.

He emphasized that protests will continue. The opposition condemned the way by which the riot police dealt with protesters the week before.

The Yemeni parliament denounced the war last Monday and stressed in a press statement that the war is targeting the whole Arab and Islamic nations.

It appealed to the "international community to stop the barbaric war and protect the Iraqi people against the US plan designed to serve the interest of Zionism." It also called all Arabs and Muslims to get ready for the confrontation with imperialism aiming to change the culture, ethics of these people.

The parliament called Arab regimes to be responsible towards Iraq and that they should not keep mute as the danger will devour the whole. It called all anti-war people worldwide to contin-

force or come through heavy artillery and bombs."

On its part, the Shura council called all legislative councils in the world to do "their national and ethical roles to stop the aggression, supporting the Iraqi people to defend themselves and protect the sovereignty of their country."

The Yemeni religious scholars denounced the war and said it is a part of Zionist and colonial plan to control the Arab and Islamic world, fighting against its religion.

In general, the Yemeni media has been confused in covering the war, unsure whether to call it war or aggression. This has shown the confusion of the political regime's stance also, because of the pressure it has been put under by the US.

However, the official media are now giving more attention to the war and its ramifications. They are also denouncing the aggression very strongly.

The Yemeni government announced that it refused an American request to dismiss some Iraqi diplomats, considering such a request interference in the internal affairs of Yemen.

Mosque sermons preachers denounced last Friday the aggression and its imperialistic aims serving Israel and called for the support for the Iraqi people.

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## Technology exhibition planned

Under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Ministry of Communication is preparing to hold the 5th annual al-Jazeera Exhibition for information and communication technology from July 3 to 7 during Expo-Sana'a.

Omar al-Nehmi, marketing manager for Apollo Company for International Exhibition said "This exhibition has about 50 international companies in computer, communications, webs systems, programs and technology that will participate." He added that this sector has received support from the political leadership, and Yemeni citizens desire to have international companies enter the Yemeni market to introduce the younger generation into the technology field.

This important scientific event for this year comes at the same time the president has given an exemption decree for computers, and implemented enormous projects in the infrastructure of information and communication.



tion.

A preparatory committee has formed from the National Information Center, the communication ministry, and well-known businessmen who will be help make the event successful.

Another committee is also formed for choosing the best among the competitive companies in prices, technology, services facilities...etc to grant them certificates and privileges.

A seminar for information and communication will coincide with the event supervised by Yemeni Industrialists Association.

There are 250 participants nominated from governmental and non-governmental sides who will benefit from the papers to be given by a number of experts in technology and networks.

## Lab equipment from Brits

British Ambassador Frances Guy visited Safiya Bint Abdulmutaleb Girls School in Sana'a on March.

School director Asia Shawqi, the head of the local council and the director of the educational area all welcomed the ambassador and thanked her for her efforts in supporting the school.

The ambassador attended the school assembly in the morning and visited some of the classes. She also discussed

various schooling activities with the pupils.

Safiya School recently received chemistry and physics lab equipment under the Small Grants Scheme from the British Council.

The SGS is currently managed by the Department for International Development (DFID) in the British Embassy and is supporting health and educational projects in Yemen.

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## Al-Moutasem School honors students



Top students were honored by Yahya al-Qaheera, to principal.

Top students for the first mid-term of the 2002-2003 school year were honored by Yahya Mohammed al-Qaheera, the headmaster of al-Moutasem school, along with school deputies and supervisors.

Al-Qaheera honored the excellent students in the presence of their parents who came to share in their children's happiness.

Meanwhile, Mahdi Yahya al-Khoydi said the school had entered a number of cultural, sport, marathon competition because of the school manager's encouragement.

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*The world changing*

# We've lost tribal honor

BY FADL AHMED ABBAS AL-MOHSEN  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**T**ribes are clusters of people who have mutual customs, traditions and who live in one specific land.

Tribalism is the action of abiding or practicing the tribal norms in the tribesman life. This idiom is still alive in some countries, specially the Arabic peninsula and some African states.

In Yemen, there are several tribes and every one has its own special traditions and norms, so here the question rises, is tribalism good or bad? Which society is better: the civil or the tribal one?

It is not an easy task to know whether it is good or bad unless we get a lot of information from reliable sources, about tribalism, its advantages and disadvantages, or if we conduct studies ourselves about it.

It is said that tribalism is a bad thing. On the other hand, it is said that it is good! Why this contradiction and which one is true?

For us, we can give our opinion by mentioning how tribalism was in the past and how it is now. In retrospect, tribalism has meant generosity, and helping the poor and oppressed. It

was the nobility, daintiness, and courage. etc.

If any tribesman committed any fault, that meant that he disaffirmed his tribe.

Tribesman were not to tell lies, steal, and overstep the norms and laws. He was doing his best in developing his society.

But the nowadays tribalism is something different. Instead of following his predecessors and abiding by his tribe's norms and laws to serve his tribe as well as his country, tribesmen of today

have moved to the other side. Today the tribesman does so many bad things, by which he doesn't only disaffirm the reputation of his tribe but of his country abroad. He disaffirms tribalism as well.

For an illustration, take some of the things he practices: he smuggles, tells lies, and derides the social status and the vocational professions of others.

Why? What an ignorant thing! Moreover, some have no patriotism. This is noticeable in disobeying laws. Thereby, it is not hard for such tribes

get financial sums to cause riots.

The tribal men of today breach laws and practices by kidnapping foreigners to blackmail authority. Is that brave action? Is it tribalism to kill your brother for trifling things?

Is it tribalism to carry weapon in towns, especially in the capital, Sana'a. Why do you carry it? This means that you are not a real tribesman because the tribal man goes unarmed and has safe with steady steps. He is not afraid of any one for he did not do, in his life, any bad thing to be afraid of.

Is it also tribalism to be a bandit and to explode public amenities such as the pipelines of petrol and some embassies?

So many questions like these are in crying need for answers.

To bring the point home, the only criterion of tribalism is that tribalism is not only for the people of power and of high ranks, but also for the ones who understand its meaning and abide it. Tribalism can be demon, if disregard the invalid and primitive norms like the one that says education of woman is a taboo thing.

In the corrupted and ignorant world of today that is changing around us, is it not better for us if we did not call ourselves tribesmen? Is it not?



## Yemen Times honors companies in Taiz

TAIZ - On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the Yemen Times, a number of Taiz-based companies have been given certificates by Taiz-Hodeidah Bureau chief Emad Al-Saqqaf.

Those companies have good relations with the Yemen Times and also took part in the million competitions.

The following are the honored companies:

- Yemen Company for Ghee and Soap Industries certificate received by Mokhtar al-Faqih, the Marketing Manager.
- National Dairy and Food Company certificate received by Wael Al-Doba'ee, the Marketing Manager.
- General Industries and Packages Company certificate received by Mohammed al-Basha, Marketing

Manager.

- Yemen

Company for

Industry and

Commerce Ltd. certificate received by

Saif Addeen,

Marketing Manager.

- Mas Company

for Technical and

Ads Production certificate received by

Waheeb al-Herwi,

General Manager.

- Hael Saeed

Ana'am Group of

Companies certificate received by

Waqass al-Ahdal, the Marketing

Manager.



Taiz Bureau Chief gives certificate of honor to Al-Doba'ee, Marketing Manager of the National Dairy and Food Company



Taiz Bureau Chief gives certificate of honor to al-Faqih, the Marketing Manager of the Yemen Company for Ghee and Soap Industries

Manager.

The marketing manager spoke highly of the Yemen Times, the first widely-

read English newspaper in Yemen. They also praised the newspaper's millions competition and its credibility.

## Wurood School visits YT

A group of students of Wurood Private School in Sana'a visited the Yemen Times Tuesday.

The group was given an introduction and background on the newspaper's history, mission and other issues and met with Editor-in-Chief Walid Al-Saqqaf. They toured the newspaper's premises and also met with heads of the different departments, who explained their duties and operations.

The school's headmaster Faisal Hassan Abu Ayyash said that the group

was motivated to visit Yemen Times because they knew it as the most popular English-language newspaper in Yemen.

"We felt that a visit to Yemen Times would give our students an insight into true professional journalism."

Wurood School is a private institute that provides education for primary, preparatory, and secondary students.

The school, which was established in 2002, has an English-language department as well.



### 20 ready for suicide operations in Iraq

## Women stand in Jihad's line

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Hundreds of Yemeni women protested in Sana'a Saturday the US-led war against Iraq and demanded the Yemeni government to stop all sorts of cooperation with countries participating in or supporting this war, while around 20 women declared they would go to Iraq to carry out suicidal attacks against US and UK troops.

The protestors gathered around at Al-Tahreer Square, where speeches against the war were delivered by several prominent women. They carried posters denouncing the war, demanding the Arab leaders to wake up and do something to stop the massacres the US-UK troops are carrying out against innocent people in Iraq. They demanded that all contacts with the USA and

Britain be stopped immediately and opening borders for fighters to defend Iraq.

Some 20 women came with white coffins marked with blood. "I am prepared to go and perform martyrdom and defend my brothers in Iraq. I am prepared for death", one of these women told the Yemen Times.

It was announced during the ceremony that many of these demonstrators donated their jewels and properties for Iraqi people. They said this is a stupid war aiming to blunder the oil and resources of the Iraqi people and that it will start in Baghdad but it will never end if no serious action is taken to stop the barbaric invaders.

The protestors demanded, in a press statement, the Yemeni authorities to stop all facilities offered to the attack-

ers, closing the Al-Mandab routes through which the warships pass. They also demanded that the ambassadors of the invading countries be expelled and oil deals with these countries terminated. They also requested that authorities provide easy access for fighters willing to reach Iraq to fight alongside the Iraqi people. They warned the political regime in Yemen not to distant itself from the people, and instead resisting US pressure and standing for Iraq. They said only then will the ruling party gain their votes in the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for less than a month from now.

The protestors wanted to march to the UK embassy but riot police prevented them from approaching the embassy's building. The protest later ended peacefully.

## Yemen gets US \$11 million from Japan

SANA'A - Grants totalling US \$11 million have been given to Yemen from Japan.

The deals were signed at Yemen's Ministry of Planning and Development office by Hisham Sharaf Abdulla, Deputy Minister of Planning and Development for International Cooperation and Masamitsu Oki, ambassador of Japan to Yemen.

A press release by the Japanese embassy in Sana'a said the first agreement concerns a non-project grant Aid of US \$8.3 million.

This grant, which is the fifth if its kind extended to Yemen, is to promote the economic structural efforts of Yemen's government.

The two governments agreed to allocate a portion of the grant to support solid waste management projects in a number of governorates. The bal-

ance will go to other development projects.

Japan has extended in the past four similar grants for the same purposes totalling US \$50 million.

The other two agreements concern 4th and 5th installments of Japanese debt relief grants. These two new grants amount up to U.S. \$2.9 million based on the resolution of the Trade & Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development.

It's geared to give debt relief to countries which have been facing serious difficulties in servicing their debts.

Such grants are to be used, in consultation with the government of Japan, to purchase products that contribute to the development of Yemen's economy and people.

### National University table tennis championship concluded:

## Adeni women and Sanaani men excel

HODEIDAH - Under the auspices of Dr. Yahya al-Shuaibi, the Minister of the Higher Education, Mr. Mohammed Saleh Shamlan, the Governor of Hodeidah and Dr. Qasem Buraih, the Rector of Hodeidah University the first competition of table tennis was hosted by Hodeidah University from March 24 to 27.

**First:** Ahmed al-Matari and Khaled Arrebahi (Sana'a University)  
**Second:** Yousef Alwan and Adam Ismael (Ibb University)

#### Singles results

**First:** Ahmed al-Matri (Sana'a)  
**Second:** Yousef Alwan (Ibb)

#### Female results

**Team results**  
**First:** Aden University, **Second:** Taiz University

#### Doubles results:

**First:** Montaha Abdulrab & Najat Alwan (Taiz University)  
**Second:** Eliza Faisal Assabri & Yousra Hassan (Aden University)

#### Single results:

**First:** Eliza Faisal Assabri (Aden University)  
**Second:** Montaha Abdulrab (Taiz University)

**The table-tennis championship results are as follows:**

#### Male Students results

#### Team results

**First:** Sana'a University, **Second:** Ibb University, **Third:** Taiz University, **Fourth:** Hadhramout University, **Fifth:** Aden University, **Sixth:** Higher Institute, **Seventh:** Hodeidah University and **Eighth:** Dhamar University.

#### Doubles results

## Annual conference to discuss poverty

The Women's Forum for Research and Training (WFRT) will organize its 3rd Conference in Aden City April 1-2.

Titled "Poverty is flagrant violation for Human Rights" it is cooperation with the Canada Development Program for Local Initiatives.

The conference aims at highlighting problems inside and outside that cause poverty to spread, and the accompanied illiteracy, oppression and violence that change societies life

into consumerism rather than the life and social and human relationships.

Moreover, poverty represents a flagrant violation of human rights, humanity, and equality between men and women in all social, economic, political and law fields.

It is expected that female and male experts and specialists are going to participate, as well as governmental, non-governmental, experts in human rights and economic systems.



Yemeni women protested in Sana'a last Saturday against US-led war on Iraq



# Who is flouting Geneva conventions?

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**W**ho is treating prisoners of war fairly and who is not? That is the question in light of the US-led war against Iraq, which, according to some observers, violates Geneva Conventions.

Civilians in Iraq have been greatly affected by that war.

Meanwhile, U.S. president George Bush and U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair say that Iraq has violated Geneva Conventions for its treatment of war

prisoners after Iraq aired TV pictures of U.S. prisoners.

A number of Yemeni lawyers and those interested in human rights have criticized those statements, especially since the war has been started by the U.S. and U.K. unilaterally.

They say war prisoners from the Taliban and others at Camp X-ray at Guantanamo base in Cuba are being treated in a way that is a flagrant violation to the Geneva Convention on the treatment of the war prisoners, and that the UN and the international community have to be held accountable for such violations.

Meanwhile, The Iraqi defense minis-

ter says that his nation will keep the moral principles of the Geneva Conventions as the US president is demanding.

"We are obliged to treat the war prisoners properly," he said. The Geneva Conventions constitute a significant progress of the human international laws and that international community should show adherence to those agreements.

Those agreements were issued in 1994, putting stress on protecting victims of war, taking care of the injured, and giving treatment of war prisoners, and protecting civilians during wartime.



# Modern Administration

BY ANWAR A AL-SAQQA  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**T**he political will of the government has to respond to changes and developments in administrative performance, could be considered the foundation in administrative operations, especially at both human labor and state's economy levels.

Restructuring these two levels with new modern mechanisms and administrative techniques would support the Yemeni government, while meanwhile provide good services for the Yemeni people. This includes managerial training, coordination and monitoring of those administrative operations.

There are two main factors that aid the development of administration services in the country. They are simplicity and decentralization. To achieve these two points, there must be rearrangement of organizational structure at all levels and in all departments in order to prevent illegal activities such as bribery, as well as abuse of the authority that results from disrespect of the law and irresponsible attitude towards work. To improve administrative systems and to maintain a certain level of transparency could be achieved only when a strong managerial will exists.

So the policies of simplifying management procedures, along with enforcing decentralization, are approaches to modernization of administration. And actually they are in essence preventive and precautionary as well as penalty policies at the same time, because here ethics take a major role in combination with enforcement of laws. Either aspect, ethics or law, would not be able alone to produce the best results. Therefore, it is important to establish good ethics along with good regulations based on specialization and professional analysis. A specialization that must indeed comply with the law, else it would further degrade the managerial aspects and in fact would be illegal in itself.

From this perception, the vision of simplification, decentralization, and combination of ethics with enforcement of the law in the light of specialized analysis, would greatly enhance the managerial processes and procedures in the country. And therefore improve the services provided to citizens.

However, many authorities do not bother with thinking of methods and ways to improve their management for this would clash with their personal interests. To combat this, studied and practical mechanisms must be introduced for realizing modernized administration under the law and all the legal, political, econom-

ic and administrative regulations, serving to accomplish a process that would fix or even eliminate completely bad managerial behaviors.

With all above explained, how is the current management, seemingly stable and satisfactory with the current situation? The answer is that this false stability is a result of independence of the decision making which means that a single person would be able to make whatever decisions and carry them throughout the department he is working for, regardless to righteous procedures, and with no respect to qualifications and abilities.

This in turn is a consequence of the wrong distribution and utilization of qualifications and abilities and practice of nepotism by senior officials. As a whole there is no balanced vision on employment in the government's establishments and its local bodies. And even if these bodies tried to establish certain management approaches and policies of strategic importance, there are many who don't even see the importance of good management. The citizen is becoming further remote from the state and the state's interests, and if no implementation of the modern administration strategies of simplicity and decentralization take place, it would lead to further deterioration. Specialized skills, professionalism, ethics and enforcement of the law are the gateway to success.

## Celebrates independence

# Tunisia is a success story



By Yasser al-Mayasi  
Yemen Times Staff

**T**he republic of Tunisia celebrated on Thursday March 20 its 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence. For the past 47 years, Tunisian people have been building and establishing a better and honorable life and for their nation.

Every year on this date, Tunisians evaluate their achievements, standing gloriously and respectfully for those who have sacrificed their souls and blood for the sake of an independent and noble life.

Tunisia got independent from French colonialism on March 20, 1959 at which time Tunisian people, men and women, started journey of building and giving.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1987, there began a new era in Modern Tunisia regarding the various pio-

neer achievements that have come with President Zain al-Abedeen Bin Ali. The political life has witnessed development under the political pluralism represented in parliament, local councils and modern laws for organizing elections, parties, press, media and associations that have lead to a developing social and political scene.

Tunisia has witnessed great attention in its economic bases and its contents for building a strong economy to be a safety valve from out-

side changes. The Tunisian economy has achieved 4.5% growth rate through the last years.

The flow of foreign investment has seen crucial development reaching \$600 million. The number of foreign institutions that work in different fields are 2,450, to July 2002.

The tourism sector, that considered one of the economic sectors, shows enormous indications.

The industry sector has fulfilled a 5.6% per cent annually as the exports percentage is 13.5% a year, which enables Tunisia to enhance its portion in the international markets. The size of investment in the industry field rises annually to 9.8%.

Tunisia has emphasized the equality between men and women in citizenship and in front of the law. The Tunisian law and institution have guaranteed women status and her rights in the society.

The numbers and statistics indicate the percentage of girls in the first year in primary school is 99% through the year 2002.

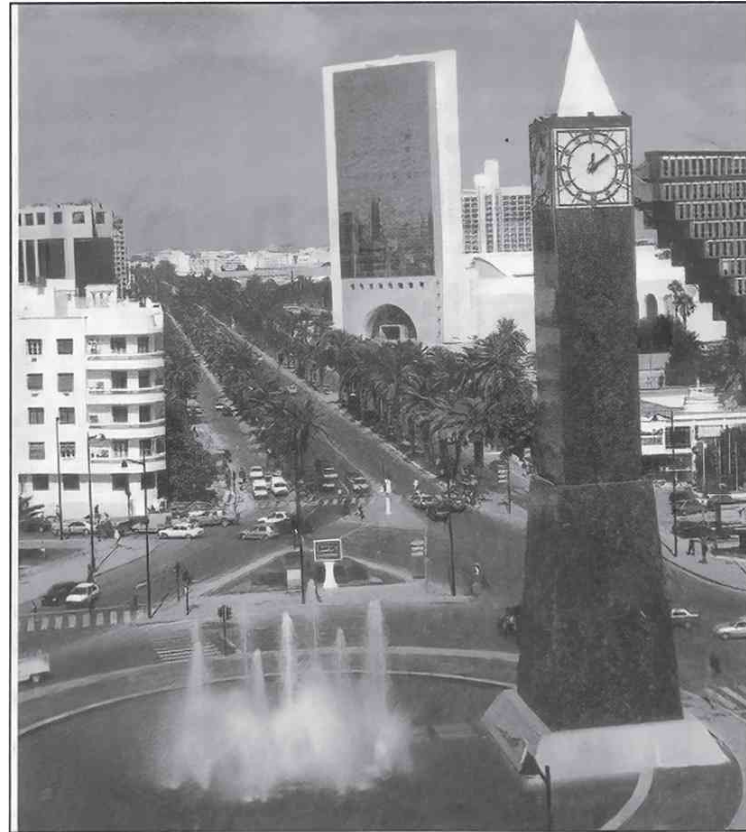
There are five female ministers currently in the government. The percentage of female members in the local councils raises to 2%.

Tunisia has engaged positively in different international conventions related to women.

The Yemeni-Tunisian relationship continues with cooperation.



Zain al-Abedeen  
Bin Ali



7 Nov. Square in the Tunisia, the capital



Banzart city



Broad view of the Tunisia, the capital.



# ANALYSIS-Preventive war opens way to new rules on conflict

BY JANE MACARTNEY,  
ASIAN DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SINGAPORE, March 27 (Reuters) - It sounds like an arcane debate among wordsmiths. But the distinction between pre-emptive and preventive war, drawn by U.S. President George W. Bush in ordering the U.S. invasion of Iraq, could change the face of war.

Galvanised since the September 11 attacks by a need to protect the homeland, Bush has tossed aside, if not quite torn up, the U.N. Charter on war.

Strict conditions exist to undertake pre-emptive war and Bush has bypassed those to launch a preventive war, analysts say.

In simple terms: imagine a row with your neighbour over an overhanging branch. You see him advancing on the bough with his buzzsaw running. You may pre-empt his attack.

But if you just suspect he's been to the hardware store to buy a saw, you may not burn down his garden shed to prevent him taking a slice out of the disputed greenery.

Bush's preventive action is an innovation in contemporary history and opens the way for others to follow suit.

"While it is not true that the U.S. has been able to establish a new norm of prevention, other expedient states may use the U.S. action as justification, even though they are likely to be roundly condemned," said Chris Reus-Smidt of the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University in Canberra.

## WHO WOULD DARE?

There is reason to doubt whether any state would have the courage to take on such condemnation. But many may feel they are next in the firing line.

Thus the ramifications are far-reaching, not just for countries with perceived enemies on their borders such as India and Pakistan, but also for Iran and North Korea — the two nations that Bush bracketed with Iraq in his "axis of evil".

"This is tectonic," said Uday Bhaskar of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi.

"Before March 20 there had been a

sense since the end of World War Two to the end of the Cold War that a certain consensus existed about the use of force and how that should be regulated.

"It sets a precedent," he said. "This is a threat to stability, an action that induces anxiety. The question is why can't it be a France next time, or an India?"

Analysts fear that the period of relative peace since the birth of the United Nations after World War Two, with its strict charter injunction against the use of force, could now be in serious jeopardy.

"The doctrine of pre-emptive war has profoundly destabilising implications for international society," said Reus-Smidt.

"The legal restriction of the use of force to unequivocal acts of self-defence and international peace enforcement actions is one of the principal reasons for the radical decline in interstate wars, even as the number of states has multiplied."

## WHERE ARE THE LIMITS?

Few nations have flouted the U.N. charter that lays out specific conditions for the use of pre-emptive force. Two extraordinary exceptions are Israel's 1981 strike on Iraq's Osirak nuclear plant and the 1967 Six Day War, said Reus-Smidt.

"The major innovation of the Bush doctrine is the idea of prevention, and the war in Iraq can be seen as the first example of this," said Reus-Smidt.

He said Washington, rebuffed in the U.N. Security Council in its quest for world backing to pre-empt Saddam Hussein's suspected weapons programme, had opted to act preventively.

That opens a Pandora's Box. "It's not clear what the limits are," said Hilary Charlesworth, professor at the Centre for International and Public Law at the ANU.

"This leaves the perception of threat in the eye of the beholder."

It reinforces fears of the United States going it alone, snubbing the international community when it suits it, for example on the Kyoto treaty on global warming or the International Criminal Court.

The United States has acted as other countries have throughout history, which is to look for the international law that suits them. And it was that free-for-all approach that the U.N. charter was aimed at halting.

"We could be going back to a pre-U.N. charter world and I find that worrying," said Charlesworth.

Of course, what goes unspoken is that the United States regards itself as an exception, and knows that it can probably get away with a preventive war because it has more toys, and more powerful ones, than anyone else in the playground.

## MORE SACRED THAN OTHERS

"The related political and diplomatic question is 'are we redefining sovereignty?'" said Bhaskar. "It's an Orwellian kind of sovereignty in which some are more sacred than others."

Analysts believe that deterrence may work in this new world, and thus a nuclear-ambitious North Korea may not be next. But what, asked one, would stop China taking a swipe at Taiwan?

"What will be the restraints?" said Charlesworth. "International law is enforced by a sense of reciprocity and this is doing away with the fabric of international law."

Some say international law may have to change to ensure relevance in a world threatened by rogue states and suicide hijackers.

When Osama bin Laden's Islamic revolutionaries flew planes into the World Trade Center, they may not only have transformed the course of history, but have wrought upheaval in the rules of war.

"After September 11, in a world in which unprovoked acts of terrorism could cost hundreds of thousands of lives, deterrence and passive self-defence are not enough," The Australian newspaper wrote in an editorial on Thursday.

That is a view that may hold sway at the Pentagon and in the White House, but stirs anxiety among legal and defence experts.

"What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," said Bhaskar.

# More than 51 people killed in bombings on Baghdad market

CAIRO, March 28 (Xinhua) — A total of 55 people were killed and 47 others injured in coalition's bombings on a market in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, al-Jazeera TV channel reported, quoting an Iraqi source.

However, the Arabic-language TV network did not mention where the market is located in the city, home to 5 million people.

Baghdad has been under devastating bombings over the past nine days since the outbreak of the US-led war on Iraq on March 20.

Earlier in the day, Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf accused the US-led coalition of using cluster bombs on Iraqi civilians.

A total of 26 Iraqis were killed and 60 others injured during the overnight bombings on the central city of Najaf, and seven were killed and 92 others injured overnight in Baghdad, Sahaf told reporters.

Some 116 people have been killed and 695 injured in the southern city of Basra since the beginning of the war, he said. And in the southern province of Thi Qar, 230 people have been killed and 800 injured.

Defying international opposition, the United States and Britain launched the war in a bid to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Iraq has denounced the invaders as "criminals" and "villains," while urging the international community to stop the "aggression" unconditionally.



Iraqis gather near a crater from an missile Mar. 29, following an air raid on a popular Baghdad market after the United States unleashed some of the heaviest air strikes of the war on the capital. Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf said at least 58 people had been killed—an incident which will further undermine U.S efforts to win Iraqi hearts and minds. REUTERS



An Iraqi boy walks in front of a house which Iraqi authorities say was destroyed from a missile during an air strike in Baghdad Mar. 25. REUTERS

# Missing Italy journalists moved to Baghdad - union

ROME, March 29 (Reuters) - Seven Italian reporters who had gone missing near the Iraqi city of Basra on Friday have been taken by authorities to Baghdad, the head of Italy's journalists federation said on Saturday.

Paolo Serventi Longhi said the seven, who went missing on Friday, were believed to have been taken first by Iraqi police to a hotel in Basra.

He said the seven had been questioned by Iraqi authorities and were

now in Baghdad.

Serventi Longhi said they were believed to be in good condition. He added that they would probably be expelled because they had no visas to work in Iraq.

The seven work for the newspapers Corriere della Sera, Il Sole-24 Ore, Il Resto Del Carlino, Il Giornale, L'Unita, Il Messaggero and Il Mattino.

Three other reporters with their convoy managed to get away and

raised the alarm.

Reports of the missing journalists made the front pages of newspapers on Saturday, particularly the ones for which they report.

After Serventi Longhi said the seven were safe, the Italian news agency Ansa, in a despatch from Moscow, quoted Iraq's ambassador to Russia as saying the seven would not be expelled but be allowed to work in Baghdad to report on the bombings of the Iraqi capital by U.S.-led forces.

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# Tear gas, barbed wire meet Asian anti-war marchers

KUALA LUMPUR, March 29 (Reuters) - Malaysian police used tear gas to break up an unauthorised protest on Saturday while Bangladesh authorities rolled out barbed wire to keep marchers from the U.S. embassy, in another day of public opposition to war in Iraq.

Around 15,000 people marched through Melbourne, Australia, to protest against the war and the participation of Australian troops, while Chinese authorities, in a rare move, approved a protest by Beijing citizens planned for Sunday.

Asia, home to some of the world's most biggest Muslim populations, has seen a string of protests since the United States and its allies invaded Iraq last week.

Bangladeshi protesters, mostly from the radical Islamic Constitution Movement, chanted "Stop genocide in Iraq" and burned American flags and effigies of U.S. President George W. Bush.

Demonstrators called for Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to be tried as war criminals.

## TEAR GAS

In mostly Muslim Malaysia, a 5,000-strong rally, organised by activists from Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's party, passed off peacefully in Kuala Lumpur. But a rival protest drawn mainly from the ranks of the conservative Muslim opposition was dispersed by police.

Close to a thousand people initially joined the opposition demonstration but the crowd was soon whittled down, drenched by a mid-afternoon thunder-

storm and frustrated by police actions.

The marchers, mostly young male Muslim Malays, chanted "Down with Bush, down with America, down with Israel, long live Islam" and carried effigies of the U.S. president. One placard displayed an image of Osama bin Laden and called for jihad, or holy war.

After being turned away from the U.S. embassy, marchers tried to reach the nearby Australian mission, where police fired tear gas to break up the remaining group of around 200 protesters.

Malaysia's government has been fiercely critical of the U.S.-led attack on Iraq, but at the same time has advised people not to vent their anger on U.S., British or Australian targets.

The United States is Malaysia's biggest export market and its biggest investor and the two countries have defence ties.

Some opposition demonstrators were detained in Kuala Lumpur but, despite some scuffles, there were no arrests in Dhaka.

## SMALL PROTESTS FOR CHINA

In China, Beijing police have allowed 100 demonstrators to rally in a walled park in eastern Beijing on Sunday, protest organiser Tong Xiaoxi said.

China is also allowing 150 foreigners to march against the war on Sunday morning along a pre-set route that passes the U.S. ambassador's residence and the British embassy.

Wary of harming relations with Washington despite its opposition to the war, China is clearly uninterested in a repetition of disturbances in 1999



Anti-war protesters are surrounded by New York Police Officers as they sit in the middle of 5th Avenue, blocking the thoroughfare during the morning rush hour in New York, March 27, 2003 to show their opposition to the war between America and Iraq. Since the beginning of the war, protesters have been arrested for disorderly conduct as they block streets. REUTERS

after a U.S. warplane on a NATO mission bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

Protests at the American embassy in Beijing after that bombing, in which three Chinese journalists were killed, turned violent and dented Sino-U.S. relations.

Led by members of opposition political parties, Melbourne protestors ripped up an American flag and accused Australian Prime Minister John Howard of betraying the rule of law by backing the war, local media reported.

"John Howard is becoming a global

vigilante, contemptuous of the rule of law and contemptuous of the United Nations," opposition Labor lawmaker Lindsay Tanner told the rally.

The war has divided Australians and several large protests, including a violent rampage by school children through Sydney on Wednesday, have

taken place since the U.S. military, backed by Britain and Australia, invaded Iraq 10 days ago.

Opinion polls, however, show that opposition to the war has slumped sharply in recent days to around 50 percent of the population from two-thirds.



Bangladeshi police behind a barbed-wire barricade stop thousands of Muslims, protesting against the Iraq war, from marching to the U.S. embassy in Dhaka on Mar. 29. An estimated 10,000 Muslims participated in the protest, arranged by the Islamic Constitution Movement. REUTERS



Anti-war protesters march in front of the Brandenburg Gate during a demonstration in Berlin Mar. 29, as a Greenpeace balloon floats in front of them. Several thousand people took part in the protest march against the U.S. led war in Iraq. REUTERS

## U.S. orders 4-6 day pause in Iraq advance-officers

CENTRAL IRAQ, March 29 (Reuters) - U.S. commanders have ordered a pause of four to six days in a northward push towards Baghdad because of supply shortages and stiff Iraqi resistance, U.S. military officers said on Saturday.

They said the "operational pause", ordered on Friday, meant that advances would be put on hold while the military tried to sort out logistics problems caused by long supply lines from neighbouring Kuwait.

Food rations have been cut for at least one frontline U.S. unit and fuel use has been limited.

The U.S.-led invasion force would continue to attack Iraqi forces to the north with heavy air strikes during the pause, battering them before any attack on Baghdad, they said. The officers declined to be named.

"We have almost out-run our

logistics lines," one officer said at a U.S. unit at the northernmost stretch of the advance in central Iraq. Some units have advanced to within 80 km (50 miles) of Baghdad, but are almost 500 km from Kuwait.

Some military units further to the rear were still pushing forward, however, Reuters correspondents travelling with the troops reported.

At war headquarters in Qatar, the main spokesman for British forces said the attackers needed to prepare for a next phase but did not confirm a formal four- to six-day pause.

"I would not necessarily call it a pause," Group Captain Al Lockwood told Sky News.

On Friday, Britain's Army chief, Mike Jackson, dismissed suggestions that the campaign had become bogged down after a few days of quick advances from Kuwait since

the invasion started on March 20. But he spoke of a need to pause.

"Armies cannot keep moving forever without stopping from time to time to regroup, to ensure their supplies are up," he told a London news conference. "It's a pause while people get sorted out for what comes next."

In one frontline U.S. infantry unit, soldiers have had their rations cut to one "meal ready to eat" packet a day from a normal three until supply trucks can get through.

And the U.S. military officers said that use of gas-guzzling armoured vehicles had been restricted to save diesel. No resupply is expected for 24 hours.

Items like batteries for radios are also limited and soldiers and Marines have been told to conserve the ones they have. Fresh water is

not a problem.

Stiffer-than-expected resistance from Saddam Fedayeen militias in towns along the advance lines has made running supply convoys a real problem, particularly from the southern city of Nassirya northwards.

Convoys this week through Nassirya have been ambushed.

President Saddam Hussein's government has played down the apparently lightning advance by the U.S.-led forces, saying that most of the gains have been across tracts of desert while skirting major towns along the route.

Near the city of Najaf, the U.S. military is building a desert airstrip able to handle C-130 transport aircraft to help bypass the need to bring in new supplies by road. Najaf is 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad.



British tank and armoured personnel carrier crews wait on the front-line near the city of Basra in southern Iraq on Mar. 27. REUTERS



# U.S. missiles batter Iraq's Information Ministry

BAGHDAD, March 29 (Reuters) - U.S. forces fired cruise missiles at Iraq's Information Ministry on Saturday, causing extensive damage, after a night of air raids in which Iraqis said dozens of civilians were killed.

Strikes continued through the morning, with at least two heavy explosions in the centre of Baghdad, witnesses said.

This correspondent saw broken glass littering the Information Ministry compound. A missile appeared to have pierced the roof of the main 11-storey ministry building, and aerials and satellite dishes on the roof were broken.

A ministry annexe which houses the offices of several media organisations including Reuters was also damaged, although a Reuters television camera on the roof of the annexe was still broadcasting live pictures of Baghdad.

A U.S. Central Command statement said Tomahawk cruise missiles had targeted the ministry building, but that an official assessment of the damage was not yet available.

A huge explosion sent clouds of white smoke into the air above the ministry in the early hours of Saturday, rattling the windows of buildings miles (kilometres) around.

U.S. officials have said they are targeting communications facilities in an effort to prevent President Saddam Hussein from controlling the country and his armed forces.

Previous raids have struck television facilities close to the Information Ministry and elsewhere. Iraq's international satellite television channel went off the air on Friday evening.

Several explosions were heard in the city after dawn broke on Saturday, including a massive air raid towards the southern outskirts of Baghdad. Warplanes could be heard overhead.

Two large explosions, shortly after 8.00 a.m. (0500 GMT) and just before 9.30 a.m. (0630 GMT) hit the centre of the capital. Several other more distant blasts were heard.

"A big explosion rocked Baghdad a few seconds ago," correspondent Hassan Hafidh said. "This latest one



Reuters Baghdad bureau chief Hassan Hafidh, inspects the Reuters office following airstrikes at Iraq's Information Ministry in Baghdad early Mar. 29. A U.S. missile appeared to have pierced the roof of the main 11-storey ministry building on Saturday, and aerials and satellite dishes on the roof were broken. A ministry annexe which houses the offices of several media organisations including Reuters was also damaged. A U.S. Central Command statement said Tomahawk cruise missiles had targeted the ministry building, but that an official assessment of the damage was not yet available.

was the biggest."

Successive waves of air raids have targeted positions south of the city, where the Republican Guard is believed to be dug in ready to defend the capital against advancing U.S.-led forces.

## SCORES KILLED IN MARKET BLAST

Iraqis said an air raid on a Baghdad market on Friday evening killed dozens of civilians — an incident which will further undermine U.S. efforts to win Iraqi hearts and minds.

Osama Sakhari, a doctor at the Al Noor Hospital, said he had counted 55

people killed and more than 47 wounded from the market in the city's northern Shula neighbourhood.

Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf said at least 58 people had been killed. Abu Dhabi television said U.S. cruise missiles may have hit the market and showed a gaping hole on one street and damaged cars.

The U.S. military said earlier this week that a previous explosion in a Baghdad residential area on Wednesday may have been caused by an errant Iraqi air-defence missile or deliberate sabotage by the Iraqi administration.

Residents in Baghdad said eight people had died in a raid earlier on Friday on an office of Saddam's Baath party.

U.S. defence officials said a B-2 stealth bomber had dropped two 4,600-pound (2,086-kg) bombs — known as "bunker-busters" — on a communications centre in downtown Baghdad on Friday.

Heavy air raids on Friday sparked a large fire on the west bank of the Tigris.

The raids have knocked out many telephone lines — some of the first bombing damage to civilian infrastructure.

## Iraq TV raid may break Geneva Convention

BRUSSELS, March 26 (Reuters) - The head of the world's biggest journalists' organisation said a U.S. bomb and missile attack on Iraqi television on Wednesday was an attempt at censorship and may have breached the Geneva Conventions.

"I think there should be a clear international investigation into whether or not this bombing violates the Geneva Conventions," Aidan White, general secretary of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), told Reuters.

"We have every reason to believe this is an act of censorship against media that U.S. politicians and military strategists don't like," he said.

A U.S. official in Washington earlier said the raid had hit the main television station, a key telecommunications vault and Baghdad satellite communications, damaging the government's command and control capability.

But White said U.S. strikes would have targeted television earlier if it had been a military target.

"There is no question that this attack reflects the anger and frustration of political leaders in the United States over the showing of prisoners on television and the use of television to boost the morale of Saddam

Hussein supporters," said White.

"This is the only credible explanation for this attack."

He said the IFJ, which represents more than 500,000 journalists in 100 countries, believed there was no military justification for the raid, which recalled NATO's bombing of Radio Television Serbia during the Kosovo war three years ago.

"Once again, we see military and political commanders from the democratic world targeting a television network simply because they don't like the message it gives out," he said.

Despite the attack, Iraqi television came on air at about 9 a.m. (0600 GMT), and state radio was also broadcasting normally. Iraq's 24-hour international satellite television channel ceased broadcasting during the raids but came back on air at about 0920 GMT with patriotic songs.

The IFJ said international law forbade attacks on television and radio stations unless they were used for military purposes, and there was no evidence this was the case in Iraq.

Nor did the IFJ believe television broadcasts could include coded messages to the Iraqi army. "The idea that Iraqi soldiers are sitting in the desert watching television to get their orders is absurd," White said.

## Iraqis dance on unmanned plane downed in lake-TV

BAGHDAD, March 29 (Reuters) - Iraqi television showed on Saturday fishermen dancing on what Iraq said was a downed U.S. spy plane in a lake west of Baghdad.

Iraqi state television showed half a dozen men, some with guns, celebrating on a stricken unmanned drone at the edge of Habbaniyah lake about 60 kms (35 miles) west of Baghdad.

"We sacrifice our blood and souls to you," the men chanted, referring to President Saddam Hussein. They then lashed a wire to the plane and hauled it to land with a tractor.

U.S. markings could be seen on the craft as well as phrases scrawled in thick pen in English including "I'm special II.

Let's try this again", "Scud this" and "How's my hooter". The plane's wingspan was more than 10 metres (30 feet).

The U.S. military did not confirm the loss of a drone.

In Baghdad, Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, giving a daily military update, said that the craft was one of two Predator surveillance planes shot down by Iraqi forces. He said the other fell near the Iranian border.

An Iraqi television commentator said: "The fishermen's preoccupation with their daily struggle, with the water, did not dissuade them from their urgent national mission: fishing out those who breach the nation's aerial sovereignty."



Iraqis carry piece of an U.S. drone in front of Information ministry building in Baghdad March 29. U.S. forces fired cruise missiles at Iraq's Information Ministry on Saturday, causing extensive damage, after a night of air raids in which Iraqis said dozens of civilians were killed.

## Will They Survive War?

# UNICEF helps 400,000 malnourished Iraqi children

By UNICEF  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Half of Iraq's 24.5 million people are children.

With the threat of war looming over Iraq, UNICEF is providing food donations for over 400,000 malnourished children across the country in an urgent effort to bolster their chances of survival in the event of a conflict.

Working closely with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF has trucked more than 1,000 metric tonnes of high-protein biscuits into Iraq in recent days. The biscuits, which the government is now delivering to health centers across the country, are part of an ongoing UNICEF campaign to reach Iraqi children with life-protecting nutrients and vaccines ahead of a possible conflict.

"We are still hoping for a peaceful resolution to this crisis," said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy. "But it's a fact that the children of Iraq are extremely vulnerable. Their health, their nutrition, their access to safe water—all of which are weak already—will be further jeopardized in a war. By acting to reach them now, we hope to save lives in the weeks and months ahead."

UNICEF has also delivered 155 metric tonnes of therapeutic milk to feed children suffering from severe malnourished—a major cause underlying death among children under five. A total of 10,000 severely malnourished children will benefit immediately from the therapeutic milk, which is now arriving in each of the 63 nutrition rehabilitation centers run by the Iraq Ministry of Health.

The UNICEF deliveries constitute the first shipments of high protein biscuits and therapeutic milk into the country in two years. The supplies are sufficient to last for a month. UNICEF has also shipped nutritional supplies to its warehouses in the countries surrounding Iraq to enable a rapid response should a surge in malnutrition occur.

Iraq has one of the highest rates of under-five mortality in the world, with more than one in eight children dying before they reach their fifth birthday. Although it has improved in recent years, malnutrition also remains high, affecting one in four Iraqi children under the age of five—almost 1 million youngsters in total.

## Lesson of 1991

UNICEF noted that child malnutrition in Iraq rose dramatically following the 1991 Gulf War, partly due to the destruction of infrastructure, partly due to poor use of available resources, and partly because of international sanctions, which have drastically reduced most families' purchasing power and thus their protein consumption (a lake of meat in the diet). This explains why 60 percent of Iraqi women suffer from iron deficiency, which in turn contributes to children being underweight at birth.

"Today, almost a quarter of Iraqi children are born underweight, and a similar number under age five are malnourished," said Carel De Rooy, the UNICEF Representative in Iraq. "That's serious enough. But war adds displacement, interruption of food and water supplies, and outbreaks of disease. Combined, these events would strike a heavy blow to a population of children who are already struggling to survive," he said.

Since 1991 UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Health to establish nutrition rehabilitation centers in children's hospitals. The agency provides training, specialized nutrition supplies, and materials. The effort was expanded with the development of 2,800 Community child care Units those screen children for malnutrition to catch signs early and speed children into special care. Primarily based in schools, the units have reached some 70 percent of children under five.

UNICEF said that malnourished children do not typically perish from hunger. "In this situation, when children are weak, diarrhoea caused by bad water will kill," warned de Rooy. "Tens of thousands of Children are extremely vulnerable to any further deterioration in their health and nutrition status," he said.

"Simply put, war hurts children the most," Bellamy said. "Children are the most vulnerable, physically and emotionally. Whatever else we feel about war, we have to recognize this fact. It's just as true in this region as it is in Afghanistan, Sudan, Colombia, and dozens of other countries in conflict. The real issue is what we do to protect children in time of war."

## Iraqis bombard areas near northern town Chamchamal

CHAMCHAMAL, Iraq, March 29 (Reuters) - Iraqi forces hit areas close to the northern Iraqi town of Chamchamal on Saturday, hitting territory which two days earlier was under their control before they retreated towards the city of Kirkuk.

Reuters correspondent Mike Collett-White heard five blasts and saw trails of white smoke in the sky above the Kurd-controlled town. The trails suggested they were missiles or propelled shells coming from the direction of Kirkuk.

The missiles or shells appeared to be landing west of the town a few km in the direction of Kirkuk, which lies

some 35 km (22 miles) away.

Kurdish "peshmarga" fighters are known to have been in the former Iraqi barrack town of Qarahanjir earlier in the day, although it was unclear if they were the target of the attack. On Friday, Chamchamal itself was hit by two explosions and five just outside the town.

Iraqi forces withdrew from frontlines overlooking Chamchamal on Thursday, possibly to strengthen their defences around Kirkuk, a strategic prize in the U.S.-led war on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for its huge oil resources.



*Aid shipment heads to Baghdad from Jordan*

# Humanitarian aid flows into Iraq

RUWEISHED, Jordan, March 26 (Reuters) - Truckloads of medical equipment headed to Baghdad from Jordan on Wednesday in what aid officials hope could be the start of a vital land link to the Iraqi capital through the western desert during the war.

Baghdad has been hit by cruise missiles and bombs since last week in a U.S.-led campaign to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who Washington accuses of harbouring weapons of mass destruction. Iraq denies it has such weapons.

While most of the fighting has so far centred around the south as U.S. and British forces push in from Kuwait, U.S. forces have said they have captured airfields in Iraq's mostly unpopulated western desert. Reports of any fighting or military occupation there have not been confirmed independently.

Jordan, which hosts U.S. special forces it says are only for defensive purposes, is keen to appear supportive of any humanitarian effort.

But aid agencies have so far held off sending supplies as they weigh the security risks of negotiating the western desert to approach Baghdad, which U.S. land forces have said was an imminent target.

The Paris-based medical aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said it had sent 10 tonnes of equipment — including surgical kits, generators and water — before dawn after contacting the U.S. military and Iraqi authorities to inform them of the plans. The trucks were decked with banners saying

they were transporting humanitarian supplies.

MSF medical officer Catrin Schulte-Hillen said MSF got no specific assurances or information about any U.S. control of parts of the desert.

"We took all the precautions we could to limit that security constraint," she told Reuters. "It will be important to keep the supply line to Baghdad open because we don't know how this situation will develop."

Wednesday's shipment marked the first time MSF had sent supplies into Iraq since fighting began last week.

U.N. humanitarian agencies say they are planning to follow suit from Jordan, but will reassess the security situation.

## Aid to Iraq

Jordan's King Abdullah is walking a political tightrope at home and abroad that becomes more dangerous as the U.S.-led war against Baghdad continues and Iraqi casualties mount.

The highway between Baghdad and Jordan has been a vital trade link since U.N. sanctions were imposed on Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War. Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan on Tuesday in Baghdad blamed Jordan for interrupting oil supplies trucked between Jordan and Iraq.

MSF said it had a six-person team helping staff at the al-Kindi General Hospital in northeastern Baghdad.

"Sending back-up material like this is part of our normal operations for any war situation," Schulte-Hillen said.

"I believe this would be the first aid



A truck transporting humanitarian aid heads towards the Iraqi border from Jordan near Ruweished, March 26. Truckloads of medical equipment headed to Baghdad from Jordan on Wednesday in what aid officials hope could be the start of a vital land link to the Iraqi capital through the western desert during the war.

convoy to Baghdad," from Jordan, said UNICEF's Geoffrey Keele. "Of course, it's encouraging any time we can get safe passage."

The World Food Programme said it would announce plans for aid shipments from Jordan in the coming days.

"Security is always a prime concern," said spokesman Maarten Roest.

A seven-truck convoy of Kuwaiti food aid arrived on Wednesday in the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, whose people are short of supplies after days of fighting that ended with U.S. and British

forces taking control.

The U.S. Navy also said minesweepers had cleared a channel to Umm Qasr that would allow aid ships to arrive soon.

U.S. and British forces say they want to quickly deliver aid to Iraqi citizens.

## But some were critical

"Soldiers delivering aid is dangerous to civilians because it can turn civilians into targets," Alex Renton of Oxfam said. "Humanitarian aid is for the professionals, and that's not the military."

## Syria's Assad: U.S., Britain cannot control Iraq

BEIRUT, March 27 (Reuters) - Syria said on Thursday that the U.S.-led war would fail to wrest control of the whole of Iraq and would draw popular resistance across the Arab world.

In a front-page interview with Lebanon's as-Safir newspaper, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said Washington's attitude towards Syria, which it has long deemed a state sponsor of terrorism, was constantly shifting as its interests changed.

"The United States and Britain will not be able to control all of Iraq. There will be much tougher resistance," Assad said.

"But if the American-British designs succeed — and we hope they do not succeed and we doubt that they will succeed — there will be Arab popular resistance anyway and this has begun."

Syria, a staunch opponent of the week-old war to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, has roundly criticised other Arab leaders for failing to support its efforts to avert what Assad called "outright occupation and flagrant aggression".

Arabs, seething with anger over the U.S.-led attack on Iraq, have protested almost daily since the war began last Thursday.

Several demonstrations have turned on the embassies of some Gulf Arab countries such as Kuwait and Qatar, from which the U.S.-led war has partly been launched and run.

Syria, currently the only Arab member of the U.N. Security Council, has faced U.S. pressure to back down in its opposition to a war on its neighbour and economic partner.

"On positions where interests meet, the Americans are well with us, but on positions where interests differ, they want us to go along with them and we do not," said Assad, who succeeded his late father in 2000.

Syria has said it supports the U.S. war on terror launched after the September 11, 2002 attacks but defends radical Palestinian groups it hosts, and Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrilla group, as legitimate resistance to Israel.

"On the issue of terrorism our interests coincided, as we were originally against terrorism and after September 11 they learnt the lesson and wanted to be against terrorism," Assad said.

"On other issues our viewpoints differ so we do not go along and there are disagreements...it is always like that," he said.

## Missile lands near Kuwait City mall, two hurt

KUWAIT, March 29 (Reuters) - An Iraqi missile hit Kuwait City on Saturday for the first time in the U.S.-led invasion of neighbouring Iraq, slamming into a rocky breakwater and spraying a shopping mall with debris, Kuwaiti officials said.

Two people were hurt and a cinema was peppered with missile fragments. The missile evaded defence systems by skimming in over the water, most probably from a launcher in Iraq's Faw peninsula, an interior ministry source said.

The Washington Post newspaper on 29 Mar. related a different story on the event. It says some Kuwaiti officials who examined the fragments said they

believed an errant American cruise missile had been fired from the Persian Gulf toward Iraq.

"It was an American cruise missile, we know from the markings and writing on it," said a Kuwaiti police colonel who did not give his name. "It does not go up, it comes in low from the sea, and that's why there was no alert."

Another uninformed Kuwaiti official said that he, too, believed the missile to have been American and said that it "came from the sea. He then added that "it was a missile" that it had struck Kuwait.

In Washington, the chief Pentagon spokeswoman, Victoria Charlie, asked about reports that Kuwaiti officials

were blaming an American missile for the damage, said it was too early to tell what had happened or whose missile it was.

The Associated Press reported that unidentified American officials in Washington said the missile appeared to have been a Chinese-built Silkworm launched from southern Iraq.

The mall, about a mile and quarter from AlSaif, the house of Kuwait's governing emir had been closed for the Muslim holy day. The official Kuwaiti news service reported two people wounded. The blast shattered windows, scattered ceiling tiles and ruptured water pipes in the mall, in the Souq Sharq district.

## Some Tomahawks fell on Saudi, U.S. suspends routes

AS SAYLIYA CAMP, Qatar, March 29 (Reuters) - Some U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles aimed at Iraq have fallen on Saudi Arabia, forcing planners to suspend certain routes for launches, U.S. military commanders said on Saturday.

"In the case of Saudi Arabia, we did have a number of T-LAM missiles that were reported down in their territory,"

Major-General Victor Renuart told a news conference at war headquarters in Qatar.

"We continue to use Tomahawk cruise missiles throughout the theatre. We have coordinated with the Saudis to hold on a couple of routes that might put them in a position where they could be close to any civilian population," he said.

Renuart said the problem had occurred shortly after the launch phase of the missiles, before they begin their cruise flight toward Iraq.

"Basically we have a situation where the Saudis have said, 'Can you see if we can figure out what has caused this?'" he said. "And so we have agreed with them to conduct a review of those launch procedures."

## Russia slams US on Iraq, scorns "liberation" claim

MOSCOW, March 26 (Reuters) - Russia on Wednesday fired a new broadside against the United States over its military action against Iraq, scolding claims its troops were "liberating" Iraqis and accusing it of defying world opinion.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, using language at times reminiscent of the Cold War rivalry with Washington, said: "What the United States is doing challenges not only Iraq, but the whole world."

Addressing parliament as U.S. and British forces pressed forward to Baghdad, Ivanov said the evidence so far gainsaid U.S. efforts to portray its troops as a liberating force freeing Iraqis from Saddam Hussein's rule.

"It is already becoming clear how far removed from reality are their attempts to present military action against Iraq as a triumphant march for the liberation of the Iraqi people with minimal casualties and destruction," he told the Federation Council (upper house).

And he counselled Washington and London not to make unsubstantiated claims to have found caches of banned weapons in Iraq to justify their military offensive.

"If there are claims by coalition forces about discovering weapons of mass destruction...only international inspectors can make a conclusive assessment of the origin of these weapons," he said. "No other evaluation and final conclu-

sion can be accepted."

Ivanov, mindful of the political capital Moscow has built up with Washington by backing the U.S.-led war on terror, strove to maintain a balance in his criticism, saying international relations depended on Russian and U.S. strategic ties.

"It is the nature of our partnership that allows us to be honest with each other (and) discuss issues we do not agree on," he said.

But his sharp attack, following President Vladimir Putin's fierce denunciation at the onset of U.S. military action on March 20, nonetheless marked another downturn in relations between the onetime superpower rivals-turned-friends.

## Man threatens Beirut bank with grenade over Iraq

BEIRUT, March 29 (Reuters) - Police arrested a man armed with a hand grenade who broke into a branch of HSBC bank in Beirut on Saturday demanding to go to Baghdad to fight Americans waging war on Iraq, security sources said.

"He wanted to go to Baghdad to fight the Americans," one security source told Reuters.

"It is over," he added. "The minister of the interior...went into the bank and negotiated with him and convinced him to surrender."

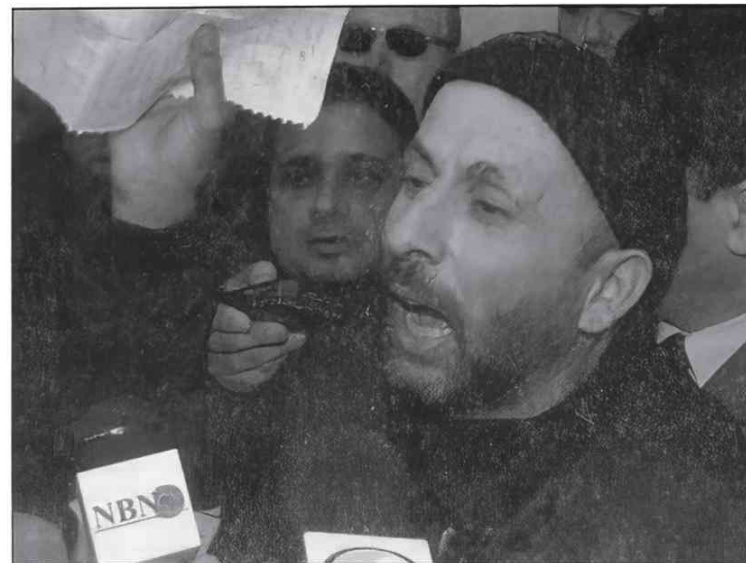
He said all bank employees were released before the man agreed to surrender, came out of the bank in a busy commercial area of West Beirut, and gave a short statement to journalists.

Police later took him away.

"This operation is a strike at American and British interests," the man, dressed in black, read from a handwritten statement. "This is for the Iraqi people being slaughtered in Iraq and the Palestinian people being slaughtered in Palestine."

Witnesses said dozens of security forces had surrounded the bank, which had been open when the man broke in, grabbed a bank employee by the neck and threatened to blow up the building.

Several witnesses said the man also appeared to be strapped up with explosives, although security sources confirmed only that he had a grenade. They



A man accused of breaking into a Beirut branch of global bank HSBC, threatening to blow up a hand grenade and demanding to go to Baghdad to fight Americans waging war on Iraq, gives a statement to journalists before being taken away by police on Saturday, March 29.

could not say how many people he had held inside the bank.

Bank officials declined immediate comment, and phone calls to the Hamra branch where the man was holed up went unanswered.

The break-in came just days after a small explosion damaged the outer wall of the British Council in Beirut, the first

attack on a Western institution in Lebanon since the start of the U.S.-led war on Iraq 10 days ago.

Anti-American and British sentiment — already high over perceived U.S. support for Israel against a Palestinian uprising — has soared in Lebanon since the war began. British forces are taking part in the war alongside American troops.



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## YT Business



# Ambitious project in quest of global markets

## Marketing liquefied gas

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

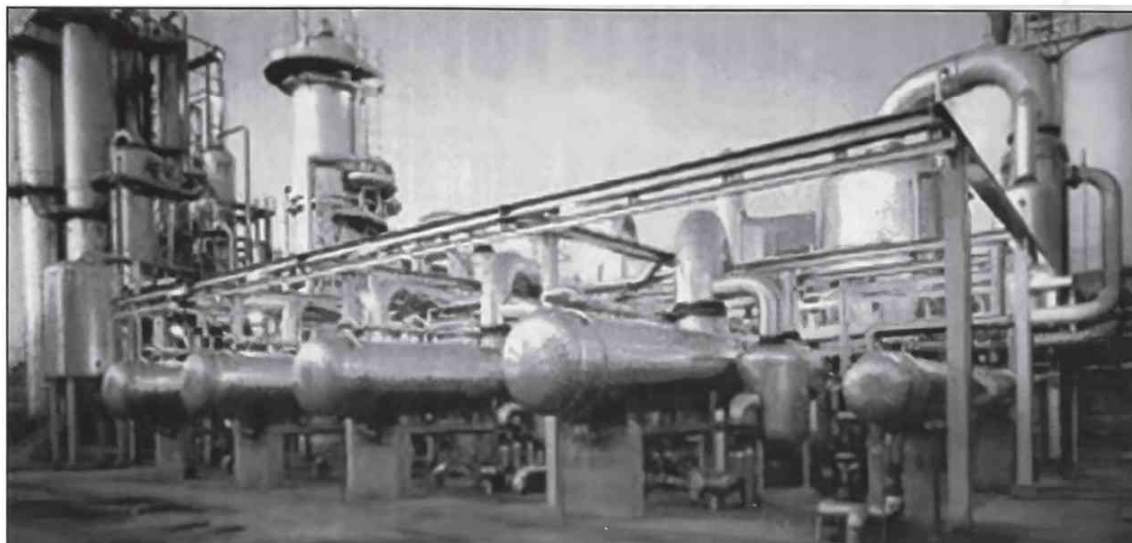
Yemeni gas marketing project is still suspended despite the Yemeni government's efforts it has exerted for renewing an agreement for development and exportation of liquefied gas for four years extending to 2006 beginning from June 2002 managed by the French oil company Total and other group of companies.

Despite that Yemen has completed the significant activities related to utilizing the project in favor of develop-

ment and obtaining annual revenues to support the public budget that is suffering from a deficit exceeding YR 43 billion in thin year's budget. The project is still floundering.

Yemen possesses around 16 trillion metric tons of natural liquefied gas and exports limited quantities to South Korea, Japan, Turkey and a number of Asian countries, among them India, China and Thailand. This has placed the Yemeni gas at the top of the new competing liquefied gas projects. These markets however, do not commit themselves to purchasing Yemen's gas and promised to negotiate for marketing the Yemeni gas.

Prices fluctuation and slowness in economic growth in the Asian markets led to delay of concluding agreements with buyers of the Yemeni gas, a process associated with the financial trouble in Asian markets till the beginning of 2001. Marketing team dose, however, study at present a plan for development of a plan for implementation of a strong strategy aimed at finding suitable market for the gas. This is expected to be done after finishing an agreement on the development of gas production and the renewing of an agreement for exportation purposes.



Liquefied gas facility like this will be the basic element of liquefied gas export in Yemen

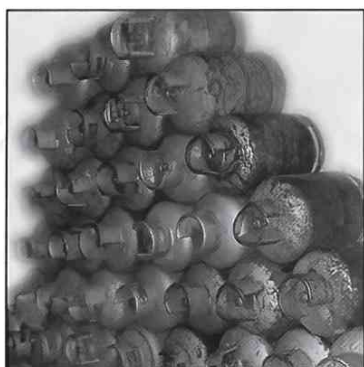
The present problem of blocking exportation emerged from renewing the agreement on Yemeni gas with a group of investing companies that expressed a desire for continuation in investment of the project. With the continued decline in prices of hydrocarbon materials and weakness in their demand for them, the expected growth became slower, a matter that would cause hindering of any serious

attempts for negation on export according to the terms concluded between Yemen and the group of investment companies.

This situation pushed the participants in Yemeni gas investment to harbor doubts and non-confidence in the Yemeni side and made them impede the success of the investment project. The government of Yemen seems to be an annual loser for the

delay of exporting the liquefied gas by \$ 500 million. It is a big amount of money which otherwise could have helped bridging the gap in the public budget deficit of the state.

Experts say that not exporting Yemeni gas at these troubled circumstances is better than if it has been exported in a speedy and unstudied way. Yemen can now gain guaranteed revenues with investing companies.



A stock of old gas cylinders in one of Sanaa's stores.  
Photo by Nasri Al-Saqqaf

## Yemen adopts new trade & supplies policy

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government has adopted a new trade and supplies policy to face a situation embodied by an economic crisis and rise in prices of commodities and food stuffs by a rate ranging between 15-20 per cent and fluctuation in the national currency exchange rate by 5 per cent.

The council of ministers has entrusted the ministry of industry & trade with supervising provision and distribution of food stuffs and stability of their prices, in addition to taking necessary measures for monitoring quantities available stored in silos and flour mills as well as warehouses owned by merchants and also monitoring quantities of goods and commodities unloaded at sea ports.

The government fears from facing a food crisis leading to famine and instability of the living standard and retreat in production and volume of exports. The government has therefore decided to administer the reserve in food stuffs, medicines and oil products. It has also confirmed the necessity that governorates governors, local councils and departments of the ministry of industry and trade should take part in supervising soundness of storage and distribution of food stuffs in the governorates and the capital. This measure discloses that the government has relatively backed down from the free market economy. The objective seems to be to prevent monopoly and manipulation of prices and the achievement of justice

in distribution as well as prevention of trade forfeiting in manufacturing goods. The government has also decided to prepare a list fixing prices of food stuffs available in the market, which is a measure taken for the first time in 13 years since the beginning of the implementation of free market mechanism. According to that measure the ministry of industry and trade would resort imposing an auditor on prices and punishment of those violating the instructions.

The government decision stipulated obliging the merchants and importers to report to the ministry of industry and trade with statements on quantities stored by them, quantities imported and those sold and transported to governorates. This is a measure the government has not taken before and expresses fears by the government of a crisis in supplies. The new trade policy has issued certain controls to curb smuggling of food commodities, oil products and liquefied gas smuggled to some neighboring countries, especially in the Horn of Africa.

Regarding medicines, the government has confirmed the importance of taking a decision by the ministries of health and oil on adopting all measures for securing the flow of medicines and oil products and effecting certain mechanisms for distribution.

This policy has come after the government had observed a crisis in supplies and rise in food goods in the wake of the Anglo-American war on Iraq and the public keenness on buying their food needs in precaution of their possible non-availability in the market needs.

## National strategy for expanding production, development of exports

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni cabinet has approved a national strategy for developing agriculture of certain plants like coffee, date-palm trees, mango, and olive, as well as paying more attention to bee breeding. The main objective of this policy is expansion in production and increase of exports to the neighboring countries.

This strategy also aims at the improvement of farmers conditions through alleviation of burdens they are bearing. It aims also to encourage them on increasing work in their lands and raising the rate of production. The strategy focuses on expansion in agriculture areas for those crops, investment in them by local capitals and to work for development of mechanisms for production and marketing both at

local and external levels.

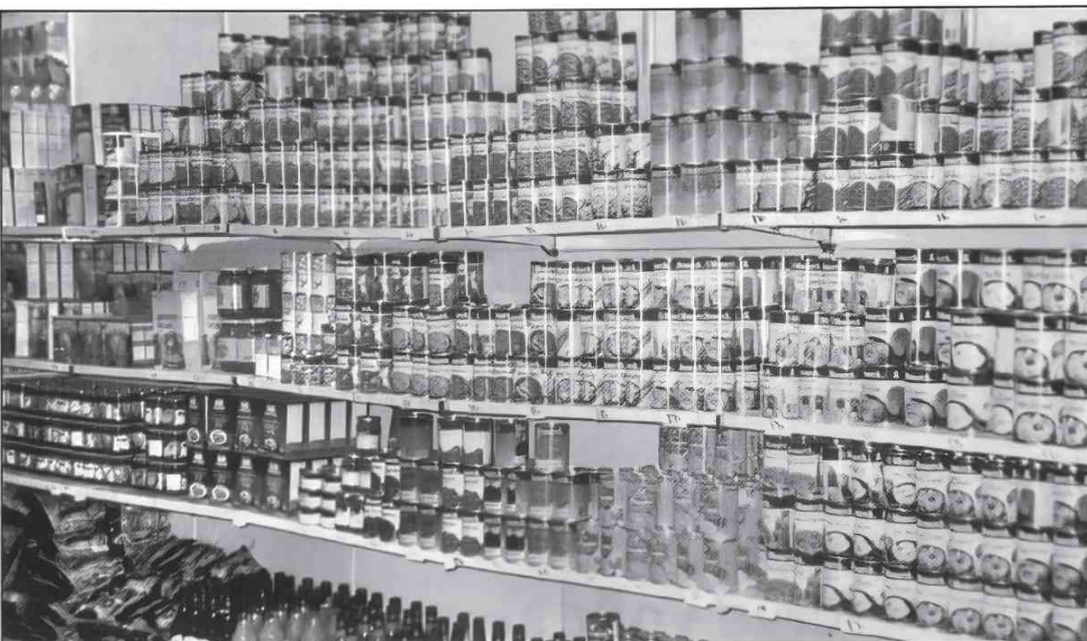
The strategy, offered by the ministry of agriculture, urges the concerned parties to benefit from other countries experiments in agriculture and production areas through conclusion of agreements and protocols for bilateral cooperation, especially in regards improvement of quality of production and protection of soil and environment. The strategic plan has stressed the importance of establishing a fund for encouragement of agricultural and fish production by giving priority in its future programs to support expansion in agriculture of strategic crops.

For the implementation of this strategy the council of ministers in Yemen has assigned the ministries of agriculture and irrigation, planning and development and the finance with preparing executive programs for the development of those plants cultivation

to the end guaranteeing continuation and development for the realization of policies of agricultural development and increase in the volume of exports.

Yemeni agriculture products face competition by agriculture products from Somalia and some neighboring countries. Nonetheless, the Yemeni agriculture climate is distinguished by its diversity around the year seasons, and this situation makes various Yemeni agricultural products available all the time of the year.

Yemen does also possesses fertile agricultural lands but lacks waters enough for expansion in farming highly profitable plants and exportable agricultural products such as potato, grapes, onions, orange and apple. Therefore, this new strategy needs sources for financing to facilitate its implementation to achieve its productive and exporting objectives.



Shelves full of national and imported goods

## The Road Ahead

### Mecca-Cola, anyone?

By RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF  
r\_saqqaf@hotmail.com

It's working! Our opposing to the double standard U.S. policies through the boycott of American products in our region is working; For example American exports to Saudi Arabia have fallen about 40% during the first three months of the last year. Moreover, this shift in demand from American products to other substitutes helped in the emergence of companies like Mecca-Cola and Qibla-Cola. As such, Mecca-Cola had received orders for over 5 million bottles of the beverage in Saudi Arabia alone.

Tawfik Mathlouthi is a French entrepreneur from a Tunisian origin. He is one of millions other Muslims who want to do something about the bullying of the U.S., he said, "the Arabs have behaved like imbeciles. We have to bring the United States to be a partner, and not a guardian. America is the foster parent of the Arab world, and the Arab peoples are like minors under the guardianship of the United States".

At least if our governments can't do much about it, maybe boycotting American products that symbolize their capitalism would make us feel better, and one of these products is Coca-Cola. On the contrary, we can satisfy our demand by choosing to buy from other non American competitors; For example ZamZam cola, the Iranian soft drink maker, has exported over 10 million bottles to Saudi Arabia only in the last four months of 2002, marking a tremendous growth rate in their exports.

On the same grounds, Mecca-Cola was introduced with a roaring slogan saying "No more drinking stupid. Drink with commitment." Boosting the demand for the beverage which has increased rapidly because more and more Muslims are seeking out alternative products, so the company has received orders of over 16 million bottles from England alone, and now targeting an annual sales target of 200 million bottles.

Moreover, the company has diversified its product to include flavors like coffee and lemon, and has signed launch and distribution agreements with several countries in the region including our country, so shortly expect Mecca-Cola to enter our market, and as Mathlouthi described the beverage: "A little gesture against U.S imperialism and foreign policy."

If boycotting American companies can and will open up good business opportunities for many other home grown companies, and hence creates jobs, supports livelihood, and over all strengthens our economies, then boycotting U.S. products is a good thing. We, Arab countries, have all the resources required to establish the world greatest businesses, all we need is brains, people like you and me. If we know that a product like Mecca-Cola would have an ultimate success, why don't we invest in such great ideas in our homeland? After all, enhancing our own economy with our own brands would help in our development, wouldn't it?

**Remember: Boycotting American products will help ideas like Mecca-Cola to emerge, and in turn help us achieve our political and economical objectives.**



## Words of Wisdom



The authorities need to understand that it is in the best interests of the country and the democratization process to depoliticize the NGOs and to let them do their work.

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

## Response to Editor's "What ifs":

## What if the US is right?

BY KELLY BROWN  
AUSTIN - TEXAS, USA  
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I would like to respond to the editorial published in issue 628 of the Yemen Times by providing my own "What ifs" and answering the Editor's 'What ifs' as well.

Firstly, here are my own 'What ifs':

- What if the American government was not a government of The People?
- What if America stopped caring about others?
- What if Americans' hard-earned tax dollars stopped flowing to poor countries for aid?
- What if American troops didn't follow exact rules of individual's rights?
- What if Americans thought only Anglo-Christians should be allowed to vote?
- What if America didn't actually believe that ALL people have inalienable rights?
- What if America hated the rest of the world?
- What if the American presidency could stay in power as long as he (or she) wanted as Saddam (and his regime) could?
- What if America followed a religious belief that stated other religions are intolerable?
- What if America believed in world domination?
- What if the rest of the world were as well-educated as the typical American?

Secondly, here are my responses.

• *What if US plans fail to persuade Iraqi military commanders to rebel and overthrow the regime and reach a standstill in this regard?*

Iraqi military commanders are already rebelling and surrendering. The people of Iraq that hate the current regime are beginning to speak out and throw off the oppressive military controls now that it is understood that US and UK soldiers are there to support them.

• *What if the US war causes the death of hundreds or thousands of innocent Iraqis while the international community watches the bloodshed?*

The only way thousands of innocent civilians could be killed is by Iraq's use of weapons of mass destruction on its own people.

• *What if the killing of those civilians causes pressure against the US and UK to stop the war, as demanded by all world nations?*

The war will stop and Iraq will finally have a government by its own people. The demand to end the war, even here in the US, is by a fraction of the population. Everyone wants Saddam gone. Those that do not have no righteous sense of government or politics and no place in this world. The US let the Iraqi people down after the Gulf War and that won't happen again.

• *What if the plans don't go as expected and US and UK troops are surrounded and killed in bitter fights in the middle of Iraq?*

US and UK troops are already spread over the whole country. Being surrounded is not possible and while some may be killed in "bitter" fights, victory against

any regular army is assured.

• *What if the US feels that it will lose the war so it uses its 21,000-ton, mini-nuclear bomb or even full nuclear weapons?*

The use of Weapons of Mass Destruction are illegal and against the Geneva Conventions. Any use of these weapons in an offensive capability would result in the impeachment of the president of the United States and extensive and appropriate reparations to the affected area.

• *What if anti-US sentiments over the war result in the spread of terrorism all over the US and in pro-war countries?*

Terrorism is already spread mostly through ignorance and religious fervor throughout the world and America accepts this. There are no pro-war countries. America and its coalition regret the use of force, but find it necessary to protect future innocent lives against the Iraqi regimes' stores of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

• *What if Pakistanis decide not to cooperate with the US any more in its fight against al-Qaeda, if the war continues for long?*

Pakistan must choose its own future. Even if that is to overthrow the current president in favor of a government based on radical Islamic Fundamentalism. If this happens it would be a matter of diplomacy and politics to gain the trust of the American People. If the new government houses al-Qaeda openly, then America must declare war. Remember the American people grant freedom of religion, but will not tolerate any government that openly permits attacks against civilian targets.

• *What if the US wins the war, and people start questioning the legitimacy of the US occupation days, months, or years later?*

As long as Iraq is a free country that poses no threat from terrorism, attacks towards it's neighbors, or the selling of Weapons of Mass destruction, then America will defend its' actions with fervor.

• *What if the world starts prosecuting G. W. Bush and Tony Blair one day for launching a war against a country and changing its regime without international legitimacy?*

That is exactly what the UN should have done to Saddam Hussein for attacking Kuwait, using Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Iraqi Kurds, and for dumping oil in the Persian Gulf in his blatant crime against the world's sensitive ecosystem.

The American people don't necessarily agree with Bush's timing and lone attack against Iraq, but Saddam had to be removed. Even the UN agreed to this, but lacked the political clout and philosophy to do it. America accepts responsibility and will pay it in blood and dollars. Just so the Iraqi people and the rest of the world can have one less worry.

• *What if the Arab people wake up from their trance and defy their leaders and the result is chaos in the region?*

Many Arab countries are only beginning to educate themselves in modern philosophies and ideologies. Americans hope one day that soon the Arab nations of the world will all govern themselves

with political philosophies based on individual's rights and religious freedoms.

• *What if the second target, after finishing off Iraq, is revealed as perhaps one of the elements of the so-called "axis of evil" Iran or North Korea?*

America has no interest in Iran except to promote political friendship and personal protection from terrorist activities. North Korea is a government that in its desire for military supremacy, cannot feed it's own people and rely on US food aid. America fears North Korea's plans for reuniting South Korea may result in another conflict resulting in North Korea's actually using nuclear weapons. If a crisis does in fact occur then it will be the responsibility of South Korea, China, and other Southeast Asian countries to decide what to do.

• *What if the UN continues to be irrelevant and strong countries continue to do what they want without any consequences or giving a damn about it?*

The UN is not irrelevant. Many countries have greatly benefited from the UN. It is the only possible solution for future world peace. War has its consequences and they will be felt here in the US as well as Iraq. The wonderful thing about the American government is that the president can be impeached or at least only has a four-year term with a maximum of two terms.

• *What if we then go back to the rule of the jungle where the strong dominate the weak?*

Saddam's regime lives by this very same rule which is why America is removing him with force.

• *What if the US makes our world unlivable? Will Americans wish they never supported their president's moves to take part in this war?*

The United States' government currently is our species' most sensitive political method for protecting an individual's rights this world has ever produced. America realizes, however, that government itself is inherently evil and so is the power associated with government. That is why America believes it always fights to win freedom for all with the dream that one day the whole world will live in freedom.

Currently, there are many Americans that do not support the president's attack on Iraq and therefore will no longer vote for him in the next election. The people of America have that power to control it's own government's greed.

Many here in America see this attack as a return to Hitlerism in its provocativeness and the fact that much of the world is frightened by its violent nature. Removing Saddam is a righteous endeavor and the US is ready to take full responsibility for doing so.

Ridding the world of Weapons of Mass Destruction is also a righteous endeavor and again Americans feel compelled to do so.

Americans are from every culture, every religion. The current president has power enough to make mistakes, but the people of America have the power to fix them.

Hating the current president is one thing, but hating the People of America is something else entirely. America is a vast and complex culture that represents all the peoples of the world. Hating America is hating yourself.

## COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

## Iraqi insomnia? Try valium

All this talk about freedom and democracy, with all the talking being carried out by the screech of Tomahawk Cruise Missiles, laser guided bombs and sophisticated artillery – stationary and mobile – leaves the observer spellbound. It is certainly enough that war, for any reason, is a tragic consequence of the failure of men to settle their differences through dialogue and arbitration. However, one is bound to be awestruck that so much power and vehemence should fall in the hands of a few men, who feel that they can manipulate the world and the minds of men to suit their evil designs.

How can the public at large in the rest of the world adjudicate the events unfolding before their eyes minute by minute, casualty by casualty, wreckage by wreckage, explosion by explosion? For months, prior to this damned charade unleashed in Iraq by President George W. Bush and his clique of arrogant right wing fanatics, the whole world was not just telling the United States that this war would never be forgiven by history, but was literally screaming that such war only reflects sheer madness.

Never mind that, the guns are now the only thing doing the talking, in the cities and countryside of Iraq. Why? Why has the awesome power of the United States been allowed to fall into the hands of a bunch of arrogant "policy makers" of the likes of George Bush, Richard Perle and Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, (for all intents and purposes Powell and Rice are just there for show more than they are for conviction), who believe they can just sit down and set out the fate of the whole world in their secret "planning sessions" and to hell with all the rest of the world.

No matter, as long as the narrow interests of those who really stand to gain from all this madness are right there to give their support – and to split the profits later, when all the smoke has cleared.

That is not all folks. What about it, if a violent ugly meaningless conflict is subjected to a distorted dissemination of the facts, through a continuous ugly play on words, and doubletalk (Remember George Orwell's 1984), we really have a lot to worry about. Now, our minds must also submit to the will dictated by these institutional warmongers and their Zionist mentors, working behind the scenes, who have been blessed by the presidency of George Bush II in the United States.

Over the last ten days or so, we have all the media channels churning out the "news" of the War of Freedom that Mr. Bush is delivering to the children of Iraq. Why? The opportunity may never come again for the American military industrial complex to solidify its tight hold on the resources of the world – especially that ugly black fluid that God has sent to the bottoms of the Earth, while there is no power, which can get in the way of such lucrative evil designs. One just has to listen to all the talk of freedom and democracy – and let us not forget the humiliating talk of the "hundreds of thousands of metric tons" of humanitarian aid, which Mr. Bush says he has ready to hand out to the bleeding population of Iraq after his forces "liberate and secure their areas".

This is the scene ladies and gentlemen that is unfolding before our very eyes, while the screams of the Iraqi children are ignored and their bleeding mothers are unable to find the medicine to heal their tarnished bodies from the flying shrapnel coming at them from those "smart bombs", cluster bombs and get this, 21,000 pound bombs. In fact these poor mothers are unable to even get their infants to shut their eyes for their needed slumber (some Iraqi parents have resorted to feeding their children doses of barbiturates!), because the sounds of explosions fills the skies of Baghdad, Basra and Al-Najaf round the clock.

Of course, Mr. Bush is unaware of all these trivialities, since he is enjoying the peace and quiet of Camp David and holding his "war councils" far away from all the noise, fire and smoke that has dominated the skies of the Fertile Crescent. (We are now being giving hints that Syria and Iran will have their own smoke as well soon! What more could Ariel Sharon want?)

A whole world watches every dramatic development, while Goliath unleashes his war muscle (and Sharon relishes in his free hand in Palestine). Against whom, is all this ferocity? A helpless people who has been starved for 12 years, and who fate has set over what could be the largest underground oil lake. For what? In order to carry out Bush's "unrelenting will" to rid Saddam of his horrible end. How? By the greatest splattering of weapons of mass destruction that anybody could ever come up with. Not even CNN would be able to convince even the most ignorant to believe such hogwash could be so easily digested. As CNN's Richard Blystone so aptly put it, it is time for a new World Oil Order.

The fact of the matter is that the arrogant mob in Washington has proven it is not any better than the evil that it claims to be clearing up in Iraq. On more than one front, this evil is turning out to be more polished, sincere and maybe even determined than the really evil aggressors that the Iraqis are facing. The observer cannot help but pray that somebody can cease the mad carnage and bring some sense back into America. But hopes are still dimmed. Richard Perle is still a bona fide member of the Defense Policy Council (He resigned as Chairman of the DPC amidst questionable conflict of interest). Wake up, America!

## OUR OPINION

## What Americans should think about...

There are times when I wonder how far some Americans can be misled and brainwashed by their government and media. Is it too much patriotism that makes them think this way?

I'm puzzled why some Americans tend to ignore opinions of others, and believe that they are right regardless of everything. For example, even though some try to present a strong statement in decent language, I feel sympathy towards Americans who send me hate mail. Some call for things like 'destroying all those who constitute a threat to the USA', and others name anti-war protestors as 'pro-Saddam Hussein who are defending this dictator to slaughter more of his people'.

I am truly amazed that some Americans never think that they may be wrong! They find it hard to believe that their government is not 'an angel' and that it could indeed do things that violate international rules of peace and justice.

I tend to avoid arguing with Americans who do not want to listen to other views. Even when they listen, they fight such views furiously.

But to be fair, I know that it's a majority of American friends and readers who do listen to other opinions, even if they are not convinced of them. They still respect them and try to understand such views. After all, isn't this part of what the American culture has been built upon "the freedom of expression and opinion"?

All I have to say to those Americans is to stop, look at the whole picture, listen and watch other non-American news sources, think, and reach their conclusion. To those Americans I say: I will respect your conclusion whatever it is. But let me tell you this.

The US army flew thousands of miles to invade another land, crush its infrastructure, kill innocent civilians, cause permanent disabilities to others, and leave them without electricity and water. This army will definitely not be welcomed with singing and dancing!

I find it truly disgusting to see how the US president has almost tearful expressions of sadness for the loss of a few American soldiers killed or imprisoned, while neglecting the fact that hundreds of innocent Iraqi civilians have died. President Bush accuses Iraqi soldiers of being terrorists, while it seems to me, and many others, that the contrary is true. How can an invader call himself a liberator while a person who defends his country with his life be called a terrorist?

These are among the questions Americans should ask themselves: Do you truly believe that your war is just? What if there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq? There is simply no proof of them yet. What if this conclusion remains after the invasion is over?

Americans should work hard to understand how the world feels about them, because no country can live in isolation anymore.

There are many contradictions in statements and actions of the US administration and those will be revealed to you as days pass by.

Visit the site ([www.whatreallyhappened.com](http://www.whatreallyhappened.com)) to learn about some of the things that your government doesn't want you to know.

Hatred against the US is in its peak and is still growing. Isn't it time to ask yourselves, why? I'm sure you would reach the right answer if you become more independent and less biased.

This is at the core of the principles on which your country was built. After all, it was your former President Theodore Roosevelt who said "To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public."

Think about it...

The Editor



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## Letters to the Editor

## Readers speak on the Iraqi War

This war is not against Muslims

I hope that all the people in the Arab world realize that this war is NOT against Muslims. It's about a man who kills for fun! He killed some of his own family members. We, the people of United States, want to make sure that all people live life FREE! And this is what the war is for.

Gene R.  
[genemc@ptd.net](mailto:genemc@ptd.net)  
USA

Bush's war is right!

I feel, greatly disappointed after reading your newspaper. See, where I live at, we publish facts and you seem to be searching for any negative reason to discredit what the Bush administration is doing, without stat-

ing any facts. I suppose it would be better to let Saddam go about killing innocent men, women, and children. Let him continue to torture, and basically become another Hitler. And then of course, if we sit back and hide, like many lesser nations, then perhaps, in time, he will have enough power to destroy us all. Maybe that is what your culture doesn't understand. I fully agree with my President, when it comes to helping those that need it.

Debbi S.  
[Sschaffer31@aol.com](mailto:Sschaffer31@aol.com)

May Allah be with the Iraqi people

I am among thousands of Muslims currently staying in Washington D.C. We don't have any power

except the might of Allah the great and the almighty. Let us all pray for the innocent Iraqi people under death row right now. Allah is always there and he is the Almighty.

We can do nothing else except praying for the innocent people of Iraq who have been under brutal sanctions for so long and are now under bombardment. May Allah be with them.

Mubarek Allumani,  
Washington D.C

Iraqis want US to liberate them

As a citizen of the USA, and an avid reader of the Yemen Times, it hurt me to read about the killing of the American and Canadian last week. I have visited your country and

think that it is a beautiful country with an attitude of peace. The people were the most hospitable I have ever seen. I am not of Islamic faith, but I do think that you are a peaceful people, for the most part, and only want the best. But why not help the people in Iraq instead? I saw the pictures of the people suffering during the Saddam regime, and I now see them so happy and thankful when the American troops come in (in southern Iraq). I don't think that they have a problem. Why would you or anybody else?

Thomas C.  
[chophy48@aol.com](mailto:chophy48@aol.com)

More letters on page 19



*Anglo-American axis...*

# Heading for disaster

BY PATRICK SEALE  
GULF NEWS

Whatever the military outcome of the "Battle for Baghdad", politically and morally the United States and Britain have already lost the war.

Far from welcoming the Western troops with flowers, surrendering, or fleeing the country as refugees, the Iraqis are putting up ferocious resistance. Thousands of Iraqis working in Jordan and elsewhere are rushing home to join the fight. Three million light weapons have been distributed to the population. Soldiers, militiamen, fedayeen, ordinary citizens - a nation in arms - have joined forces in a brave if unequal struggle which has won the admiration of anti-war protesters from Sydney to Seoul to Sanaa.

Whatever the final outcome, the Iraqis have won their proud place in Arab hearts and minds.

At the same time, Operation Iraqi Freedom has been exposed as a gruesome travesty.

## Nothing to do with liberating

An old-fashioned colonial war, built on lies, greed and geopolitical fantasies, it has nothing to do with "disarming" Iraq or "liberating" the Iraqi people. Iraq is a threat to no one. No connection has been found between Iraq and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and no evidence has been provided that Iraq has continued to manufacture chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and might pass them on to terrorist groups.

All this is malicious propaganda to mask the real war aims which are what they have been since 1991: to affirm America's global supremacy in a strategically vital, part of the world with enormous oil reserves, and to protect Israel's regional supremacy and its monopoly of weapons of mass destruction.

The vision of the main Washington war-mongers, such as Paul Wolfowitz, U.S. deputy defence secretary, and Richard Perle, chairman of the Defence Policy Board, with their cohorts in Zionist and right-wing think-tanks, has proved a self-serving mirage.

No "explosion of joy" has greeted the invasion, such as Wolfowitz continues to predict. The political map of the

region is not about to be redrawn to suit American and Israeli interests. The capture of Baghdad will not be followed by "regime change" in Iran and Syria.

A defeated and grateful Iraq will not embrace American-style "democracy" or readily sign a peace treaty with Israel. Instead, by inciting the United States to engage in a criminal adventure, these men have stirred up boundless hatred which will plague the United States and its citizens for years to come. A day will come when a Congressional committee investigates how and by whom the ill-fated decision to go to war against Iraq was taken.

## Arabs awaken

Long despised and dismissed as irrelevant, the Arab "street" has awakened and, in increasingly violent demonstrations, is exp-ressing its utter revulsion at American bullying. Iraqi resistance has in fact empowered the Arab masses in a way not seen since the passions stirred by the Egyptian leader Gamal Abdal Nasser in the nineteen fifties and sixties.

As was widely predicted, the fall-out from this war is likely to shake the region for a long while to come.

Meanwhile, on the battlefield, American and British troops, misled by their political masters, are having to face the nightmare of urban guerrilla warfare for which they have been neither trained nor equipped.

Their supply convoys and the flanks of their armoured and infantry columns are being harassed by hit-and-run raids. Iraqi cities may become their death traps. They are responding with heavy, increasingly indiscriminate, air bombardment, as well as artillery and tank fire against civilian targets, further alienating a population already enraged by 12 years of cruel and crippling sanctions. Iraqi casualties, both military and civilian, are mounting rapidly.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, have already been killed and wounded in battles at Umm Qasr, Al Nasiriyah, Najaf and many other places. The humanitarian crisis in Iraq's southern city of Basra, where two million people face acute food and water shortages, is putting great political pressure on Washington and London to do something to relieve it. Aid agencies are anxious to help, but they do not want to be tainted by association with American and British armies.

As forces gather for the assault on Baghdad, the key question facing the planners is whether the city can be taken at an acceptable cost in American and British lives.

Having lost the war politically, the U.S. and Britain are also losing the peace. No one can seriously envisage Iraq being ruled by a United States military commander or by the rag-tag bunch of Iraqi exiles funded and cultivated by right-wing, often pro-Israeli, Washington hawks. American military occupation, if it comes to that, will be no picnic. Post-war Iraq will not be a safe place for Americans or Britons, whether soldiers or administrators, or their Iraqi collaborators. Nor will it be a safe place for American contractors and other fortune-hunters who, like vultures as Iraqis die, are already bidding for contracts to be paid for out of Iraqi oil revenues, and are hoping to divide the spoils of reconstruction with their cronies in the American government.

## Blair and the UN

In the general political debacle, the saddest sight of all is Tony Blair, British prime minister, and his foreign secretary Jack Straw, scuttling for cover.

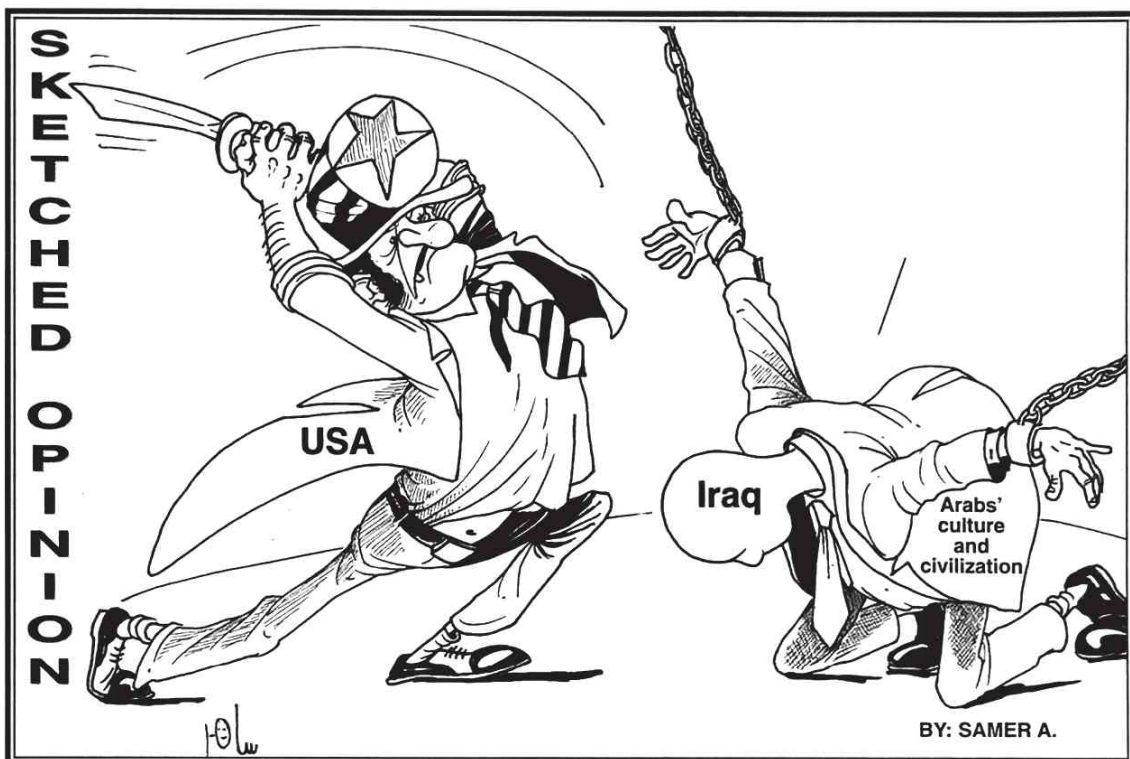
Too late, they are beginning to utter distinctly European views, at odds with those of their hard-nosed American allies. The Washington hawks now say the UN is politically irrelevant to the resolution of the Iraqi crisis and needs radical reform, like stripping France of its seat as a permanent member of the Security Council.

Blair, in contrast, says the United Nations must have a central role in a post-war Iraq. On his brief visit to the United States this week, he even made a detour via New York to call on UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. But if Blair is suddenly so keen on the UN, why did he recklessly go to war without UN authorisation? Now that things are beginning to go wrong, he is evidently hoping to recover some international legitimacy.

## Angry and upset

The big divide between Europe and America has to do with Israel and Palestine. Jack Straw has even made a startling confession. The West, he says, has been guilty of double standards!

He feels "angry and upset" at the plight of the Palestinians and also at the terror inflicted on the Israelis.



BY: SAMER A.

Britain, he told the BBC, is "100 per cent committed" to the establishment of a viable Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, based on Security Council Resolution 242, the 1967 borders, the end of Jewish settlements, and a solution of the refugee problem.

These are fine words. But if he and his master Tony Blair are committed to such a two-state solution, why have they allied themselves in war with the American friends of Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon who is totally opposed to such a solution?

Why over the past two years have they tolerated Sharon's massacre of Palestinians, his wholesale destruction of every vestige of Palestinian statehood, his targeted murders, house demolitions, settlement building, by-pass roads, closures, curfews and the rest of it?

Why have there been no British sanctions against Israel to match the criminally punitive sanctions against Iraq that Britain helped the U.S. keep in place?

## Britain isolated

Appointing himself an international statesman, Blair has sought to act as a transatlantic bridge between Europe and America. He believes it a grave danger if Europe were to constitute a rival pole to the United States, a development that most sensible people would see as a necessary check on the wild men in Washington and a major contribution to a less dangerous world. But Blair's "bridge" has collapsed, along with Iraq's buildings.

It is the gravest defeat for British diplomacy in living memory. He would do best to resign and let a more reasonable successor restore Britain's shattered ties with Europe as well as the authority of the United Nations.

*Patrick Seale is an eminent commentator and the author of several books on Middle East affairs. The writer can be contacted at: pseale@gulfnews.com*

## Appeasing and assisting the US

BY DR. KAI-ALEXANDER SCHLEVOGT  
JORDAN TIMES

The world is helplessly watching events unfolding in Iraq without taking any action against the US and promising to clean up the damage that the US creates. The international appeasement and assistance policy pursued by the UN provides George Bush, unfettered by checks and balances, the opportunity to do whatever he likes.

To start with, the UN allows the US to create a new world order dominated by hegemonic might instead of international law. The UN tolerates that the US blackmail it (by giving it an ultimatum) and undermine it (in the form of US president's remark that the UN has not lived up to its responsibility or the claim that it has proved irrelevant) without any counter-action. Instead of resisting the US, the UN only makes plans to help children through UNICEF, to direct the refugee flow and to build camps — all of which would not be necessary if it prevented or stopped the war in the first place.

Everybody agrees that Iraq needs to be disarmed (especially with respect to weapons of mass destruction), that the Iraqi president is "evil" and oppresses his people, and that war is the only option. But why should Iraq destroy its weapons if others, like Israel and the US, keep and enlarge their arsenals?

UN members allowed the US first to ruin and disarm Iraq, use the inspections for gathering information on the military potential and locations of crucial targets and then attack the helpless country which stands completely alone in a world that just watches the assaults. By threatening with "serious consequences" in UN Resolution 1441 (2002) and mentioning war as a means of last resort, UN member countries gave the US a

wildcard to attack Iraq. With the disarmament and war logic in place, the US could always act on suspicion that weapons were hidden.

Blaming the Iraqi president for the plight of his people prepared the ground for regime change fantasies and made it difficult for peace activists to support Iraq. Finally, the world bought the US version that it was launching a "decapitation attack" on Iraq's leadership. But starting off with trying to assassinate the Iraqi leadership, the US made it easier for the world to accept the beginning of its war. The damage appeared small and the alleged objective confirmed US claim that it wanted to hit the Iraqi president, not the people. From there, the US could increase the scale of its crimes.

The cynicism of the key players outside the "coalition of the willing" seriously undermines the credibility of democratic institutions throughout the West, which, in view of widespread human fallibility, rely on people believing in structurally enforced moral virtue. Instead of trying to prevent or stop the war, most countries are only thinking about capturing a piece of the postwar pie by taking part in the reconstruction of Iraq, that is, removing the damage that the war created in the first place.

The UN member states hope that "the next time" the organised international community will become the final arbiter in world affairs again. Yet, by bowing down in the face of the force that the US uses and pursuing its own often mutually contradicting interests, the intimidated rest of the world fails to show a united front against the US and provides the fertile ground in which US aggression can flourish.

*The writer is the founder and president of the Schlevogt Business School, the first higher education institution in Germany that focuses on emerging markets.*

# Europe's Muslim street

BY OMER TASPINAR  
Visiting Fellow,  
Foreign Policy Studies

Islam may still be a faraway religion for millions of Americans. But for Europeans it is local politics. The 15 million Muslims of the European Union (EU) - up to three times as many as live in the United States - are becoming a more powerful political force than the fabled Arab street. Europe's Muslims hail from different countries and display diverse religious tendencies, but the common denominator that links them to the Muslim world is their sympathy for Palestine and Palestinians. And unlike most of their Arab brethren, growing numbers of Europe's Muslims can vote in elections that count.

This political ascendancy threatens to exacerbate existing strains within the trans-Atlantic relationship. The presence of nearly 10 million Muslims versus only 700,000 Jews in France and Germany alone helps explain why continental Europe might look at the Middle East from a different angle than does the United States. Indeed, French and German concerns about a unilateral

U.S. attack on Iraq or Washington's blind support for Israel are at least partly related to nervousness about the Muslim street at home. Whether Brussels, Berlin, Paris, or Washington like it or not, Europe's Muslim constituencies are likely to become an even more vocal foreign policy lobby. Two trends are empowering Europe's Muslim street: demographics and opportunities for full citizenship.

It's worth remembering that Europe's Muslim population is an unintended consequence of actions taken nearly a half century ago. During the postwar labor shortage in the 1950s and 1960s, Turks, Algerians, Moroccans, Tunisians, and Pakistanis were called to help spur Europe's economic recovery. No host country expected these "guest-workers," as the Germans called them with characteristic frankness, to overstay their welcome. Like all good guests, they were supposed to leave, preferably when the recession hit and the party was over in the 1970s. They didn't. Instead, their families joined them, and new generations of European Turks, Algerians, Moroccans, Tunisians, and Pakistanis were born. More are on the way.

Today, the Muslim birth rate in Europe is three times higher than the non-Muslim one. If current trends continue, the Muslim population of Europe will nearly double by 2015, while the non-Muslim population will shrink by 3.5 percent. A parallel process of Muslim enfranchisement is accompanying this population surge. Nearly half of the 5 million to 7 million Muslims in France are already French citizens. The situation is similar for most of the 2 million Muslims in Great Britain. Most recently, in 2000, Germany joined the countries where citizenship is granted according to birthplace instead of ancestry. The new German citizenship laws added already a half million voters to the rolls and have opened the road to citizenship to all other Muslims in Germany. With currently 160,000 new Muslim citizens a year, the number of voters might total 3 million in the next decade.

In Germany and elsewhere in Europe, a Muslim swing vote is already having a critical impact. Consider the electoral push that newly enfranchised "German Turks" gave to Germany's incumbent Social Democrat (SPD)-Green coalition in last September's down-to-the-wire

election. These Muslim Germans punished the anti-immigrant Christian Democrats, who oppose Turkey's membership to the EU. And they expressed their gratitude for efforts by the SPD-Green coalition to change the archaic laws of German citizenship. The bad news for the German Christian Democrats is that in the next general elections in 2006, roughly 1 million German Turks will be eager to cast their votes.

A big boost to the organizational capacity of Muslims in Europe came most recently from France, home to Europe's largest Muslim community. The country's diverse Muslim community is now represented by a unified French Council of the Islamic Faith - a potential boon to its lobbying clout. French Muslims have also gained higher political visibility with the inclusion in Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin's government of two cabinet members of North African origin.

Armed with the power of the vote and quickly learning the mechanics of lobbying, the Muslim street in Europe is on its way to having more political weight than the Arab street of Egypt or Saudi Arabia. But the attacks of

September 11 have cast the growing influence of European Muslims in a more ominous light. Although the overwhelming majority of Muslims living in Europe (or, for that matter, the United States) are peaceful and law abiding, many European governments worry under their breath about the role of some European Muslims in past and future terrorist attacks - a concern stoked by the discovery of al Qaeda cells in Germany, France, Italy, and Britain. Given these not-so-latent suspicions and prejudices, one casualty of a major Islamic terrorist attack on European soil would likely be Europe's budding multiculturalism.

Another major concern is the relationship between Europe's Muslims and what is perceived in some quarters as Europe's growing anti-Semitism. True, continental Europeans are much more critical of Israel and generally more supportive of the Palestinian cause. Overall, Europeans have a difficult time understanding how a small country like Israel can have so much influence over the sole superpower. But few in the United States notice that the communities most resentful of Israel in Europe are Muslim. The perpetrators of anti-

Semitic incidents in France are not right-wing extremists protecting the "French race" from Jewish contamination. The 400 or so anti-Semitic incidents documented in the country during 2001 have mostly been attributed to Muslim youth of North African origin. Such incidents tend to spike upwards during times of Israeli-Palestinian trouble - further proof of the Muslim role. Economic problems such as unemployment and a lack of upward mobility also contribute to the frustration of Muslims in Europe, who often feel discriminated against.

On the positive side, demographic growth and enfranchisement are already integrating European Muslims into the political mainstream and have the potential to produce a moderate type of Euro-Islam. Yet the implications of a more vocal Muslim lobby in Europe's Middle East policy offer no good news for the United States. Home to a minuscule Jewish minority and growing Muslim masses, Europe will only get better at confronting the United States at the game of ethnic-lobby influence - a small price to pay, perhaps, for the emergence of a truly multicultural Europe.



# Pottery trade on brink of extinction

BY MAHYOB AL-KAMALI

**H**istorically, Yemenis have been famous for many handicrafts and traditional hand trades including making ceramic pottery.

Pottery used to be very much in demand during the past decades because it was used for more than one purpose; for cooking, serving food and traditional coffee, and cooling water, etc.

Yet during the last few years, pottery production has witnessed a severe decline. Plastic industry took over, so did metal and glass cookware.

This was probably due to the new industries that emerged in Yemen. However, pottery still has a place in the hearts of millions of Yemenis, but is definitely less in use today. Most of the

Sheikhs in tribal areas and villages still maintain the old traditions of serving food to guests in pottery and mud utensils, which in some ways save the trade from extinction.

This industry provides a source of income for handicraftsmen especially in the present circumstances when job opportunities are extremely scarce. Hence, the disappearance of this trade would have catastrophic consequences on this section of the community.

Pottery markets are many in the old city of Sana'a and in other cities as well. A visitor would easily find them in a variety of colors and shapes, attracting consumers and tourists.

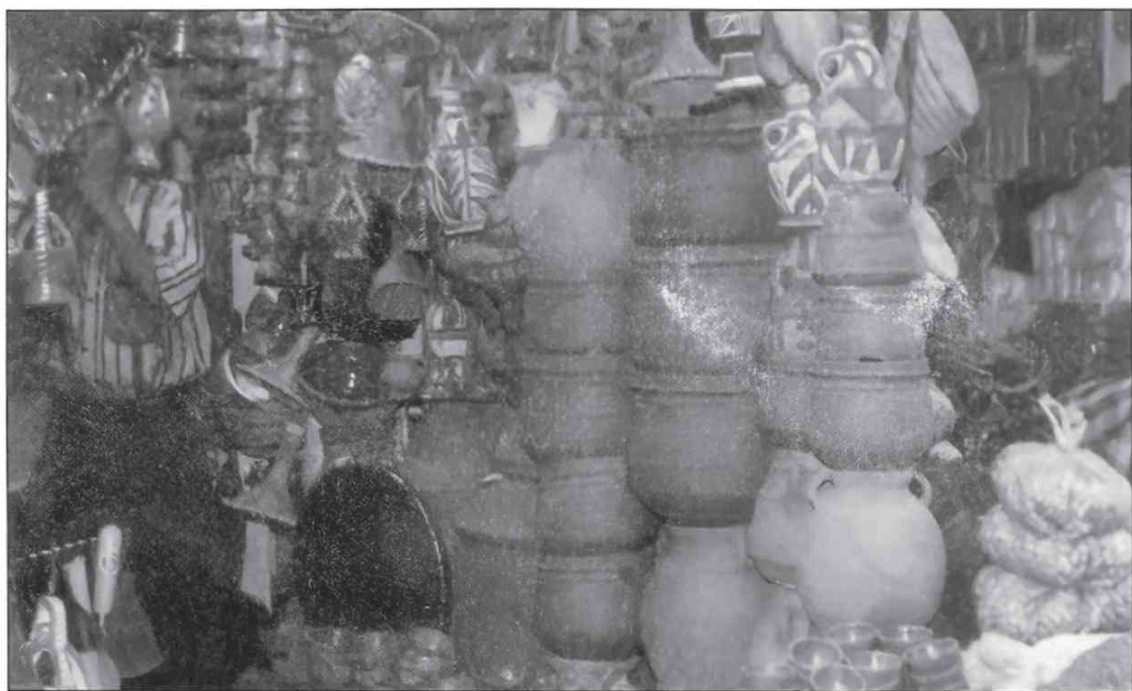
Pottery specialists claim that in spite of the decline in the production and trade of pottery and ceramic products, yet the industry gained a lot of importance

because it is an inherited trade throughout generations, where handicraftsmen come with their products to the local markets.

The pottery industry could be classified according to its size and use as follows:

1. Porridge utensils
2. Water Pipes (Shisha) tobacco holders (Boori)
3. Coffee cups and utensils
4. Meat and vegetable dishes
5. Vases and flower containers
6. Water containers and coolers
7. Stoves and cooking ovens

In addition to many other uses, pottery still is of great economic value and requires attention and support from concerned establishments and bodies so as to maintain this beautiful trade and keep it growing.



Pottery making and other handicrafts as shown in this photo are about to be declined

## MUS'ID & MUS'IDA

First Ever Yemeni Radio Series published in a newspaper

Written by  
Abdulrahman Mutahhar

49

Translated by  
Janet Watson

### Marrying one without the other

**Ma** – Goodness, Mus'id! You're the only one I know who's about to marry off his younger son before his older son!

**M** – Just be quiet, will you, and give blessings to the Prophet!

**Ma** – The peace of God be upon him and his family. But really, Mus'id, how can you mean to marry off your younger son while he's still out playing, and leave your older son without a wife when he's already 35 years old! How did you manage to square that one?

**M** – I didn't need to square it. The Yemeni philosopher said,

'Farmers, don't reckon farming's easy. It needs two good bulls and a warm house full of produce.'

**Ma** – Look! I'm trying to talk to you about this off-beam decision of yours. Everyone thinks you're daft and they're all talking about you!

**M** – Why should they be talking about me? What have I got to do with them?

**Ma** – They say that Mus'id's weak in the head, marrying off his younger son, who's only just 15, while his elder son, who's already 35, is still unmarried!

**M** – Our elder son, Mus'ida, abandoned me and the land and the village, and took himself off to the town. Then after we'd lost all contact with each other, he came back asking me to get him married!

**Ma** – Since you're going to marry off the younger boy, you may as well kill two birds with one stone and marry off the older one too. By rights, he should come before his brother, Mus'id!

**M** – His younger brother should come

before him, and deserves to get married far more than he does! He stayed tied to the land, and is my right-hand man. We wouldn't have half the number of sheep and goats we have if it weren't for all the sweat and blood he's put into the work. You won't get any produce or any tilled land if you're not prepared to put in the effort and perseverance. And I want to get him married to firm up his commitment to the land!

**Ma** – He certainly does deserve well. 'You don't have a farmer without two good bulls and a warm house full of produce.' But it's not right for you to marry the younger one at the expense of the older one when they're both your flesh and blood!

**M** – Okay, what do you think I should do then?

**Ma** – I think you should wait until I'm able to find a nice girl for the older boy, and then marry them both off at the same time.

**M** – I'll do what you say, but on one condition.

**Ma** – Go on!

**M** – The younger boy will get married because he's already got his housing sorted out, and can reckon on God supplying him with all his needs because he's prepared to work the land. He doesn't need to wait for a wage or overtime, or wonder where his food's going to come from. And he doesn't need to worry about poverty. You know the saying,

'I'm not worried about poverty, because I have a hundred vines of grape!'

**Ma** – I know all that. I'm not stupid. But

I'm not going to stand by while you marry off the younger boy and not the older one when they're both your children! Do you want me to have a slanging match with you so that everyone can hear? It's not right to treat your children differently!

**M** – You're right in that they're both my sons, but there is one thing. The older boy has not tended the animals, nor tilled the land, nor worked from dawn till dusk, nor suffered from the cold and the heat, nor taken the produce to market to sell. He doesn't appreciate the value of the land at all. Then, at the end of the week, he came up to me wanting me to find him a bride, so that he can remove her from the paradise of the countryside to the hell of the city and ruin her life!

**Ma** – You can do whatever you want, but you're the only one who'll be to the blame!

**M** – There won't be any blame. If your older son is prepared to return to the village and the land, and roll up his sleeves and stand beside me and his younger brother to work the land and eat from it, then he can have his bride, his coat, shawl, waistwrap, scabbard and expensive jambiya. He can pay back half his debt by getting up early with her to go to the fields before the dew has evaporated, and that will serve him far better than the hardships and worries of city life!

Cf. al-Akwa', p. 30.

Cf. Qanun Sana'a, p. 2; Aqwal, p. 27. The grapes mentioned in the original are atraf, a slender, long, whitish type, cf. Piamenta.

## Wilfred Owen

# Poet laments war

BY DR. HUSSEIN SALEH ALZUBAIRI  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**W**ilfred Owen was one of the greatest names in English war poetry. He was a soldier by profession. Owen was soon called by the emergency of war when the First World War broke out in 1914.

Owen speaks as a soldier with perfect and certain knowledge of war at grips with the soldier; as a mind, surveying the whole process of wasted spirit, art and blood in all its instant and deeper evils.

Owen has been rightly regarded as an inspired poet. And the stimulus for him is his craving for rectifying the blunder of a world that sank into the swamp of blood, bullets and bombs.

The poem: Strange Meeting is one of the most profoundly imaginative statements of Owen's war experience. The inspiration of the poem is war.

The poet has recorded here his grim experience of the front and his prophetic vision of the effects of war.

Strange Meeting is a fine imaginative piece of Wilfred Owen about the cruel effects of war. The meeting of two soldiers is in hell after their death. One of them is an English soldier, while the other one is a German. The English soldier killed the German only to be killed by somebody else.

It is after their death that the two soldiers meet, and talk about the tragedy of war. The English soldier awakens after his death in the hard region of hell, full of dead bodies. He finds before him another soldier.

That soldier looks pale and worried. The English soldier tries to console him. The other soldier tells him how both of them are the victims of war. Both of them had happiness and hope. But war had ended all.

They could not give out to the world the bitter truth of war. The strange soldier fears that the next generation will never learn from them the cruelty of war. He expresses his eagerness to save mankind from the terrible effect of war.

He tells the English soldier that he is the German soldier whom the latter killed on the other day.

The poem powerfully expresses pity and horror at the incalculable and meaningless slaughter of a promising youth on the field of battle. Owen does not sing of the romance or glory of war. His subject is rather war and the pity of war.

In an eloquent manner he brings out the utter negation of the value of human life in war. Promising youths are all doomed on the battlefield, and Owen graphically describes their unhappy fate. War is a dreadful monster. It is the negation of all that is good and great in humanity.

Owen's poem glaringly displays war with all its brutality and insensibility. The only way to find release from war is peace. In peace lies hope of humanity. Peace alone can save man and his civilization.

Wilfred Owen tells the above and the following to the gravediggers. The dead body of the war poet reveals to the gravediggers the shocking, the great suffering and the destructive coming war. He says that politics and politicians have dirty connotations and



Wilfred Owen

do not attract the refined minds.

Owen paints the gloomy and the disgusting pictures of war. He shows how man's conflict between passion and reason made happiness impossible.

The problem which engaged the attention of Owen was that a perfectly efficient technological society freed from all struggles and moral effort would not only be intensely boring but intolerable. In such society man would cease to be human.

The nightmarish vision of war is producing the impression of confusion to the whole humanity.

We are living in a state of continuing crisis. Because of the terrifying effects of the expected war, there is a growing feeling that life is a hopeless, a meaningless affair.

President Bush and Prime Minister Blair, please flashback your mind to the First and the Second World Wars and stop the coming war from breaking out.

## Pakistan School Sana'a Pre-Students' Week Activities Over

# Students' week Starts

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**P**akistan School Sana'a is celebrating its annual sports week. The first phase of this annual event has ended. This phase included speech contest, drawing and painting, morning assembly performance and qualifying rounds of football, basket ball and volleyball matches.

Speech contest was divided into two categories; serious and humorous. The topic to speak on for the former was "It's better to wear out than to rust out" and for the latter "Friendship is a curse". The contests of the serious speech made the audience spell bound by their eloquence and brevity on the other hand the contests of humorous speech appeared on the stage like comedians. The little comedians amused the audience greatly with their jesting comments and satirical speeches. Miss Najah Al-Mujahid won the first position for Jinnah House in the serious speech contest whereas Miss Grami Dong secured the first position for Al Qais House in humorous speech.

Drawing and painting was another event that captured the attention of the students. This event had also two categories namely Junior and Senior. Though the participants were not professionals but their performance was not less than that of the professionals. Participants remained immensely engaged for about two hours in draw-



Basketball teams with the Principal and Vice Principal of the school

ing and painting. Their keen interest and dexterity greatly marveled the viewers. In drawing competition Miss Rasha Durrani and Mr. Hadeel won the first positions for Al Qais House and Jinnah House respectively. In painting Miss Samah Fadhal and Miss Rabia Khalid won the first positions for Al Qais House and Jinnah House respectively. Morning Assembly presentation was another spectacular show. Students and the House Masters toiled hard to win this competition. The competition included the recitation of the Glorious Quran and Hadith with short and brief explanation. The competitors staged tableaux and presented skits to amuse the audience. All the Houses

concluded their presentations with singing of the National Anthems of Pakistan and Yemen. Al Qais House won the first position in this competition.

The qualifying rounds of food ball, volley and basketball have been completed. Many matches ended up in a draw and the decisions were made on the basis of penalty kicks or by giving extra time. Al Qais House is leading with 37 points. Jinnah House has 30 points, Iqbal House has 25 points and Al-Zubair House has 23 points.

Now this annual event has entered the final phase of the activities. All the houses are endeavoring hard to win the trophy.



A group photo of the two teams of football before the match along with the Principal the school



*Dr. Abdulaziz Y. Najmaddin, shares his thoughts*

# Institute trains workers for Yemen's health care sector

The Higher Institute for Health Sciences in Sana'a is reckoned as one of the prominent institutes that helps provide the country with highly trained and competent cadre in the various sub-disciplines of medicine such as laboratory and rays-technicians, pharmacy assistants, and even natural treatment.

Yemen Times reporter Ismael Alghabry met Dr. Abdulaziz Najmaddin, the institute's vice-dean. Following is an edited version of their discussion.

**Q: What are the activities being currently carried out by the Institute this year and those in the past year?**

**A:** Activities implemented at the very outset of the academic year 2002-2003 are many. For instance, a course in teaching methods for instructors has been held at the Higher Institute for Health Sciences along with its branches. The course lasted for one year carried out by the two staff of both the Health Institute and Sana'a University. The course has been financed by the German government.

Another practical short-term course meant for supervisors and trainers in which many supervisors and trainers took part has also been implemented.

Moreover, there is a three-year course in the natural treatment funded by the Italian (Movimondo) Organization - that also funds another program in Aden at Ameen Nasher's institute - to be carried out by the competent staff of the institute all over the country's governorates.

The institute here in Sana'a along with its branches have admitted a large number of students in all its various specialized departments such as, mid-wifery, nursing, public health, medical statistics, medical assistants, medical laboratories, rays and pharmacology, beside admitting many students in the nursing schools supervised by the Institute, such as the nursing schools of Athawrah General Hospital, Sabeen (70) Hospital, Aljumhuri Hospital and in some other nursing schools in some other governorates.

Besides, financed by Germany, U.S. and Social Fund for Development a number of nurses and midwives have been admitted in Mareb and Saadah. And here let us do justice to the (SDF) as it generously and constantly finances innumerable activities in the country such as constructing health institutes in all governorates, constructing specialized departments such

as maintenance workshop for the medical appliances in Sana'a, building a hostel for female students, constructing the diagnosis laboratory, furnishing students' hostel and some parts of the institute as well as supplying it with training tools and appliances.

The Institute also carries upon its shoulders the accountability of training during service so as to technically further qualify the cadre who graduated from the Institute a few years ago.

**Q: What is the enrolling policy adopted in the Institute and its branches, and what is the concise number of the students enrolled this year?**

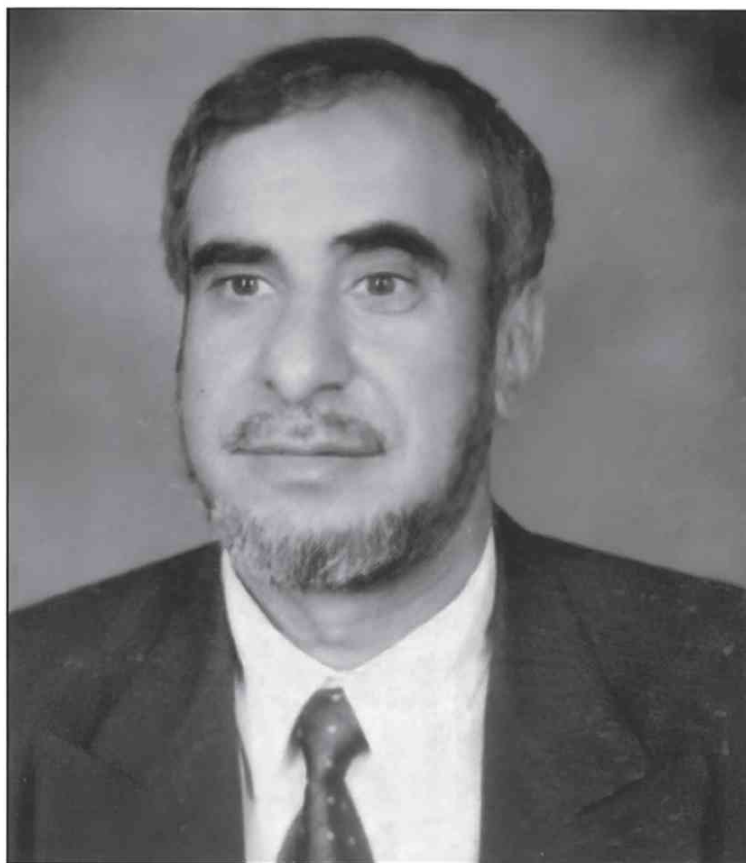
**A:** In Sana'a this year about 585 students have been admitted in the varying specialized departments of the Institute, over 30 female students in the nursing school of Athawrah General Hospital, and over 25 students in Assabeen Hospital, most of which are workers in the same hospital and over 30 students in Aljumhuri Hospital.

With respect to the students enrolled this year in all the specialized departments and the branches of the Institute are as follows: about 333 students in Taiz, 235 in Hudaidah, 163 in Ibb, 163 in Dharmar, 65 in Hajjah, 68 in Almahweet, 55 in Saadah, 120 in Amran, 120 in Marab and AlBaidha and the nursing school in Wadec Bana'a at Assadah and 150 students in the far-off areas.

**Q: Are the private health institutes being supervised by the Institute, especially with respect to the examination process?**

**A:** To begin with, private institutes have emerged in the previous couple years as a result of the huge output of secondary schools on one scale and the students' desire and keen interest in health education on another. Some of those institutes are licensed and many others are not.

The licensed ones adopt the official curricula and of course there is a commission by the Institute that constantly controls and supervises the teaching and training processes and the curricula and that is only in the licensed institutes whose certificates get officially attested. These numbers are currently being trained and qualified by the Nasher's institute and its branches in the northern governorates. The institute focuses its concentration more on the woman element as it encourages those enrolled and provides them with



Dr. Abdulaziz Y. Najmaddin

accumulation and nutrition and transportation

**Q: What are the obstacles the Institute encounters?**

**A:** It is axiomatic that we face a host of obstacles technically, administratively and financially. On the technical side the problems encountered by the Institute are as follows:

- Unavailability of scholarships for the teaching staff so as to continue the higher studies each in his/her area of specialization
- Need of training and technical cadre in some departments and the inability of recruiting cadre as well.
- Inability to qualify all the cadres in the institute in the provinces of teaching methods, supervision and activating courses.
- Unavailability of transportation media for the students which constitutes the major obstacle to thoroughly fulfill students training

**On the administrative side there are many difficulties on the top of which is the transportation problem as we don't have even one single means of transportation to supervise and follow**

**up the latest development in both - the branches and field work.**

On the financial side the institute though receives students from all governorates yet it has a very limited budget and that does not able us to provide and purchase training tools and other vital and crucial requirements as computers, modern clarification media, administrative bureau for the lately open sections. And such being the case, the institute remains unable to reward those deserving marvelous activists in scientific research, instructing and supervision.

**Q: Any last word?**

**A:** I do offer my sincere thanks to Yemen Times editor-in-chief for constantly following up the institute's activities as well as other health and environmental issues in our country and I congratulate its chief editor for getting the newspaper scaling greater heights, bringing it to the standard of the other global newspapers. And I once again congratulate Yemen Times staff on the occasion of celebration of the 12th anniversary of the founding of the Yemen Times.

*Dr. Yahya Al-Thawr, Chairman of Modern-German Hospital, says . . .*

## Yemen's medicine going from good to better

**A**ny official sector, vital ones in particular, needs to be well-organized and competently supervised so as to attain the objectives and standard intended.

Medicine comes at the top of all issues that claim the attention of any country that esteems its people, but regrettably the matter in our country is totally reversed.

Things are allowed to slide in the country in general, and in medicine in particular. That is really a Yemeni made humanitarian disaster.

This terrible condition of medicine chaos has made some of the well-to-do to prefer to be hospitalized abroad as long as they untrust to be treated in Yemen, while poor patients either wait painfully and helplessly for their slow death at home or go out to face it at hospitals.

Yemen Times writer Mohammed al-Masani spoke to Dr. Yahya Al-Thawr chairman of the board of (Modern German Hospital) last week in Sana'a. Following is an edited version of the discussion.

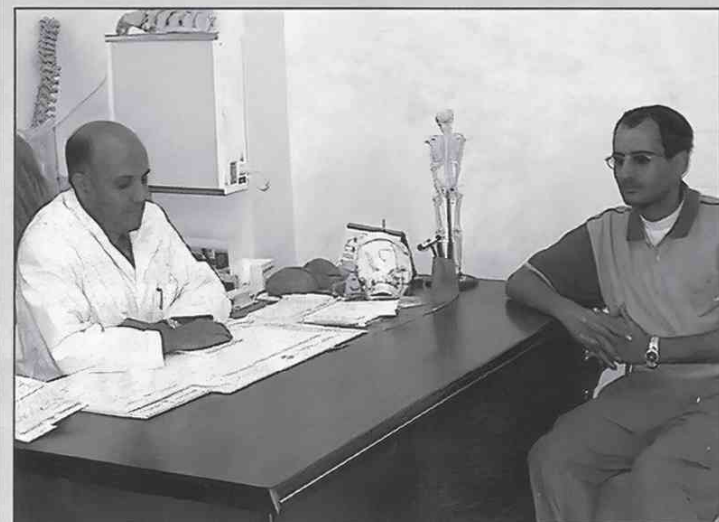
**Q: How do you evaluate the private medical sector performance?**

**A:** Performance of the private medical sector is satisfactory but it should better itself under the government's supervision, control and encouragement, as both sectors are integrated and complementary.

**Q: In your opinion, what are the major difficulties in both public and private sectors faced by the Yemeni physician?**

**A:** Regarding the problems and obstacles encountered, there is plenty to talk about such as the lack of adequate medical services and facilities for a large percentage of the population, the lack of good administration, following up, supervision and the unavailability of most medical apparatuses like nuclear rays used for operations of post cancer tumor eradication.

But one of the major problems physicians encounter is the distrust the patients have for the physicians and thus treatment is made more difficult and this distrust has resulted of some mistakes committed by some physicians since 1962 to now.



Dr. Yahya al-Thawr with Mr. Al-Masani

**Q: How do you estimate Yemen's current medical condition?**

**A:** The medical situation in Yemen is unluckily getting from bad to worse since officially it is not given its due care and attention. It is at the bottom of the administration's agenda and is left uncontrollable or controlled by unqualified so-called supervisors.

**Q: What is the possibility of treatment at home?**

**A:** We all know that the ability of treatment is but unfortunately not well organized, as it should be. For instance, neurosurgery could successfully be executed in Yemen, yet people don't trust and go abroad.

**Q: Well, why do some people travel abroad for treatment?**

**A:** People, who go abroad for treatment fall into two categories. First are those moneyed ones who don't and cannot trust Yemeni medical conditions i.e. services and facilities. Second are those who never pay for their treatment rather their enterprises do for all their treatment.

**Q: Have brain and nerves operations become genuinely possible in Yemen?**

**A:** Brain surgery commenced in the early 1997 in Yemen. The first operation of brain tumor eradication was carried out following the most modern scientific and technical methods. There are also some more operations that have been successfully executed utilizing the latest apparatuses ever such as internal fixation of v.c., disc prolapse, terminal brain tumors.

**Q: How far has Germany assisted Yemen in the medical domain?**

**A:** One of Germany's untold assistance and support for Yemen in distinctive districts specially the far-off in the medical domain is its training and qualifying of the Yemeni medical cadre during the past four decades which had its own impact on the medical advancement in Yemen.

The German government has also provided many hospitals with medical tools and equipment especially in the remote districts along with some highly qualified experts and professors in different disciplines of medicine, like Dr. Muller, head of the department of radio, in addition to many other qualified doctors and nurses.

**Q: Does the hospital provide any assistance for the poor and ill treatment?**

**A:** The hospital has a charitable fund for treatment of the poor, especially the children for which 15% out of the earnings goes.

**Q: How is that done?**

**A:** There is a social committee that studies and assesses the patient's social and health status and thus the patient is treated accordingly.

**Q: A word to the press, if any?**

**A:** Seek seriousness, impartiality and objectivity.

## A system of inefficiencies

# What ails medicine in Yemen

By DR. MOHAMMED AL-SHUQA'A  
ADEN  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The quality of medical services is measured by the accessibility of basic medicines in a country. In Yemen, the medical services are quite inefficient and the medicine supplies system is quite ineffective.

The medical sector is one with huge income due to the great numbers of people attending hospitals and private clinics, but still the services provided to those people in return for their money is feeble for the following reasons:

Scarcity of basic medicines and medical equipment. Where hospitals and medical centers have a weak inefficient infrastructure and in most cases does not even have the basic medicines in the hospital storage or pharmacy. This is mostly evident in the suburbs.

No organized medical legislation until now. There are no medical legislation accurate and strict that would be responsible for distribution of the

medicines after being responsible for importing them also there is no real regulatory supervision on the retailers and agents.

Weak national medical industry. The local industry is no where in comparison with the international one and is in no position to compete with the world manufacturers. Also this industry is not supported sufficiently by the government. In addition to the fact that some of the medicines are poorly made and so the local industry loses its credibility in the local market.

Registration of medicines without scientific standards and importing unnecessary medicines. The government imports unnecessary medicines just so as the private sector gains massive benefits. Sometimes, the medicines are even toxic but because of insistent marketing they are bought by consumers.

Chaotic distribution of medicines without monitoring. The objective for organizing medicine distribution, to allow the basic medicines to be available at anytime and at all levels to all. The agents, and medical centers should be responsible for providing

these medicines to the patients according to the population density and need of the area.

But what actually happens in that the medicines are distributed per mood and with no regards to the actual need. Moreover, storage of the medicines takes place in unhealthy and inefficient ways, which causes the damage of the medicines or theft. The private sector which is encouraged by the benefit and high income would consequently be more efficient from the government sector, a problem faced in all the developing countries.

Smuggling. Through illegal means and routes unauthorized and untested medicines enter the local market, they cause harm and damage to the public health thorough usage for they might have expired already or untested. Sometimes those medicines become quite popular and the demand for them increases as they are rare, whereas the little resources dedicate for importing medicines are used for importing unnecessary ones.

Marketing of internationally banned medicines. Some banned medications or those withdrawn from the interna-

tional market find their way to the country making it a trashcan for the worlds below the standards products. The only benefit is some companies who market those products and gain a lot of money from doing so causing many innocent people to get sick, and sometimes even die.

Wrong prescriptions from doctors. Many doctors are known to prescribe huge amounts of medicines without actual need for them. Either because they have a commission on the medicines bought or because they feel good sending patients with tons of medications back home.

What is worse is that in many occasions the prescription is totally wrong and the patient lands up with a new disease besides the original one. Moreover, when medicines are taken in a regular way the body forms immunity against them and when they are actually needed they lose effect.

Other problems include: selling of the wrong medicines by pharmacists, unwise consumption of medicines by the people, wrong self-medication, no post marketing quality monitoring, no studying of side effects, unethical marketing for medicines.



# Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

**T**he ongoing Anglo-American war of aggression which started against Iraq since 20 March still captures the main headlines and themes of articles and commentaries published in Yemen's local press this week. The newspapers focus in their news stories coverage of daily developments of the war supported with pictures of the Iraqi civilian casualties and the destruction inflicted on civilian buildings, not sparing even media establishments such as TV and radio by the intensive bombardment carried out by the aggressor's warplanes and long-range missiles dropped on Baghdad and other Iraqi cities. Analysts and columnists continue writing articles on consequences of this illegitimate war on the people of Iraq and the actual goals of it that exceed the aims declared by the Anglo-American coalition. Articles and analyzes to be presented in this review represent various aspects of the political spectrum in Yemen.



**Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, (NUO) 25 Mar. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- NUO central committee calls for expulsion of aggression countries ambassadors
- Protest demonstrations in Sana'a
- The Nasserites fight in Iraq, three of al-Wahdawi journalists sentenced to imprisonment
- Internationally prohibited cluster bombs used in the war of aggression in Iraq
- President Saddam Hussein: The enemy will be defeated, victory soon
- NUO's secretary general hails the party's members courageous stand in Iraq

Dr Jameel Ahmed Oun al-Madhaji says in an article that the brutal attack by the United States, Britain and their allies on Iraq and the people of Iraq, comes as part of the neo-colonialist countries\_ America and its allies\_ strategy for controlling peoples and seizing their riches and re-drawing the map of the world in accordance with interests of the new world order at the time of globalization.

Brutality and immorality of this U.S.-led war, in challenge to the international legitimacy and laws and all human norms, makes us expect dangerous results and phenomena in future under the hegemony and superiority of the one pole in the world and its disregard of the UN Security Council. The aggression on Iraq's sovereignty and he attempt to occupy its land is but one step towards coming scenarios and schemes of the U.S. in the Arab region and the world.

The Arab official silence of the Arab regimes versus the aggression or the way of their dealing with it discloses the regimes satellite to America and reveals their subservience to it. This silence and their suppression of the Arab masses and preventing them from expressing their attitude towards the aggression, proves weakness of these regimes and lies. The Arab regimes are demanded now, and quickly, to take practical stands against this war of aggression by refusing and condemning it and the demand for stopping it. Meanwhile, they have to work for reac-

tivating the weapon of economic boycott, freezing diplomatic relations and allowing Arab masses and their political parties to express their refusal of the of this war, through international organizations and their diplomatic relations world countries.



**Al-Sahwa weekly, 27 Mar. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Iraqis' steadfastness embarrasses Arab regimes
- Party leaderships interrogated for condemning the aggression without getting permission beforehand
- Al-Mouayad lawyer: American made a trick on Yemeni constitution
- Baghdad demands closure of Bush's embassies
- Sentence against al-Wahdawi newspaper journalists condemned

The editor in chief of the newspaper says in a front page article when the Arab people throughout the Arab world paid high prices in response to calls for liberation from colonialism and despotism, they all were dreaming of a state where they are the unconquerable masters. They dreamt of a state without nepotism and that law would give priority to criterion of efficiency to all other criteria. Frankly speaking, the Arab citizen has seen some officials and leaders of such good examples who coextend with their people an ordinary life, sharing them their joys and miseries. But regrettably those officials were not able to give the people all that they dreamed of. Stability could not be realized in their countries and the west and east remained the destination from where to search for development. After less than half a century the citizen found himself asking himself about what his free leaders done for him.

The writer maintains that democracy gives the people a chance equal to their capability but not to their post. It is the democracy of the right and richness, the democracy of the sovereignty of the citizen.

The author concludes his article with saying that the Arab citizen in the entire Arab world has to insist on his right to practice the democracy and that this would lose any of its meanings if the ballot is not its judge.

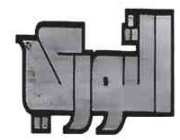


**ATTARIQ weekly, 25 Mar. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- While calling his people to stand up to the Anglo-American aggression, Saddam Hussein: By entering Iraq territories the American-British forces put themselves in a quagmire
- Lawyers in Aden stage sit-in in solidarity with the people of Iraq
- Hadramout Sheiks declare their solidarity with Sheikh A'edha
- Abyan writers express solidarity with the Iraq people

Columnist Khalid Ali Tuaiman says in his article in a flagrant violation of principles of international law and the international community, the United States and Britain decided to launch the war on Iraq. Their alleged pretext is to disarm the country from its so-called weapons of mass destruction by the use of force. His is in fact just a curtain to implement from behind it the first stage of the American scheme which includes two strategic goals. The first is to expand the scope of the American control of the Arab region's oil, by direct seizure of Iraqi oil, and the gaining of a partial control of the European economy, which consumes 80 per cent of the Arab oil, and to limit the European competition of the American economy. The second strategic aim lies in completing the blockade around Iran to prevent it from playing its regional role and its containment politically. The second expected scene is to remove certain Arab regimes that have proved to be irrelevant and have become a burden for the implementation of the new American strategy in the region because of their lacking of a popular base and possibility of facing social explosions too difficult to control and avoid their reflections on the American interests there. The scheme also contains an attempt to draw a new political map for the region according to an American vision depending on the theory of the unilateral pole, preparing for the establishment of a new Middle Eastern Order. This proposed order would be composed weak Arab entities whose economies are controlled by Israel which is designed to be the regionally strongest political, economic and military power in the area. Our rulers would be quite mistaken if they thought even for a moment that the war, now being waged on the Iraqi people, is not part of an American plot targeting the entire region.



**Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 27 Mar. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Shelling the civilians in Iraq continues

- Head of YSP political office: Petroleum, aim of war on Iraq, its calculations wrong
- In protest against the war on Iraq, Yemeni Journalists Syndicate stage a sit-in
- Parliament and Shoura council refuse to lift immunity from al-Atwani and al-Mikhlaifi
- Dangers await Yemen due to globalization and the war
- Sheikh al-A'bis killed, a companion injured
- Yemeni journalist's league declares solidarity with al-Wahdawi newspaper

Columnist Hashim Abdulaziz says in an article the American and British troops have succeeded by using their "smart" projectiles in cutting electric power and water supplies in the city of Basra in southern Iraq and the destruction of tens of houses on the heads of their inhabitants in the capital Baghdad. With such "achievements" and other savage acts of destruction of vital Iraq installations, the "humanitarian" operation that Washington and London have undertaken, has traversed a long distance on the road of "liberating" the people of Iraq from he remainder means of their survival after a more than of a decade of sanctions and blockade that exhausted the major constituents of their life and prosperity.

In the light of President Bush's request from the American congress to approve the allotment of an additional amount of \$ 75 billion, it has become evident that the American and British "humanitarian" operations in Iraq, translated into the "mother of bombs", would "liberate" the Iraqi people from their very existence, especially after the past days of hostilities have toppled upside down all prospects. And this means that one of the major undeclared objectives of the ongoing war of aggression has come to surface, i.e. the control of oil fields there.



**Al-Tagamou weekly, 24 Mar. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Dangerous complications of the war in Iraq
- Consequent to Friday demonstrations, four opposition leaders arrested and others are being chased
- Government refuses an American request to expel Iraq diplomat
- American embassy in Sana'a closed
- Yemeni organization for defending human rights and democratic freedoms condemns aggression on Iraq

Columnist Abdulbari Tahir writes that the catastrophic thing is that America has chosen the heart of the Arab homeland as a field for its battle for leadership of the world and canceling roles of others in international deci-

sion-making, especially the permanent members of the security council; France, Russia and China. These countries rejection of the American arrogance stems from their deep realization of indications and dangers of America's hegemony on people's destinies and imposition of a military dictatorship exceeding beyond Iraq and the entire Arab world. Selecting Iraq, or rather the Arab homeland, is attributed to the huge petroleum interests and the existence of Israel, the strategic ally. And also most important is fragility of the Arab order and corrosion of its legitimacy and liability to colonialism.

Launching the war by America and Britain without an international decision represents a violation and aggression on the UN and the Security Council and also a disdain towards is charter.

Even if this power of aggression could have achieved quick gains, it would have put its feet on the road of its end. It would find itself facing its people and various world nations. This confrontation would disclose more than one Achilles Heel in the American ghoul of the age haunted with illusions of power and myth of superiority and possession of right to enslave the world to re-draft it in line with a cowboy mentality.



**Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC ruling party, 24 Mar. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- Iraq resists the aggression
- Shoura Council holds a session devoted to enhance requirements of national alignment
- Yemen rejects an American request for deporting Iraqi diplomats
- Nomination period for parliamentary elections begins

The political editor of the newspaper says under the very nose of the entire world the people of Iraq come under a brutal aggression where the most lethal weapons are being used and tons of bombs and missiles are mercilessly dropped on the heads of innocent children, women and elderly people. This American-British destructive aggression on the people of Iraq does not depend on any convincing legal or legitimate justification except the mad desire of for control and hegemony and to conquer people will. The strange thing is that it comes under the allegation of implementing international legitimacy resolutions or riddance of weapons of mass destruction claimed to be by Iraq, whereas those who claim this know very well are the first who are violating resolutions of international legitimacy and refusing to abide by it and the international will that kept announcing its opposition of the war and adhering to the peaceful solution for the Iraq crisis. The international will sees it is not right for any state to impose its guardianship on the world

and to declare itself as its master. This situation has made the UN face a difficult test and rather undermine its future existence. According to the news coming from the battle field in Iraq it has become clear that weapons of mass destruction are being used by those who allegedly claim they have gone there to get rid of weapons of mass destruction, such as cluster bombs and long-range missiles that pounded the people and houses of the people in Basra and the Iraqi cities including the capital Baghdad. Developments of events during the past days proved that the Iraqi people stand steadfastly against the Anglo-American aggression since its very beginning by virtue of the cohesion between the people, the army and their leadership. The Iraqis are now defending bravely their unity, independence and sovereignty. The Iraqi resistance has surprised the many and changed many of balances at both military and political calculations and the Iraqis have proved on the ground that they are the title of dignity and national glory.



**Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, 23 Mar. 2003.**

## Main headlines:

- The Baath party condemns the aggression, demands for declaring al-Jihad
- Tens of American soldiers get prisoners of war in the hands of Iraqi troops
- National alignment committee reaches an agreement
- Economists confirm more economic losses in Yemen

The newspaper's editorial says the individual decision taken by America and Britain of launching aggression on Iraq has represented a dangerous challenge to the international unanimity and disavow of the UN charter, in addition to provocation to feelings of the Arabs and Muslims. The Anglo-American decision of aggression is an indication of the course of the new world order. The brutal bombardment taking place against the Iraqi civilians and civil services utilities can be described as the moral collapse of the human's values and their rights and heralds a decline of human development. All peace-loving forces in the world must stand against it and the aggression is at all events is directed against all the Arabs. For defending the state of competence Baghdad is representing now, the editorial call for:

- declaring the state of jihad and volunteering in support of the Iraqis,
- pushing the government to take official stands compatible with the volume of challenge and in line with the masses national orientation,
- boycotting all goods of the allies,
- pushing for severing political and diplomatic relations with America and Britain and their allies.

# World Press

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

## Britain

### The Independent

Up to 55 Iraqi civilians, including several children, were reported to have been killed in an accidental missile strike on a crowded Baghdad vegetable market Friday night.

### The Daily Telegraph

Syria and Iran were warned Friday by Donald Rumsfeld, the US defense secretary, to stop helping Saddam Hussein's forces or be held account-

able for "hostile acts."

### Financial Times

More than 80 British companies plan to meet UK government officials early next month to discuss ways of securing reconstruction work in Iraq.

### The Times

British Prime Minister Tony Blair indicated on Friday that he is ready

to spend all of the political capital he has earned in Washington on a desperate attempt to revive the Middle East peace process.

### The Guardian

Britain and France temporarily set aside their differences on Friday to support a United Nations security council resolution that will provide emergency humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

## Pakistan

### Dawn

Pakistan on Friday welcomed a joint US-UK call for early renewal of dialogue between Pakistan and India but rejected outright their statement insinuating that Pakistan had not fulfilling its commitment on cross-border infiltration.

### The Nation

Parliamentarians, Muttahida Majlis-

e-Amal and various human rights organizations held separate demonstrations in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to protest against the US-led war against Iraq, urging the United Nations to play its due role to help stop war in the Middle East.

### The Statesman

The Pakistani Senate on Friday continued debate on the Iraq situation with

majority of senators asserting that the United States military action lacked legitimacy and was motivated by its thirst for oil.

### The News

Pakistan on Friday termed the failure of India to give prior notice about the test fire of its Prithvi missile as reflective of its hypocrisy on the arms control issue.

## Egypt

### Al Ahram

The German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce has prepared a comprehensive and long-term plan to help increase Egyptian exports to the German market as well as other European markets.

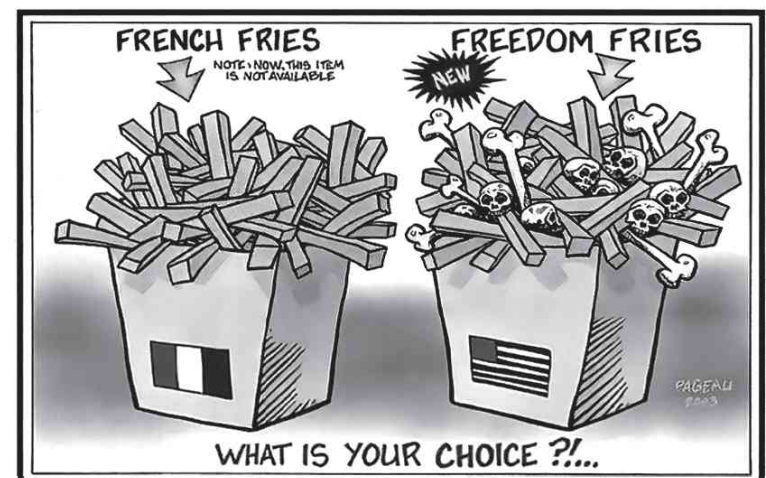
### Al Akhbar

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher on Friday said Egypt is deeply concerned to see Iraq coming under occupation and a large-scale offensive.

In statements to the BBC television, Maher warned that this has been increasingly sparking off the wrath of the Arab masses.

### Al Gomhuria

The Egyptians who returned from Kuwait recently started to go back to Kuwait as classes there would resume on Saturday. Three planes carrying 750 passengers took off on Friday, while other three planes will fly 1,050 persons back to Kuwait.



## Germany

### Die Welt

After the latest setbacks in the Iraq war, Washington plans to send 100,000 more soldiers to the battle-field.

### Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Two persons were shot dead on

Thursday evening when Serbian police tried to catch suspected murderers of Prime Minister Djindjic.

### Sueddeutsche Zeitung

In the ninth day since the war started, the situation among civilians in Iraq has been worsening.





Soccer supporters hold a peace sign at the start of a friendly match between Japan and Uruguay in Tokyo March 28. Japan and Uruguay drew 2-2 in the match, which had originally been scheduled in San Diego but was switched to Tokyo due to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. REUTERS/Eriko Sugita



New Zealand's Roy Kinikini (L) is tackled by Al Lakomskis from the United States during their match at the Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament March 29. New Zealand beat the United States 57-7. Three teams had withdrawn from the biggest annual sport event held in the territory starting Friday due to the spreading of a mysterious pneumonia virus. REUTERS/Kin Cheung



Syracuse University guard Billy Edelin (L) and Auburn University guard Marquis Daniels chase a loose ball in the first half of their NCAA Division 1 Men's East Regional semifinal game in Albany, New York March 28. REUTERS/Ray Stubblebine

# Tough days ahead Agassi forced to work hard

By RICHARD LUSCOMBE

MIAMI (Reuters) - Andre Agassi finally broke down the resistance of Younes El Aynaoui in the third set of an absorbing quarter-final to take a step closer to a record third successive Nasdaq-100 Open title.

The world number two won 7-6 4-6 6-1 to clinch his 16th victory in a row in a tournament he has won five times since his debut here in 1990.

"It felt uncomfortable today," Agassi, 32, told reporters on Friday. "He knows how to use his game."

"It's a pleasure to watch him because you're convinced he's not going to be able to do it. There's no way someone his size can run around and hit forehands all day, and he does."

"The way he serves, it's so effortless. He can serve to a dime. You're thinking, 'how do you get him off his game, how do you get to him?'."

"My goal was just to make him keep that standard up. I was hoping he was going to miss more first serves, which he did in the third set."

Agassi was made to dig deep by the 6-foot-4 Moroccan in the first two sets.

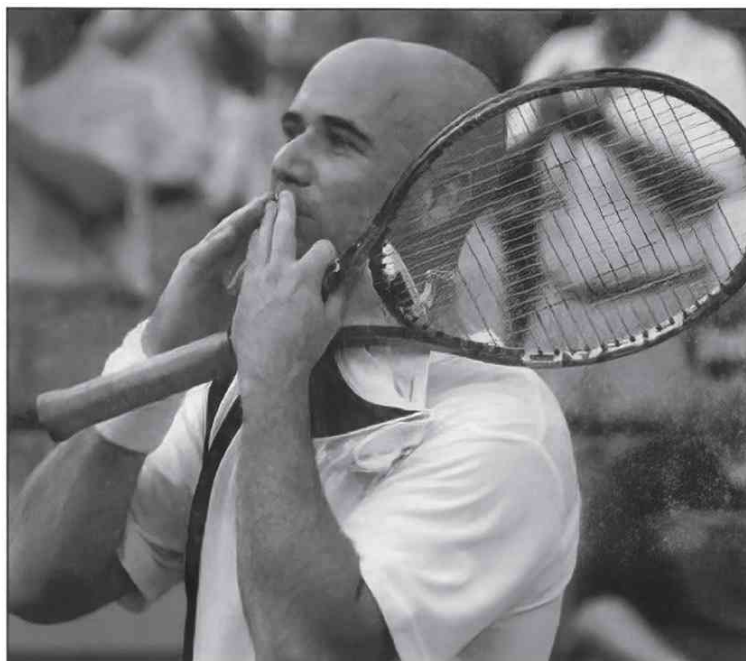
El Aynaoui, 31, was near-perfect over the first 90 minutes and capitulated only in the third set after being worn down by the American's blistering array of groundstrokes.

Agassi, who will face Spain's Albert Costa in the semi-finals of the \$3.25 million (two million pounds) hard-court event on Saturday, showed why he has made this trophy his own in recent years.

## Only opportunity

He seized on the only opportunity afforded him by El Aynaoui in the first-set tiebreak, when the Moroccan found the net with a forehand return.

El Aynaoui forced his way back into the match after winning three games in a row from 2-4, 0-30 before wrapping up the second set with an ace and a



Andre Agassi of the USA blows kisses to the crowd after defeating Younes El Aynaoui of Morocco in their semi-final match at the Nasdaq-100 open tennis tournament at Key Biscayne, Florida March 28. REUTERS/Gregory Shamus

rare mistake from Agassi, who hit an overhead smash wide.

Agassi seemed to find another gear in the decider. He tired the Australian Open quarter-finalist by making him sprint from side to side across the baseline and fired in a string of ferocious forehand and backhand winners that left his opponent applauding in admiration.

The American broke for a 3-1 lead and then went 5-1 up when the Moroccan double-faulted twice. It seemed fitting that Agassi did not concede a point in the final game and he sealed victory in two hours three minutes with another fizzing forehand winner.

Overall, Agassi made only 11 unforced errors, and none in the final set. El Aynaoui said the furious pace of

the match got to him in the decider.

"I was running a lot and I think we were both tired," he said. "He had the first break and after that he played a step higher, he played some good serves."

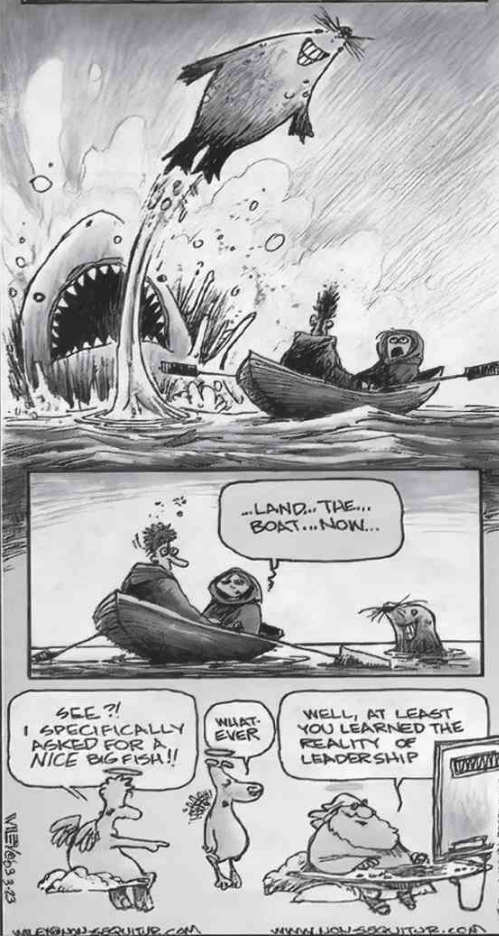
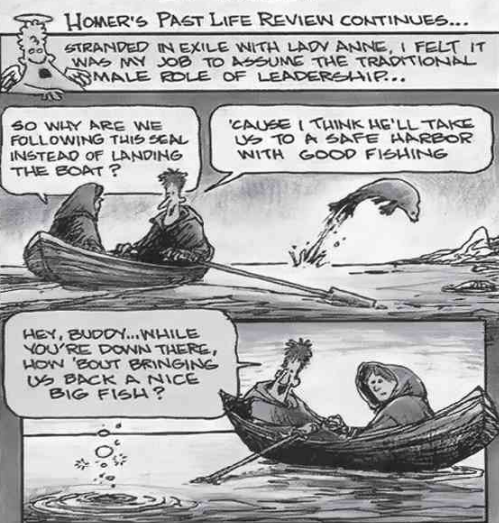
"From the baseline I didn't have so many chances. I lost a lot of energy. Maybe I was more stressed than Andre was about this match."

Earlier, Costa and fourth-seeded Swiss Roger Federer returned to the court for fewer than 13 minutes to complete a quarter-final that was held up by rain on Thursday.

Costa, the ninth seed, won the final set tiebreak 9-7 to earn a 7-6 4-6 7-6 triumph.

Fifth-seeded Spaniard Carlos Moya meets Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand in Friday night's semi-final.

## NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY



## THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY BY Eugenia



**Aries**  
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)  
You must be sure that you are making the right choices, especially at a personal level. Your financial situation could be upset if you are not straight with yourself and others today.



**Taurus**  
(Apr 20-May 20)  
The more you get involved in worthwhile groups, the better you will feel about yourself and the more likely you are to meet people who can further your own interests.



**Gemini**  
(May 21-June 20)  
You will have some original ideas. If you work on them quietly behind the scenes, you will be able to make progress. It is certainly the day to accomplish.



**Cancer**  
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)  
The day may start out to your advantage, but things could turn quickly if you are too pushy with others. Give the people around you space to do as they please.



**Leo**  
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)  
Bide your time and everything will turn out the way you want. Listen to what others have to say and you can make wise choices regarding financial matters.



**Virgo**  
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)  
Expect opposition from anyone with whom you form a partnership. You will both have your own ideas of what will and what won't work. The deciding factor will be financial.



**Libra**  
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)  
Don't talk about what you feel or want to do. Be aggressive and do what's necessary to prove your point and you will stand a much better chance of coming out on top.



**Scorpio**  
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)  
Someone close to you will probably give you false information to spare your feelings. Focus on your work and getting along with colleagues. Try to put things in perspective.



**Sagittarius**  
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)  
You may want to lay low until later in the day when your charming side will reappear. You will be very lively and entertaining as the day progresses.



**Capricorn**  
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)  
You are likely to have a change of heart, but don't let your feelings be known just yet. You will change your mind several times this week.



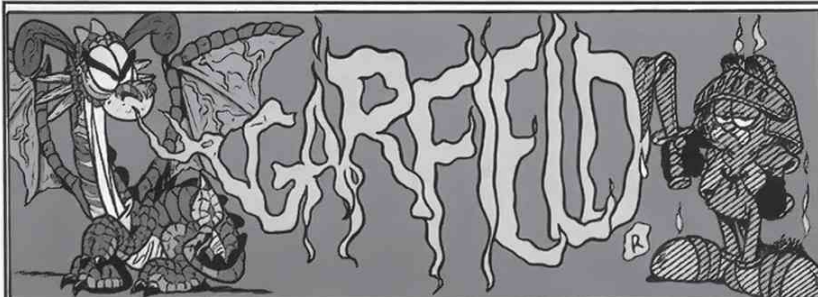
**Aquarius**  
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)  
You may want to take special care when it comes to important relationships. If you are too candid about your feelings, you may give the wrong impression.



**Pisces**  
(Feb 19 - Mar 20)  
You will want to do something to improve your position. Take a look at the options available to you and at the direction that you see yourself going. You may need to pick up additional skills.

## 7-Day Weather Forecast

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Hi	27	27	28	28	29	28	28	Hi	34	34	34	34	35	36	36
Lo	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	Lo	24	24	24	24	24	23	22





## Letters to the Editor

## Readers speak on the Iraqi War

## War is for liberating Iraqis!

I am a U.S. citizen and am of the opinion that liberating the repressive Iraqi government would ensure a brighter future for the people of Iraq. I am an Engineering student at WPI and there are a large number of Middle Eastern students, whom I am quite fond of, attending my school. As a matter of fact just fewer than 75% of the MBA graduate students at my school are from the Middle East. I must add that it is very difficult for me, even though my native language is English, to compete with these highly motivated people. Remember, mathematics is the universal language of the world.

Economically, it is obvious to me that the great majority of people in Iraq is and has been repressed even before the war in 1991. These people are highly educated and motivated and quite able to compete in the world market providing useful products, even more so than the people in Southeast Asia. Yet, this has not occurred. Iraq on the most part is dependant on the export of oil and Southeast Asian countries don't have this luxury, yet the standard of living in Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam are much higher than Iraq (George Soros. "George Soros on Globalization" Public Affairs and Pursues Books Group, 2002.) Why then can such an overwhelming majority of Middle Eastern countries support such a repressive government? I have heard on CNN that a monthly salary of \$2.00 is considered quite good in Basra city.

I have been lead to believe that this must be because the news agencies in the Middle East are forced to spread propaganda that supports the relatively few rich people in the area. I am not familiar with economic data on other Middle Eastern countries but it seems to me that the higher the standard of living in a Middle Eastern country the more likely they are to support U.S. policy. I understand and accept that there is propaganda on both sides but I try to filter it out the best I can. It is my belief that one thing that can't be twisted is economic data. That is why I use this data to support my argument.

We the people on the U.S. do not wish to be an empire; in fact if you look at the history of the world (although I am limited to what is taught and written about in the U.S.) we do not hold any colonies. The closest thing we have to colonies are the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico but these have

freely elected governments and wish to become states of the U.S. although we have not accepted them into the union. Is it the opinion of the Middle East that we are colonizing the world through capitalism? If that were the case why wouldn't you want to join in the prosperity?

My only conclusion is that there are a relatively few rich people whom oppose such an association because it won't benefit them. I know that this is a strong statement but I only wish to better understand circumstances of which I am blind to and hope that you can help enlighten me.

James Dower  
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## Comments on war and other things

I have a number of issues concerning the ongoing war on Iraq and other issues, and I want to list them as follows:

1- No one supports Saddam, no one wants him to stay in power. A "creative, and "intelligent" leader would be able to get him out of power using other means. There's no justification for killing and terrorizing innocent civilians for days, weeks, possibly months on end. The bottom line—get Saddam out—but use methods that will not harm the citizens. The U.S. supposedly has such a great CIA. I'm sure they could find Saddam and snuff him out.

2- According to Islamic law—in order to be stoned to death for adultery—its not "allegedly"—there has to be hard evidence that the act was committed—this isn't taken as lightly as you make it sound—this isn't the Yemeni law—this is Islamic law—and there are very intricate details involved—it is not treated lightly at all.

3- Of course I don't condone anything Saddam has done—you point out that he's used lethal weapons on enemies, killed his own people—lets not forget that America started with the killing of native Americans, later they proceeded to bring Africans in chains, murdering them all along the way to America—keeping them this way and to this day treating African Americans in an unfair and suspicious way in certain instances.

4- Thinking that the U.S. is the "envy of the world"—that's your own narrow viewpoint. People from the Arab world and other countries watch CNN as they talk about kids abducted from their own bedrooms, sexually assaulted and mutilated and thrown out like garbage by the offender. The high crime rate in the U.S. is the norm these days in that country. Why? Perhaps

because the U.S. leadership chooses to stick their noses into other countries business and not tend to the safety of their own back yards.

5- If you can't figure out why Iraq's and Arabs are not thrilled (to say the least) about the invasion of Iraq, here's a clue for you. Take a look at the hideous, grotesque situation in Palestine, the billions of dollars American taxpayers are forced to give Israel every year, recently 10 billion, to keep oppressing and occupying the Palestinian people. There's not one ounce of fairness on the part of the U.S. regarding Palestine. Remember Rachel Corrie, one of your own who was brutally murdered by Israel/U.S.A—run over by a bulldozer. I rest my case!

A.E.S, USA

## On the war on Iraq: Media freedom hindered by US looters

Worldwide media, including the Arabic T.V channels, broadcasts, and internet websites, etc. appear not to report an honestly detailed coverage of the war against Iraq. It is believed that media bias plays a crucial role in psychological operations in favor of the aggressive forces attacking Iraq. The following may interpret why all this partiality is involved.

"Reporters Without Borders" has called on the United States to guarantee that the media can work freely and in safety in Iraq, the organization said in a press release. It urged the U.S. authorities not to obstruct the media in its reporting of the war. While expressing concern that the U.S. military might censor the reports of journalists officially allowed to work among U.S. forces and that those who opted to work independently would not be protected, it called on U.S. forces not to destroy Iraqi media facilities.

The organization welcomed the U.S. invitation to more than 600 journalists from all over the world to report from the battlefield. But the organization expressed concern over the 50 point "ground rules agreement" that journalists are required to sign. The rules spell out what can or cannot be covered. The distinction is very vague and commanders of military units are given the final authority on whether to allow something to be reported or not. Rule 6 permits unit commanders to "embargo" news that may damage "operational security."

The range of such news is also poorly defined and the duration of the embargo not

stated. Rules 40, 41 and 43, which ban pictures of the faces of prisoners of war and soldiers killed in the fighting, undermine the right to inform the public, the organization said.

It was up to journalists, not the U.S. army, to decide what could or could not be shown.

The organization expressed concern at the working conditions for journalists who choose not to be officially incorporated into the U.S. military operations and who U.S. officials had several times warned could be in danger.", (The Hindu 'India's national newspaper', Delhi, March 23, 2003).

The above mentioned facts unveil another aspect of the real face of the current American ideology.

A.Q. Al-Zumor  
A Yemeni researcher in India  
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## I assert that Saddam must go

By sending you this email for my support of my country's liberation of Iraq I have proven why Saddam must go. How have I proven my point already, without saying more than one sentence? I have just made my point that eliminating Saddam is the right thing to do because by simply speaking out against Saddam, I am demonstrating something Iraqis cannot do.

Iraqis would never be able to write a letter like I am doing because Saddam kills people just for thinking about opposing him let alone if they actually do oppose him. I have made my case for removing Saddam because in Iraq the media is run by Saddam's brutal family and nobody has a right to say anything. The only right they have is the right to support Saddam, the right to be tortured, killed, raped, imprisoned and starved. May God bless you and the people of Yemen.

Tim Caravello  
New York City, USA  
TimRangers33@aol.com

## Some "What ifs" to Editor

What if the U.S. and U.K. don't step up and stop weapons of mass destruction from being used and produced?

What is the purpose and legitimacy of the U.N. if it doesn't enforce its rules and regulations against weapons of mass destruction?

What can the repressed people of Iraq do if their corrupt leader is now so powerful that they could never overthrow him?

What does the war mean when repressed, hungry, homeless, scared Iraqi civilians say they would have committed suicide if the U.S. wouldn't have invaded?

What is the value of an Iraqi life to a leader that uses them as human shields?

What if terrorists and the groups that support them aren't challenged and think they can perform terrorist plots on the world without punishment?

What if innocent civilians are left to be intentionally killed for not agreeing and following the orders of their leader?

What if every nation turned their back on illegal and wrong acts, and corrupt leaders (as in WW2 with Hitler) of countries were allowed to continue gaining strength leading to a catastrophic world war?

Who would fight a war and sacrifice their own people for the good of a world, if superpowers such as the U.S.

and the U.K. stood back and let dictators like this exist?

I truly do want peace in a world, as does any critically thinking person, and the sad truth of the matter is the ultimate goal of any war is peace and diplomacy can only you take so far if a corrupt ruler refuses to cooperate for the good of humanity. I respect and understand many of the questions the editor posed, and feel that many are legitimate. I hope that the people of Yemen realize the real reasons for this war, not to take over and control a country but end a very high-risk threat, which in part has already been felt in the U.S.

Lee Froemke  
leefroemke@hotmail.com

## More "What if's"

What if the world sees that Iraq is killing off and torturing its own people?

What if the world sees that Iraq is hold chemical and bacterial weapons?

And finally, What if the people rejoice with their newfound freedom once Saddam is gone?

Joel Rosen  
rosen.wolf@verizon.net

## And even more "What ifs"

What if the United States wins the war, exposes the brutality, the cruelty, the atrocities that the Iraqi Regime has inflicted on its own population for decades? The same atrocities that the vast majority of "civilized" nations choose to ignore and shut their eyes upon because it's not their problem, because they're not willing to stand up and fight for the basic human rights of the men, women and children of Iraq.

What if we see the cheers from the Iraqi people, as we have already begun to, when they are able to voice their own opinions, vote it just elections, and build a prosperous economy in a land rich in resources, tradition and history? And what if the Iraqi people are finally able to live their lives without fear of their own leaders?

What then if the Russian and French governments are exposed for providing the Iraqi regime with aid, military and other, that has been banned by the same international law they are so eager to champion right now? If then, will actions be taken against these nations?

What if the United Nations again passes a resolution, and politely asks if the Nation in question will abide by that resolution? And when that Nation does not, as the Iraqi Regime has not done for more than ten years, will the U.N. just turn the other cheek and accept its total lack of relevance in the world today?

What if the Nations of the Free World choose to ignore suffering, torture, starvation, and brutality inflicted against countless innocent populations? And if those same nations choose to accept weapons of mass destruction and death being wielded by the hands of individuals who would use them to incite terror amongst their own people, amongst the people of their neighboring lands and amongst the people Earth? If then, where does that put civilization?

Kyle J Smith  
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Editor's "What if" editorial was right

The Editor's column "What If?" of last week, although painful for an American to read, is to the point. I support our troops

Steve B.  
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## Argentinean against war

I totally agreed with the editor concerning the war on Iraq and also wonder why the whole world just look at



A body lies next to a destroyed car following an air strike in Baghdad March 26. At least 15 burnt corpses lay in a popular residential area of Baghdad, apparently killed in a U.S.-led bombing or missile raid on the Iraqi capital on Wednesday, Reuters Television correspondents said. An Iraqi Information Ministry official said a strike on a busy market area had caused "many, many casualties". REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

but like most Americans am surprised and dismayed not only by the depth of the resistance but more important the lack of any popular uprising against Hussein.

While many Americans accuse the Iraqis of dirty tactics, there is a growing respect in the West for their capabilities.

What causes the most dread is the prospect of a Stalingrad-style fight for Baghdad. That Hussein gladly puts his own people in harm's way—or even executes them for perceived lack of enthusiasm—is mind-boggling to an American or a Brit. It shouldn't be. After all, Hussein's hero is Stalin, one of the biggest butchers of history.

But the West just doesn't understand the Arab way of thinking here. To quote Franklin D. Roosevelt regarding another thug, dictator Somoza: "He [Somoza] may be a son of a bitch, but he's our son of a bitch."

It seems impossible that the Americans can win this fight without unacceptable casualties to both sides, including hundreds or perhaps thousands of civilian deaths. And that is by no stretch of the imagination a victory to Americans, who contrary to much current Arab commentary (I won't call it "reporting") are not bloodthirsty criminals.

I told my friends here in America before the war started that it was probably the wrong thing to do, that George Bush—who I never liked—has his head in the sand on this one. But I said this with misgivings, because I believed and still believe that left alone Hussein will eventually direct his nuclear or other weapons in our direction, whatever the means of delivery. Especially after 9-11, we have a right to protect ourselves.

But now it's war. Just as Arabs support their brethren so will we support ours. The sooner this war ends the sooner we can start mending fences and getting back to the real business of life: living.

Steve B.  
Concord, CA, USA  
bourlinguer@yahoo.com

Argentinean against war

I totally agreed with the editor concerning the war on Iraq and also wonder why the whole world just look at

them and do nothing to stop Imperialism. I strongly believe that Iraq is only one step, and they will go for more. I feel so sorry for the people of Iraq, but it is very little - nothing I can do to help. May God bless you

Rosalía Fellay  
Argentina  
rosaliaf@bominflot.com.ar

## What are Arabs doing to support Iraq?

I would like to ask a question that is giving the majority of Muslims a headache.

What are our called rulers doing or waiting for to support Iraq?

Don't they understand that one of them is the next?

If they don't know, then this is a shame.

And if they know, then this is a CRIME against all Muslims...

Isn't there a way to upraise the public against those are making them feel shame of their selves, when a young kid asks his Dad: Dad where are our kings and presidents? Are they afraid? Of what?

Sorry I couldn't make it brief because many aches are in all of us, so you need to kindly excuse me.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Yemen Times and salute it for its efforts and tell you that we are proud of you all.

O. Al-Saggaf  
ossaggaf@hotmail.com

## France, Germany aren't angels either

What has to be remembered is that it was the French who supplied Israel with most of its weapons all the way up until the end of the Algerian War in 1969. Up until that time, the main IDF fighter jet was the French Mystere and not an F-4. After France ended its war, it decided to try and garner Arab support by stopping arms sales to Israel. Only then did the US step in and begin supplying the IDF with US equipment. And, it was not until after the Yom Kippur War that Israel started to receive the most up to date weapons - F 15's.

I say all of this only to draw into question the all out condemnation of the US as the sole supporter of Israel. Remember too that during the Suez Canal Crisis France and the UK used the IDF to go to war with Nasser and that it was the US that pressured all parties

James Willaman  
USA  
Jameswillaman@earthlink.net



Iraqi firefighters climb into a burning building following an air strike in Baghdad March 26. At least 15 burnt corpses lay in a popular residential area of Baghdad, apparently killed in a U.S.-led bombing or missile raid on the Iraqi capital on Wednesday, Reuters Television correspondents said. An Iraqi Information Ministry official said a strike on a busy market area had caused "many, many casualties". REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic



# Improve Your English



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# 177

## I. What to Say

**Situation and expressions (46):**  
Expressing in how many cases a statement is true

Sometimes the speaker likes to be relatively more specific in making a general statement. In order to express in how many cases the generalization he is going to make is true, he chooses a suitable phrase for this purpose. Use of these phrases lends force to the statement and reveals the speaker's attitude.

Most of these phrases are usually placed at the beginning of sentences, but they can also be placed at the end. In writing sometimes they are placed in the middle as well. However, there are a few phrases which are placed only at the beginning and the sentence that follows appears with inversion of subject and operator.

- a) The first group of phrases: **Phrase + Sentence**
- **In the vast majority of cases**, the youth of Yemen have a positive attitude.
  - **In a large number of cases**, disease is a result of a lack of health awareness.
  - **Generally**, the people in Yemen are very affectionate.
  - **In most cases**, students themselves maintain strict discipline and refrain from cheating in exams.
  - **Often**, one comes across a stranger who is willing to extend a helping hand.
  - **By and large**, the generalization you're making is valid.
  - What he says is **largely** true.
  - **A number of** girls these days are attending schools.
  - **More often than not** he has been found telling lies.
  - **Very frequently**, my father visits me and looks after my wellbeing.
  - **Generally speaking**, the economic condition of people of Mahweet is poor.
  - Students, **in general**, want to improve their proficiency in English.
  - **Usually**, I engage myself in some productive work during my free time.

## II. How to Say it Correctly

**Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences**

1. She sings beautiful.
2. I like very much skating.
3. I yesterday met him.
4. She badly dances
5. Call me anything else than a thief.

### Answers to last week's questions

1. 'Every night and every day brings its own responsibility.'  
**Note:** When two singular nouns are joined by 'and' and preceded by 'each' or 'every', the pronoun is always singular.
2. He is **more** brave than wise.  
**Note:** When we compare two qualities in the same person or thing, the comparative ending 'er' is not used. In all such cases we should use 'more' before the adjective.
3. This book is **as** good **as**, if not better than that book.  
**Note:** When two adjectives with differing degrees of comparison are used, they should be complete in themselves. We should complete the first comparison before taking up the second.
4. He takes no **less** than one kilo **litre** of milk.  
**Note:** 'less' refers to quantity only, whereas 'fewer' denotes number. The former is used in case of uncountable nouns only and the latter in case of countable things.
5. It is a four-man committee.  
**Note:** When expressions of measurement, amount and quantity are used as adjectives, they are usually singular. The noun occurring after the hyphen is always singular, notwithstanding the fact that the preceding word indicates plurality.

## III. Increase your Word Power

### A) How to express it in one word

1. Having or showing low spirits or sadness.
2. Towards the bottom of a hill.
3. A part of the full price paid at the time of buying, with the rest to be paid later.
4. A heavy fall of rain.

5. In accordance with the practical realities.

### Answers to last week's questions

1. A politician who champions the cause of peace: **dove** (n)
2. A person who is suffering from bad fortune and seeming to be unable to do anything about it: **down-to-earth** (adj)
3. Having or showing low spirit or sadness: **down-cast** (adj)
4. An experience or state of affairs that is saddening: **downer** (n)
5. To lower in rank, position, or importance: **down grade** (vt)

### B) Foreign phrases

Use the following words and phrases in illustrative sentences:

1. chateaux;
2. chatelaine;
3. chef d'oeuvre;
4. comme il faut;
5. communique

### Answers to last week's questions

1. **conard** (Fr) (a false piece of news): Don't take a news at its face value. It may be a conard.
2. **cap-a-pie** (Fr) (wearing full armor from head to foot): He was armed cap-a-pie.
3. **carte blanche** (Fr) (full freedom): The Prime Minister has given the minister with independent portfolio carte blanche in dealing with foreign affairs.
4. **caveat emptor** (Lat) (a warning principle in buying and selling): We should decide to buy consumer durables keeping in mind the relevant caveat emptor.
5. **charge d'affaires** (Fr) (an officer who represents his country in a country to which no ambassador has been appointed): Mr. Bajaj has been appointed charge d'affaires of India in Yemen following the retirement of Mr. Suman, the former ambassador.

### C) Words commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. adduce, reduce
2. acquisition, requisition
3. acquisitive, inquisitive
4. acquittal, requital
5. acrimony, alimony

### Answers to last week's questions

1. **accompany** (vt) (go with): I was accompanied by my wife to the wedding party.  
**company** (n) (being together with another or others): I'm glad to have the pleasure of your company in my wedding party.
2. **accomplice** (n) (helper or companion in wrong doing): The criminal as well as his accomplice has been taken into custody.  
**accomplish** (vt) (perform successfully): I'm glad the task has been accomplished skillfully.
3. **accord** (n) (willingly): He came here of his own accord.  
**discord** (n) (disagreement): Kashmir is the apple of discord between India and Pakistan.
4. **account** (vt) (consider): The accused is accounted innocent unless and until he is proved guilty.  
**recount** (vt) (give an account of): The hostage recounted his harrowing story after the abductors released him.
5. **accredit** (vt) (send an ambassador with official letters of introduction): A high-profile diplomat has been accredited to Yemen.  
**credit** (vt) (enter on the credit side of an account): The money was credited to his bank account.

### D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases and idiomatic expressions in sentences

1. get a bad name;
2. a bad egg;
3. go from bad to worse;
4. make the best of a bad job; 5. it's a bad business

### Answers to last week's questions

1. **the bane of one's life** (cause of bad thing): Alcoholism is the bane of his life.
2. **keep the ball rolling** (to begin and continue something): Beginning an enterprise is not

- enough. You must keep the ball rolling.
3. **the ball is in your court** (now it's your turn to act or reply): I have fulfilled my part of the contract. The ball now is in your court.
4. **bale out** (to escape from an aircraft by parachute): As soon as they realized the impending danger, the pilot and the copilot baled themselves out of the aircraft.
5. **in the balance** (uncertain): The question of his dismissal from service hangs in the balance.

## IV. Grammar and Composition

### A) Grammar

Change or join the following sentences beginning with the words in brackets

1. Money is lost. Health is ruined by chewing qat. (not only)
2. Mansour waited for Moinul for two hours. Then he finally gave up and went home. (not until)
3. You cannot get fresher fruit and vegetables than the ones available in Hayel Street. (nowhere)
4. Mohammed doesn't go to his village home very often. (only rarely)
5. Dr. Abdul Aziz arrived home. The telephone rang (no sooner)

### Answers to the previous week's questions

#### Indirect speech

1. Faiz told that Ahmed was getting married.
2. Manal informed that Jamila **had** gone to see her uncle in Hadramout.
3. Amal commented that Faiza **hadn't** done her homework.
4. Zafar told that she was ill.
5. Sailo pleaded his ignorance that the exam was **going to be held** the next day.
6. Mr. Isa comments that Mr. Fernando **has been** an excellent manager.
7. Amna asserted that Baraka **must be** studying hard.
8. Abraham asked Khalid why he (Khalid) **didn't** come to the lecture the previous day.

### B) Composition

Expand the ideas contained in the saying

**11. STONE WALLS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE NOR IRON BARS A CAGE**

### Answers to last week's question

#### 10. PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

The saying implies that a timely remedy saves a lot of trouble in future. Every infection in our body begins with tiny microbes and spreads like wild fire unless quick and effective preventive measures are taken. It is clear therefore that many of our ailments can be avoided if we are careful in the beginning. The minute germs are allowed to grow in our body, they multiply themselves much in the same way as a small seedling sprouts up to become a giant tree. It goes without saying that it is easier to nip an evil in the bud than to fight against it when it has taken roots and has grown to its full size. It is also true of all bad habits which often begin as harmless pastimes, or as idle curiosity. But in course of time they stabilize themselves as unavoidable habits and become a part of us. Man ruins himself in numerous ways. He squanders his wealth, loses his health and falls a prey to fatal diseases. He regrets the day when he was drawn into them, but it is too late to mend. He could have easily got rid of these ruinous habits if he had taken timely precaution. So we should be constantly vigilant about any bad practice that we are indulging in and take proper steps to avoid them.

## V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

**"Be not like those Who are divided Amongst themselves And fall into disputations After receiving clear signs For them is a dreadful chastisement."**  
S3:A105

## VI. Words of Wisdom

**"Faith is not reason's labor, but repose."**  
—Young

## A LETTER TO THE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH: 18

# Mere repetition will not do good to your students

Dear fellow teachers,

**Y**ou must have studied in the Faculties of Education or Institutes of Education several methods of teaching English such as the Grammar-Translation Method, the Audio Lingual Method, the Structural Method, the Oral Aural Method, the Direct Method, the Bilingual Method, the Natural Method, The Communicative Methods etc. Your Methods teachers must have told you that you must provide a lot of practice for your students when you teach English. Yes, practice is an important aspect of teaching. But some of you are taking it to a drastic end and practise language items or words through repetition till the learners become bored. Repetition is a useful technique in English classes as long as it is employed with care. Mere repetition does not do any good to the learners. I have seen some of my teacher trainees repeating each word or sentence they present in the class three times, 'three' is perhaps the magic number for them! Some others repeat them ad nauseam.

Repetition is useful because it provides exposure to your learners to the new words and sentences you use in the class. If you introduce a new word in the class, say the word clearly and repeat it once or twice and ask a bright student to say the word, another student and a group of students and the whole class; this is also repetition but in a useful way, instead of your repeating the word ten times or more for the sake of repetition. Similarly, when you present a new grammar item, you can present it in a sentence and say the sentence once or twice or more; but every time you repeat, you can use the item in a new sentence. Imagine you are introducing 'this is a —' in the preparatory first year. You can use this structure in as many new sentences as possible, if you are imaginative, referring to each of the things in the class-

room and every time the sentence is repeated, your learners learn a new word along with the new sentence; they are not merely repeating the same sentence. This is what I mean by useful and meaningful repetition. In higher classes, sentences can be repeated in new contexts. For example, imagine you are presenting the structure 'sub + verb+ obj + plain infinitive' (eg. My teacher made me stand on the bench.). You can give one or two sentences using the structure and write them on the blackboard. When you want your students to repeat, you can provide clues such as 'mother, prepare tea' and the student can make the sentence 'My mother made me prepare tea for the family' and so on.

There was a time when a substitution table was a powerful tool in the hands of the teacher and it was suggested as a panacea for all maldies in the English classes; those were the days when the learner's errors were looked up as sins to be avoided, but the present day communicative classes, where the learner's errors are considered as an evidence of learning, have very limited use for the substitution tables. A substitution table is a fool-proof device for practice and the learners hardly make mistakes while using it, but it does not provide any challenge to the learners and soon becomes uninteresting to them; it has a very limited use, especially in the higher classes. You can also modify a substitution table into a structure table making it more challenging.

All that you need is to be more imaginative and resourceful; then you can turn even a boring device into an interesting one. Remember, mere repetition is not useful at all; make your repetition interesting. Good luck.

Yours fraternally,

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Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

# Driving Changes in Management Communication



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powerful and effective some of the following ways may be taken into account: to regulate the flow of information, feedback, simplifying the use of language, listening carefully, watching non-verbal cues etc.

A number of management communication trends have been emerging in business communication. E-mail is now a staple technology in the present world. Individuals, teams and companies need to address and continually reassess the extent to which they use the Internet (world wide web) for advertising, marketing, research, and document sharing. Beyond the Internet, intranets is also a key Management Communication decision. Thus individuals, teams, and companies experience greater efficiencies by putting databases, inventory control (JIT, etc), advertising, marketing, customer service, benefits from information, personnel manuals, newsletters, and management announcement/bulletins on an intranet.

Changes in strategy need to be viewed from three perspectives: company wide, group or team, and individual contributors. Options available are both constrained and enhanced by decisions made at each of those levels.

These initiatives have forced a new and improved kind of communication and leadership, as evidenced in the:

- ISO 9000 standards (www.iso.ch)
- The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards in the United States (www.quality.nist.gov)
- The growing use of standards and benchmarks throughout industry and in other areas.

Technology has placed new demands on us to order and make sense of data, making effective Management Communication as a top priority.

**M**anagement communication is defined as 'the inter-personal and inter-organizational interchange of integral information'. The ability to communicate effectively has enabled human beings to build organizations, societies, and other social groupings that make for survival and better living. By Management Communication we mean the flow of information, perception, and understanding between various parts and members of an organization. It also includes all aspects of communication like media, channel networks, organization structure, interpersonal communication etc.

The need for improved Management Communication strategies is being driven by the fast demands of business, globalization, and the technology revolution, as well as leadership challenges that require improved Management Communication strategies and skills at company, team, or group, and individual levels. But Management Communication is nowadays struggling for perfection. This may be due to filtering, individual bias and selective perception, fear and other emotional overtones, language, overload of information, lack of trust, status differences, non-verbal cues, time pressures etc. In order to overcome these barriers and for making the Management Communication more

# WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions — vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

### CLUES

Accuracy	Density	Live	Positions	Skip
Adaptor	Digital	Load	Power	Small
Amateur	Display	Luminosity	Snap	Speaker
Angle	Dubbing	Manual	Range	Specification
Aperture	Eject	Many	Read	Speed
Arts	Film	Mechanism	Record	Stop
Back	Filter	Memory	Remote	Switch
Beep	Flash	Mode	Roll	Technology
Body	Focus	Move	Room	Televisions
Button	Frame	Name	Scan	Timer
Cable	Function	Open	Scenery	Tripod
Case	Glass	Optic	Screen	Unit
Cassette	Hobby	Panel	Security	Video
Center	Images	Past	Setting	View
Clicks	Journalist	Photo	Shade	Voice
Colors	Kits	Pixel	Shadow	Wires
Control	Lens	Pleasure	Shot	Zoom
Cost	Light	Pose	Signal	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Romantic

### CAMERAS

Solution: 8 letters

T	T	A	P	A	N	S	O	P	E	N	N	R	O	L	L	E	N	A	P
G	S	Y	M	O	M	O	R	L	A	A	P	E	R	T	U	R	E	L	
N	O	I	T	A	C	I	F	I	C	E	P	S	N	T	F	Y	D	O	B
I	C	T	L	I	T	D	I	S	P	L	A	Y	E	L	G	N	A	S	E
B	U	L	U	A	S	E	I	M	A	G	E	S	A	T	M	D	E	H	D
B	C	C	M	W	N	N	U	G	L	A	S	S	U	S	T	M	M	A	R
U	E	O	I	S	E	R	E	R	I	A	H	R	I	R	A	I	A	D	O
D	D	T	N	T	R	I	U	D	C	T	C	N	O	R	E	T	N	E	C
E	C	E	O	T	P	E	V	O	I	O	A	C	F	L	R	A	N	G	E
H	L	L	S	M	R	O	T	M	J	H	D	L	U	P	O	Z	H	S	R
T	A	E	I	T	E	O	E	L	C	S	A	S	N	R	E	C	O	T	M
E	R	V	T	C	H	R	L	E	I	U	P	E	C	Y	A	E	B	O	E
C	T	I	Y	P	K	G	M	I	N	F	T	R	T	O	E	C	B	P	M
H	S	S	P	K	P	S	I	A	V	P	O	I	E	S	E	Y	E	O	
N	P	I	A	O	I	M	L	O	P	E	R	W	O	D	A	H	S	V	R
O	E	O	G	P	D	T	K	G	I	U	L	I	N	I	C	A	T	O	Y
L	A	N	W	N	C	C	S	S	C	I	N	B	N	V	Y	N	A	M	P
O	K	S	R	E	A	D	D	E	E	P	S	I	A	T	F	O	C	U	S
G	E	V	J	B	R	L	S	C	R	E	E	N	T	C	E	F	I	L	M
Y	R	E	N	E	C	S	S	N	O	I	T	I	S	O	P	I	X	E	L



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## Mukalla City

# Beauty behind veil

By HASSAN AWADH RUBEYA  
HADRAMOUT UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
MUKALLA- HADRAMOUT

A city that is like a beauty behind the veil is the uniqueness of Mukalla City in Yemen. Its geographical strategic location on the Arabian Sea, a port city overlooking the sea and fortified by the series of mountains with the magnificent exceptional castles on the top, marking the Sultan's era.

The beauty emanates from our

strong genuine belief in our local wise leadership, such as the governor, under the instruction of the central government hand in hand with the local authority.

Together they disclose the natural beauty, and upgrade the city services up to the modern global standards, while taking into consideration the preservation of historical natural heritage.

Recently the city underwent rapid construction work; Mukalla canal project, road construction, pavements, parks and the renovation of some symbols of the city as part of infrastructure

to lure tourism and investors.

While you are in the middle of the city you see the mixture of old tradition through the old mosque minarets, Sultan's palace, forts and some humble symbols which remind you of the past prevailing economic activities as well as modernity. Without a doubt, this city offers countless opportunities for investment and contributes effectively in Yemen economy.

The city had never been a center of religious conflict, cosmopolitan, dynamic, minorities of different background coexisted in harmony and peacefully side by side with the majority of local

inhabitants of purely Hadrami Yemen origin.

You sense genuine modesty the culture of tolerance among such a society. The roots of such global culture goes back to the unlimited virtues of moderate Islamic religious teaching (recognized religious Sufi sect centers at Tarim), centers in which students from all over the world received education under the supervision of Islamic scientists.

Also, Hadramis were famous for their early immigration, to the east and west with a high level of flexibility to integrate peacefully in the alien societies.



A view of al-Mukall city, an excellent spot of tourism investment

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