

UNDP signs a US \$1.8 million program SNCHR

A program of support for "Strengthening National Capacity in Human Rights" with a total budget of \$ 1.8 million was signed Sunday between UNDP and the Supreme National Committee for Human Rights (SNCHR) and the Ministry of Planning and Development at the MOPD Headquarters in Sana'a. UNDP will finance the initial phase of the project with a contribution of US\$ 500,000.

UNDP has adopted a policy to integrate human rights into sustainable development realizing that development and human rights are mutually interrelated. Promoting human rights is one of the key priorities identified in UNDP's Second Country Cooperation Framework (CCF) for Yemen. The key outcome that will be achieved from UNDP's support in this area is expanded national capacities to protect, promote and respect human rights including gender equity, and mainstreaming human rights into development processes through capacity building support for governmental and non-governmental organizations. This will be achieved through the provision of appropriate technical assistance, training and various methods to raise awareness, including organizing public forums for the promotion and advancement of human rights.

The project will focus on three categories of immediate beneficiaries:

- The Supreme National Committee for Human Rights (SNCHR) and Office of the State Minister for Human Rights targeting more specifically the technical and administrative personnel.
- Various governmental institutions, including the Parliament and the Human Rights Committee in the

Parliament, the Attorney General and the Prosecutor's Office, the Police, the Human Rights Committee in the Shura Council and the Ministry of Justice.

- Civil society organizations to widen the reach of the project to the grassroots level.

The project document was signed by H.E. Vice Minister of Planning & Development, Mr. Abdul-Rahman Turmoom, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Yemen; H.E. Dr. Wahibah Fare'a, State Minister of Human Rights on behalf of SNCHR; and Mr. James Rawley on behalf of UNDP. The project is expected to start in April 2003 and last for three and a half years.

Officials from the technical staff of the Ministry of Planning and Development, SNCHR, and UNDP office in Sana'a attended the signing ceremony.

Appeal to Human Rights Ministry and organizations

Ali Ahmed Salem appealed through a letter sent to Yemen Times to the Ministry of Human Rights and other pro-HR organizations against what he called "aggression" of a prominent sheikh in al-Maafer district in the Taiz governorate.

Ali Salem, who belongs to the "Akhdam" community, which is one of the marginalized classes in Yemen, said that the sheikh destroyed his house in al-Maafer weeks ago resulting in having his family and children sleep in the

streets. Furthermore, he said that the influential sheikh threatened to kill him if he does not move from the area.

Salem recently moved along with his four children and wife to Taiz City where he stays in a small room in the city. However, already the house lord threatened to kick him out if he doesn't pay the rent and because he "belongs to a deprived class in the society".

Now he works as a sweeper with a limited salary and suffers from anemia and cannot work for too many hours.

"All I dream of is to go back to my home in al-Mafer. My house was destroyed by the sheikh, who had no mercy and no respect for human rights," he said.

According to Salem, despite his appeal to the concerned authorities, there was no positive response to his plea. "I urge you to convey my case to the Ministry of Human Rights to bring me justice and save me and my family from eminent disaster."

Workshop for election monitors

The National Organization for Elections Control (NOEC) held last Thursday a training course for the observers in the governorates who will in turn train the monitors in the electoral constituencies centers.

The NOEC is one of the civil society

institutions, which is participating in monitoring the elections with 300 observers in different centers and constituencies in the republic.

The observers received working papers including sample forms for elections monitoring and how to report violations.

2nd edition encyclopedia of Yemen published

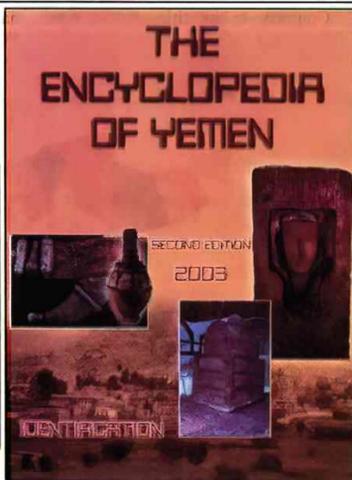
A press conference was held last Monday at the al-Afeef Cultural Foundation centered on the second new edition of the encyclopedia of Yemen.

During the conference Mr. Ahmed Jaber Afeef said "We are determined to publish the second edition of the encyclopedia of Yemen and now it is attired with new exquisite form and at the same time we have faced so many troubles during the preparation of the first edition."

"The new edition is not only an updated one, it is also a rich source in both the form and content," he added.



Mr. Ahmed Jaber Afeef



Yemenia adopts new procedures

A number of procedures have been recently taken by the Yemen Airways Company in order to reduce the negative effects resulted by the war against Iraq.

"The airline flights have been negatively affected by the war at an international level". Nabeel al-Faqeeh, the Yemenia Marketing Manager told the weekly 26 September, the press organ



of the Yemen Armed Forces. He said that one of the procedures that has been taken by Yemenia to counter such negative effects was to merge some of the external flight routes and giving incentive price schemes.

He confirmed that Yemenia remains committed to operate its flight routes to the Middle East stations.

Mr. Nabeel has further pointed out that the increase of the plane fuel costs have increased the burdens on Yemenia and have led to difficult and inappropriate circumstances.

Population Awareness Data

The General Population Program of Information & Communication issued its final report about the activities that were implemented through 2002.

The general policies and aims that focused on the dissemination of information and awareness programs for the year 2002 concentrating on the efforts and media programs that were undertaken via the various public communication channels (TV, radio and the press) in many a variety of forms, with a view towards enhancing awareness among the target groups.

With the support and in harmony with the goals and the population policy, the TV and radio activities reached 365 units per 173,3/, besides 4 definite interviews and 12 press reports that involved 110 participants.

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:

If you were to vote in Yemen in the coming elections, will the stance of political parties concerning the war on Iraq affect your vote?

- Yes, certainly to a great extent
- Yes, but to a limited extent
- No it will have no effect on my vote
- I'll boycott the elections

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you think that the Arab volunteers to fight against US and UK in the war on Iraq will have any effect on the outcome of the war?

- No, they will make no difference whatsoever. 83.1%
- Yes, they will make a huge difference. 8.7%
- Yes, but their effect will be limited. 8%

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"Alfadhoul Alliance" for Human Rights founded

BY BASSAM AL-SAQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Dr. Mohammed A. Sallam head department of journalism in the mass media faculty and editor-in-chief of Al-Hekma magazine announced last week the establishment of the center of "Alfadhoul Arabic Alliance," for human rights, "establishing the human principles and ideals and publicizing the thought of human rights and granting the Arabic human a new conception". Dr. Sallam said, are the major objectives of the center.

"The major activities of the center are to conduct studies and researches, holding symposiums and workshops, publishing books, magazines, newspapers and activating the legal, economic and educational aspects that are related to human rights", Sallam has further added.



About the reason behind selecting this specific and historical name Dr.Sallam said that the first organization that established human rights was in Mecca 15 centuries ago committing itself to backing up the underdog, defending the weak, people's honor, wealth and properties, held the same name and was blessed by the prophet peace be upon him.

We have also chosen this name to

assert that human rights were not first founded by the United States or international organizations rather they were Arab-rooted. And this does not imply isolation since human heritage is an integral and indivisible one and human rights that freeze the differences in elites are Islamic ones and blessed by the prophet, peace be upon him, are the same.

Concerning the financial support, chances and expectations of success and failure Mr. Sallam said regarding the financial support it is a self-financing as we use the facilities of the Hekma magazine. About success and failure that would be determined by the capacities and possibilities available and the objectives that we intend to achieve.



Dr. Mohammed A. Sallam

Workshop on children wraps up

Ebhar for Childhood and Creativity Foundation in cooperation with German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung organized a five-day workshop entitled "Children shape tomorrow" to teach drawing techniques. During the event, 30 talented children from different schools in Sanaa have participated in drawing competitions.

The students were offered simple topics about children rights and environment to be their drawing themes. An exhibition is to be held at the Culture House following this workshop. The exhibition is expected to include all the paintings produced by the children during the workshop. It is worthy mentioning that participant children will send a letter to all Yemeni political parties in which they would request to include children rights and



Chief guest during "Children Shape Tomorrow" workshop

their challenges within their electoral agenda. Dr. Waheeba Fare'a Human Information Ministry Deputy and a number of parents and interested in childhood attended the event.

Al-Hareth Bin al-Fathl:

A new volume of poetry

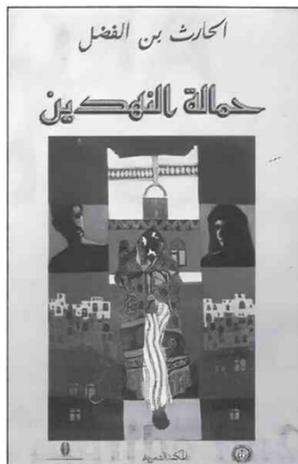
MOHAMMAD A. AL-MASANI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Obadi Center for Studies and Publishing along with the Yemen's Authors and Writers Union have recently co-published a new volume of poetic work for the prominent Yemeni poet Alhareth Bin al-Fadhil entitled Hammalat Alnahdein (The Bra). The 100-page volume comprises 32 poems in total.

Contrary to its title, the volume directly and indirectly addresses differ-

ent concerns and issues of Yemeni women. In one of his poems the poet refers to the inhumane and tragic incidents of Sanaa University's Faculty of Medicine and its ripper that took place more than three years ago.

In another poem entitled "American Tuesday" the poet depicts the twin towers of the Free Trade Center and the moments of their collapse. It's worth mentioning that the poet has already published two volumes of poetic work named "Delirium of Stars" in 1998 and "Worried Rhymes" in 2001.



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Tender announcement

TENDER NO. 5/2003

For Supply, Testing, Commissioning, Hand-over and Guarantee of VHF TV Transmitters

Yemen General Radio & TV Corporation invites manufacturing companies to supply, test, commission, hand-over and guarantee VHF TV Transmitters. Interested eligible manufacturing companies may contact Yemen General Radio & TV Corporation at the address:



YEMEN GENERAL RADIO & TV CORP,
Project department
P.O.Box (2182), Al-Hasaba area, Beside the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Sana'a, YEMEN
Telephones: (00967-1-230654/231184)
Fax: (00967-1-230761/250018)
E-mail: yertv@y.net.ye

To obtain the bidding documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of US\$400. Interested bidders who wish to get bidding documents by mail shall pay an additional US\$100 as mailing and handling costs.

Bidding documents include tender announcement, general conditions, instructions to bidders, contact conditions, technical specifications and documents to be enclosed with the bid.

Bid opening will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, the 11th of June 2003, in the presence of bidders or their representatives.

Tender announcement for the third time

TENDER NO. 1/2003

For Supply, Testing, Commissioning, Hand-over and Guarantee of Digital Video TV Systems

Yemen General Radio & TV Corporation invites manufacturing companies to supply, test, commission, hand-over and guarantee digital video TV systems. Interested eligible manufacturing companies may contact Yemen General Radio & TV Corporation at the address:



YEMEN GENERAL RADIO & TV CORP,
Project department
P.O.Box (2182), Al-Hasaba area, Beside the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Sana'a, YEMEN
Telephones: (00967-1-230654/231184)
Fax: (00967-1-230761/250018)
E-mail: yertv@y.net.ye

To obtain the bidding documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of US\$300. Interested bidders who wish to get bidding documents by mail shall pay an additional US\$100 as mailing and handling costs.

Bidder should be manufacturing companies with a good experience in supply, manufacturing, and guarantee of Digital Video TV Systems.

Bidding documents include tender announcement, general conditions, instructions to bidders, contact conditions, technical specifications and documents to be enclosed with the bid.

Bid opening will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, the 29th of April 2003, in the presence of bidders or their representatives. Any bid received after the above-mentioned date will be rejected.

For a healthy competitive election

Controls need to be applied

BY HASSAN AL-ZAEDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Organized by the National Alignment Committees, an election monitoring agreement was signed by the Secretary Generals and leaders of political parties and organizations on April 8.

The number of the political parties attended the assigning ceremony reached 22 parties authorized by the Yemen Parties Affairs Committee.

Those parties have unanimously agreed to commit themselves to work diligently to compete in the 27 April Parliamentary Elections, in accordance with controls and procedures set forth in the agreement.

The agreement has 32 articles where respecting of the independence of each party and its intellectual property were the most significant points addressed by the articles.

The agreement also includes the respect of the political parties' platform and non-interference in the internal affairs, election campaigns, or candidates of the signing parties.

Woman in this regard has been given a wider scope to take part in the upcoming parliamentary elections in accordance with the law.

Joint meeting committees have to be set up within each constituency entrusted with dealing with the problems that may arise during election campaigns, polling day, the counting of the votes and to ensure that carrying weapons is banned at the election centers.

The agreement has also banned duplication of votes or letting others cast votes.

In a statement issued by the parties in this regard, Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani placed great emphasis on that the fact that the agreement had a keen interest on stabilizing the internal front, enhancing national unity, achiev-

ing solid foundations for the peaceful transfer of power and peaceful coexistence.

The statement said that political parties would continue to achieve the national alignment agreement during the coming period.

The parties in this regard have to realize fully the handle of the election dues and making efforts to preserve the social security.

The parties have highly hailed Iraq's struggle and denounced the illegal aggression against the Iraqi people and called for immediate action against the humanitarian aspects of the aggression.

For his part, Mr. Mohammed Al-Yadomi, the Secretary-General of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) Party told the Yemen Times that this agreement is to be added to the previous ones, with respect to confirming national loyalty as the basis for all political activity.

This agreement will be like the con-

stitution and other laws and legislation in confirming the democratic process.

The joint meeting parties hope for the good intention on the part of the ruling party.

Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Majeed al-Qubati, the Head of the Political Division of the People's General Congress said: "Each one of us claims that he represents the truth.

Some claim that other people are mistaken. What the agreement entails is just a confirmation by the parties in order to confirm their members' adherence to practices that conform to real democratic practice."

"We don't want to engage others in wrangles, altercations, and political conspiracy," Mr. Qubati further noted. "We are fully aware of the need to



Al Mikhlafi



Al Qubati



Al Iryani



Al Yadomi

further enhance the democratic experience in Yemen and the parties have unanimously agreed to abide the agreement," he concluded.

Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlafi, Chairman of the Nasserite Unionist Party said: "We hope that the ruling party will adhere to the agreement. We have no desire to find wrong practices and do not wish to confirm the availability of such practices, which might accompany the Parliamentary Elections."

"The parties have resorted to such

agreement in the country in a time in which there is breach of the text of the laws," he noted.

As a matter of fact, the dangers that surround the region as a result of the US-UK-led aggression against Iraq is the one of the reasons behind signing the agreement," Alreality and there are also flagrant violations that still exist. There is also lack of security prevails and needs to be dealt with to ensure the smoothness of the election proceedings.

Pakistan School Sana'a holds inter-house sports competitions

Al-Qais House stood victorious

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Pakistan School Sana'a on Thursday held Inter-House Sports Competitions. The institute, every year, spares a week for sports and other extra-curricular activities. This is done in connection with the school policy to give an opportunity to the students to fully participate in games, athletics and stage performances.

This year the events included in the sports week consisted of Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Tug of War, Long Jump, Sack Race, Shot-Put and 50 and 100 meter Races.

All the finals of Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Tug of War were worth watching.

The teams were so well prepared that it was difficult to speculate who would win in the arena. The players competed neck and neck and enthralled the spectators. Long jump, Sack Race, Shot Put, 50 and 100 meter races were also the part of the events. These events captured special attention of the spectators.

Stage performances embellished the



Girl students during a fancy dress show held at Pakistan School Sana'a, April 10. Photos by Assabri, Yemen Times.

students' Week events. The students were so enthusiastic to see these performances that they occupied seats around the stage in advance. Musicians were hired to play background music for English and Arabic songs. Tableaus, skits, poem recitation and fancy dress show colored the stage events.

In the end of these events the prize distribution ceremony was held on last Thursday. His Excellency Mr.

Mohammed Asghar Khan Afridi, the chairman of Pakistan School Sana'a and the Ambassador of Pakistan to the Republic of Yemen graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. HE, the Ambassador conferred the medals and merit certificates on the participants. Al-Qais House stood first on the victory stands and won the coveted trophy. Jinnah House, Iqbal House and Al-Zubairy House got 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions respectively and were given consolation prizes.

His Excellency the Ambassador, while addressing the gathering, stressed upon the need of academic excellence and vehemently said that he would leave no stone unturned to make this institute a house of knowledge and center of excellence.

High officials from various departments, parents, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the ceremony.



Pakistani ambassador along with his wife during prizes distribution



Distinguished guests of the gathering

Celebrating its 20th anniversary:

Universal does well despite odds

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The 20th anniversary of the Universal Group of Companies for Travel and Trade-Limited was celebrated last Saturday in a special gathering of staffers and higher administration represented by Chairman Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani and Vice Chairman and GM Mr. Omar Mohamed Omar in Shahrhan Hotel in Sana'a.

The ceremony, which included the distribution of certificates to distinguished staff members, was marked in a time the tourism industry is facing several challenges of various types and dimensions. Yet unlike many other similar companies in Yemen, Universal was able to grow and flourish during its twenty years overcoming all challenges and odds and becoming the pioneer and most successful tourism establishment in Yemen.

Background

Universal for Travel and Trade Limited was founded in 12 April 1983 when the first office was launched in Sana'a to be the corner stone for a number of rapidly-growing and promising companies.

The beginning was not easy at all. The company faced financial difficulties and was about to close before completing its second year. However, the insistence to continue, the optimistic insight of the future, and the efforts exerted by the staff and administration, plus people's cooperation revived the company and enabled it to get up on its feet again to become the fastest growing company in Yemen's tourism industry.

Through the past 20 years, Universal received agency rights of many internationally renowned airlines including Jordanian Loyal Airlines, British Airlines and American Airlines.

The company expanded in time and inaugurated new branches of activities



Panel view of Universal's administration during the anniversary gathering

resulting in a group of companies that are well-connected and coordinated and that offer a variety of different services.

The last five years of the 1980s witnessed a significant increase in ticket sales and a boom in the tourism sector. The first five years of the 1980s were the most successful, resulting in substantial revenues for the company. Thus, seeing the promise of a united Yemen, Universal started after unification in 1990 establishing a number of hotels in Sana'a, Hadromout and Mahweet and then expanded its activities further and deeper into the tourism sector.

Companies established by Universal include Yemen Automobile and Touring Club, DHL-Yemen, Universal-Rent a Car (Hertz), and Universal for Hotels.

During the 1990s, new branches were opened in Aden, Ibb, al-Mukalla and Sayoun.

How Universal prevailed

Mr. Alwan al-Shaibani, Chairman of Board of Directors of the company described many of the challenges and difficulties faced by the company since the 1994 civil war. According to Mr. Alwan, the war had devastating effects on the traveling and tourism industry. The Central Bank of Yemen then added insult to injury by raising loan interests

to 30%, damaging the company's hotel investments even further.

"Successive kidnappings of tourists as well as the USS Cole incident along with the blast of the French Tanker Limburg have also participated in damaging the tourism industry in Yemen," Mr. Alwan said.

However, the company's administration was able to implement strict and effective administrative steps to alleviate the damages by reestablishing the bylaws of Universal giving it financial and administrative independence. This applied to new companies such as Yemen Automobile and Touring Club, etc.

The company also had to suspend its services to retired employees with high salaries and minimized marketing spending as well as travel expenses. Other measures included the improvement of revenues by expanding the activity of the group's companies, which were not affected by the tourism conditions. The administration decided to create new revenues by establishing new services including an agency for Western Union, and by providing pilgrimage and Omra services to the public.

The company also reached an agreement with banks to reschedule its debts.

In short, Universal has proven that it passed the test of time and is now back on track again looking forward to a brighter tourism future for Yemen's tourism industry. It had faced a lot of difficulties in the past, but was able to successfully alleviate the negative aspects associated with them because of its administration's keen vision and its cadre's hard work and dedication.

As Yemen Times, we would also like to present Universal-administration and staff- our sincere congratulations on its 20th anniversary.



Group photo by Faisal al Qirbi

Al-Jazeera journalists supported

By Mohammed bin Sallam
Yemen Times Staff

What is after Baghdad's collapse??

What has taken place in Iraq is unexpected thing during all history around. It can not be measured by logic or military power. It is so complicated and needs time to discuss the motives behind such collapse.

The military forces against Iraq are not for liberation, they are meant for an invasion orchestrated by the US or the UK.

Contradictory reports have said that the Iraqi president Saddam Hussien has been killed or sought asylum at the Russian Embassy along with his retinue. Syria has been also accused of receiving and harboring some Iraqi top lead-



Nasher Sodam al-Bukari

ers. If Saddam seeks political asylum to any country, it will not only be a shame on his clan, or the Iraqis in general, it will be a shame on all Arabs and Muslims.

The US, the west, and before this, were the Kuwaitis, the Iranians and others wanted Saddam to stand trial as a war criminal.

Where does the truth lie? The question which poses itself is, how the postwar Iraq government will

be? Is it destined for this government to be of liberals and enjoys freedom and peace? That is what we are longing for the Iraqi people.

In the light of the war dilapidation on Iraq and after attacking a number of journalists in Baghdad last week, the Yemen Journalist Syndicate staged a sit-in before the al-Jazeera Space Channel bureau in protest against killing one of its correspondents in Baghdad along with other correspondents.

To shed light on this incident a number of journalists and correspondents have been interviewed.

Mr. Anwar al-Ansi, al-Jazeera Space Channel correspondent said:

I can not assert that the al-Jazeera channel has been targeted by the allied forces. Every one has his own perspective of judgment to search for truth.

In my point of view, the Arab and third world countries media constitute a huge threat to the Western media which lost credibility.

Neither al-Jazeera, nor Abu Dhabi channel or Reuters are key targets of the coalition forces. There is of course a number of foreign correspondents who have been dismissed from covering war events in Iraq.

Some of those journalists have complained about illegal means practiced by the US leaders in order to impose a censorship on their news stories and reports.

Mr. Hafez al-Bukari, Oqadh Saudi-based newspaper correspondent.



al-Ghobari Qaderi al-Ansi

The latest incidents have disclosed that the US power and its claims on protecting human rights, freedom of the press and opinion have become distinct for the public. As soon as, the US had seen that the Arab media work is out of its control it targeted its lethal weapons at the Arab media.

I think that the western media don't have the good characteristics as those of the Arab media in the way of handling reports.

Despite dealing with the incidents in Iraq objectively by the Arab media, the US first sees itself defeated in the first media battle. In addition, the Arab media have closely followed up those incidents and that Iraq has been attacked by the US.

Despite also the negativity of such incidents, a positive prospective was given and that the Arab media could present a satisfactory material for their voracious readers, viewers and listeners. An excellent news story has been introduced to the Arab viewers by Arab presenters.

We hope that the Arab media could convey the incidents to westerners using an Arab eye in order to disclose the western media fabrications in all their institutions.

Mr. Qaderi Ahmed Haidarm, from the Yemen Researches and Studies Center

I think that the strike that targeted journalists and mediamen by the US and



An anti-war sit-in staged by Yemeni journalists in support for al-Jazeera correspondent who was killed recently in an air strike in Iraq.

UK forces in Baghdad is to conceal the realities of the battle in Baghdad in order to plunder Iraq's wealth and its potentialities.

The Anglo-American war against journalists is a clear testimony of the narrowness of the US administration and others' opinions. The matter of transparency that the US has been talking about has become distinct.

Perhaps it is for the first time in history that such strike against journalists has been dealt. I think that part of this war and not the whole of it, that the US president George W. Bush's speech, (not bin Laden) is not different from the bin Laden's speech. The world falls into two parts, the "Good axis and evil axis".

Bush once said that those who are not with them are against them and those who do not agree with the American concept of terrorism, are terrorists themselves. And since the world is in a state of change, we are in this case facing a

fundamentalist aspect, aimed at dividing the world into two sides.

Sadeq Nasher, correspondent of the al-Watan, a Saudi-based paper

I think that targeting the al-Jazeera and Abu Dhabi channels in Iraq is an attack on the freedom of the speech. The Americans know very well that what they have done in Iraq is part of horrible and dirty war.

They don't want the world around them to know what is going on around them. The targeting of those two Arab channels is a new form of killing of the freedom of speech.

First the killing of a journalist and the photographer is a clear testimony for silencing and gagging the Arab as well as the world public opinion.

I think that the Arab world along with its space channels have done a good job and we have watched this on more than a channel.

Mohammed al-Ghobari, al-Bayan correspondent, a UAE-based paper

The attack on the al-Jazeera and Abu Dhabi Channels in Iraq is just to convince journalists not to stay in Baghdad. This will pave the way for the Americans to invade the city of Baghdad. This will lead also to killing of the civilians there and inevitable consequences.

Mohammed Sodam, Reuters's correspondent

The US and UK forces or any other superpower in the world could use its military artilleries to control or achieve its targets and interests in any spot of the world. But, it can not silence the journalists from expressing their opinions. What has been taken so far is an attempt to impose a new point of view. Above all, the Arab media and the Arab journalists will endeavor to disclose truths for the public.

While Iraq is under US-UK occupation,

Other Arab states watch in silence

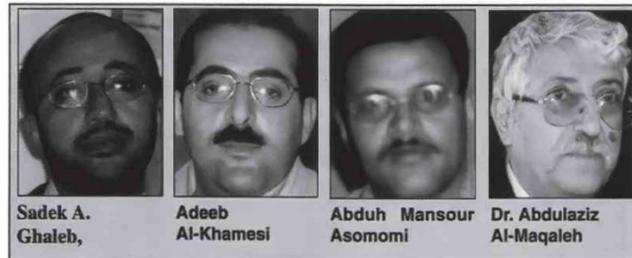
By Mohammed Bin Sallam
Yemen Times Staff

Just before the big guns were silenced and the anarchy set in, the YT took a random sampling of Yemeni notables, on their opinion vis avis the War on Iraq:

Dr. And-Al'aziz Al-Makaleh, the Chairman of the Yemen Research & Studies Center.

A distinction between the people's stance and that of the Arab rulers should be drawn. The stance of the people is clear and the practical and moral support with the Iraqi is unique. We see them boldly encounter the US-led invasion. There are a number of the Arab rulers who have never showed a sense of what it means to be a real Arab. I don't want to mention the names here. Every Arab citizen knows better than me in this regard. He follows up day and night and predicts what is going to happen in the near future. As for Yemen, it has positively reacted to the Iraqi crisis. But the only mistake that one's feel regrets is what took place during the Friday Prayers when anti-war marchers staged a demonstration rejecting the US-UK-led war against Iraq three weeks ago. The unfortunate paradoxical matter was when one sees blood spelt in a city during a protest against war and violence. The Arab citizens have expressed their resentment and voiced their disapproval against the US-UK-led aggression against Iraq.

The stance of the Arab rulers differs from one Arab state to another. But the majority of the Arab masses throughout the Arab World have unified popular sentiments. These masses have strongly condemned the US-UK-led war against Iraq. The natural expected feeling was that the Arab public hoped that their leaders were going to be the forerunners to resist the



Sadek A. Ghaleb, Adeb Al-Khamesi, Abduh Mansour Asomomi, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

aggression. The Anglo-American-led unrelenting war has provoked the feelings of the Arab citizens. The victory will be destined for the brave and patient people in Iraq.

Adeb Al-Khamesi, Vice Director of Services Administration at the Supreme Elections and Referendum

The unexpected resistance of the Iraqis is a positive sign against that crusade they are being assaulted with. The resistance revealed to a certain extent what American military power is. That is a very significant point, because the US weakness became apparent. The rallying of the people with the Iraqi leadership against the invaders is similar to that of dealing a serious blow against the US.

Abduh Mansour Asomomi, Technical Border Office

The US aggressors have deeply penetrated to the heart of the Arab nations. They follow the divide and rule policy. Our scared lands have been devastated by the war. What compounds the predicament is that we are not able to do anything. The support of our brothers in Iraq is the only duty that has to be fulfilled. It is shameful for the Arab and Islamic nation to see the people of Iraq slaughtered and never get affected by what's going on there. That dirty aggressive war has disclosed the US plans to take control of the Arab oil wealth starting from Iraq and to take

advantage of the weakness of the remaining Arab states.

Khaled Al-Sawani, I strongly hail the positive stance of the Arab citizens. But I feel more pity than angry at the Arab leaders tying their hands and capitulating to the No #1 enemy, the US and the UK. The Arab leaders just stood and remained regretful, disappointed, and afraid.

Sadek Abdullah Ghaleb, Social Affairs Administration Manager at the Cabinet

The Arabs' stance was characterized by opposition and denouncement of the war. They Arab citizens expressed their strong desire to support their brothers in Iraq. But the rulers (May God not forgive them) have gagged their mouths and ordered their forces to use force against the protesting people, who only wish to express their opinion and their desire to support their brothers in Iraq. The official position towards the Iraqi issue was disappointing. The Arab leaders are impatiently waiting for the war to end, in order to congratulate the US in its so-called resounding victory.

Secret information and intelligence was provided, oil prices were reduced, and military facilities were secretly offered by some Arab leaders. Our stance as Arabs is shameful and we will all regret our position, sooner or later, except the Syrians, who truly took a bold nationalistic stance.

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Saudis share in Iraq's post-war reconstruction

BY HUANG XINGWEI

RIYADH, April 11 (Xinhua) — With US troops occupying the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, some Saudi business leaders, eyeing a share in lucrative contracts for Iraq's post-war reconstruction, have gathered to spearhead their participation.

The Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry has set up a team, headed by Export Development Center Executive Director Ibrahim Foudah, to prepare a detailed list of what the Saudi enterprises are capable of doing in Iraq and then to pursue legal channels to ensure the contracts.

Foudah said the team will undertake negotiations on behalf Saudi businessmen with the party that will supervise the process of Iraq's reconstruction.

Saudi Arabia has experiences and expertise for infrastructure projects, especially in water treatment and sewage networks, Foudah said.

Saudi businessmen have an edge over other competitors due to its proximity to neighboring Iraq and the availability of transportation at a relatively cheap price, he said.

Foudah said the Saudis are unlikely

to compete in design and management fields, but instead will focus on execution and supplying products and raw materials.

Yet many Saudi businessmen voiced their reservations about the participation in Iraq's reconstruction, saying they will not be able to take part in any projects unless a legitimate Iraqi government recognized by Saudi Arabia is installed.

Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Zamil, chairman of the Executive Council of Saudi Export Development Center, said the issue of reconstruction of Iraq is similar to that of Afghanistan, adding that "the foreign governments will never provide Iraq with the money required for its reconstruction."

"If we assure that Iraq will produce three million barrels of oil a day, and the price of per barrel is 20 US dollars, then Iraq's annual oil revenues will not exceed 20 billion dollars, and this sum will not even be sufficient for the salaries of the government employees, and for the operation of power and water stations," Al-Zamil said.

And if the big powers are ready to pump money for Iraq, they will confine the contracts to their own compa-

nies, he added.

Some Saudi economists and financial experts also played down the role of the Arab, Gulf and Saudi companies in effective participation in reconstruction of Iraq, citing US political and economic interests on one hand and the Arabs lacking advanced technology on the other.

Dr. Ali Al-Alaq, a professor of economics and finance at King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals doubted the participation of Saudi private sector in the reconstruction work in Iraq as this would only be decided by Washington.

He said the experience of the Arab countries in telecommunications is relatively humble compared with the Western companies.

"The political and economic interests serve as strong major factors for depriving the Arab countries in general and Saudi companies from getting any share of this big cake in addition to their incomparable experience in the know-how and high-tech which constitutes a secondary factor in the whole matter," he said.

For maintaining security in Iraq, Mubarak urges the coalition forces

Security must be maintained

CAIRO, April (Xinhua) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday held coalition forces responsible for maintaining order, law, stability and security in Iraq, the official MENA news agency reported.

Speaking at a meeting with the leaders of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), Mubarak urged that the US-British coalition forces should safeguard property, establishments and lives and move swiftly to set up institutions to run Iraq's affairs and shoulder responsibility.

Iraq should be governed by Iraqis, he stressed.

s regards post-war Iraq, the Egyptian president said "we cannot ask the United Nations to assume the responsibility of safeguarding establishments and lives and stop chaos."

"This is the responsibility of US and British forces now in Iraq. The United Nations should play a vital role in providing humanitarian needs," he said. Mubarak warned that a civil war in Iraq could be dangerous particularly if the present chaos continued and there was a clash between the Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds and the tribes.

"What is important is that there should be a consensus to maintain Iraqi terri-

torial integrity. The country should not be divided," he said.

On reconstruction of postwar Iraq, Mubarak criticized that even before the war there was a "division of the cake" and there were reports about agreements signed with companies.

The entire world would cooperate within the limits available, he said, underlining that it is necessary to maintain the unity of Iraq. The US-British coalition forces started launching war on Iraq on March 20 with a claimed aim to overthrow Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein and destroy weapons of mass destruction.

Continued from page 1

Al-Qaeda suspects wanted

This came after the Yemeni security authorities have achieved a good job in tracking down some terrorist elements in the country, the last being an FBI most wanted named Fawaz Al-Rabaei. The detention of Fawaz, who is thought to belong to one of the most dangerous terrorist cells in the country has been highly hailed by the US.

Among those recently captured and who were allegedly planning to carry out terrorist attacks against US interests in February 2002, are Forqan Attajeli, Forqan Asheshani, and Fares al-Barraq.

Analysts suggest that it is probable that there has been a link between the arrest of Fawaz Arrebeal and the escape of other 10 al-Qaeda suspects. But no evidence has been brought forward yet.

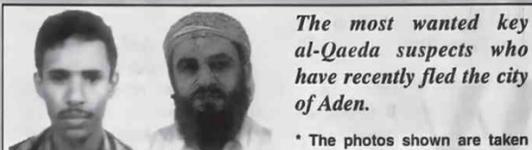
Those suspects were part of a group of 17 suspects who were supposed to be tried for their links to the al-Qaeda network and possible involvement in the USS Cole incident when a small boat loaded with explosives was driven into the Cole as it was refueling offshore the southern Yemeni port of Aden, killing seventeen American sailors after the boat blew a 40-foot hole in the ship at its waterline.

Fawaz Al-Rabaei was arrested while he was heading for Aden accompanied by another associate called Hizam Saleh whose brother was killed in the car of Abu Ali al-Harethi in Mareb using a drone strike.

Informed sources said that Fawaz was arrested accidentally when he was found in a mountain cave in miserable health conditions as he was suffering from extreme thirst and hunger.

As for the options the 10 escapees have, sources close to the Ministry of Interior said that they expect them to change their facial features and try to hide in one of the governorates known for their tribal populations such as Shabwa, Al-Jawf or Mareb. The escapees are expected to separate so as they would not be arrested all at once.

It is expected that this incident would outrage US authorities who would be disappointed and could question the



The most wanted key al-Qaeda suspects who have recently fled the city of Aden.

* The photos shown are taken from Al-Thowra daily paper.



security conditions of the prison those elements were kept in. Among those suspects are two that are close relatives of the most wanted al-Qaeda suspect in Yemen, Hamdi al-Ahdal. Those are Mohammed Abdullah al-Ahdal and Mohammed Hassan al-Ahdal.

Tribal sources say that despite their endless efforts, the government has never been able to locate al-Ahdal to either assassinate him—as done before to al-Harethi—or having him arrested.

The sources claim that he is probably moving between Shabwa and al-Jawf governorates. It is not ruled out that al-Ahdal may have facilitated the escape of the 10 al-Qaeda suspects.



Fawaz Al-Rabaei

War on Iraq & parliamentary elections

Female candidates in the 1993 and 1997 elections were 41 and 19 respectively, while in this year's elections they are only 13, signaling a disappointment for supporters of wider female participation in Yemen's future parliament.

Some analysts believe that the war on Iraq will favor religious and anti-war parties over the rest. In other words, the more anti-war a party is, the more votes it could get.

However, the war had diverted the attention of a large segment of the com-

munity from the parliamentary election and Yemen's democratic experience. Thus, the number of candidates for elections dropped significantly, especially for female candidates who were supported furiously by a large number of NGOs and international organizations.

The war on Iraq may not have sabotaged the Yemeni elections, but it certainly weakened it, in various ways, including reducing the number of potential candidates and voters. But never-

theless, the war could also serve those opposition candidates who wish to use it as an element to gain voters' support, especially as many citizens are disappointed by the economic performance of the current GPC government.

They expect that the percentage of voters will dwindle in the coming elections even if the war ends with a victory for the US-UK coalition, especially as it will take some time to overcome the miseries and humanitarian disaster the Iraqis went through during this war.



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The Embassy of The United States of America announces for an immediate job openings within its organization.

Information Specialist

The position is located in the Public Diplomacy Office, American Embassy, under the general supervision of the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) and Assistant Public Affairs Officer (A/PAO). Employee will serve as the senior FSN advisor and assistant to the Public Affairs Officer and the A/PAO in planning and implementing Embassy Sanaa information media and journalist programs is the Mission's primary source for information on Yemeni media trends.

Required Qualifications

Education: University degree in the liberal arts, political science, economics, journalism, international relations, or related fields is required. Specialized training in press and publication, analytical writing, management, or computers is required. Master's degree in above fields is desired.

Prior Work Experience: From two to four years experience in communications media-related work as journalist, researcher, or writer required. Experience with Embassy information programs may be substituted for this work. One to two years reporting/writing/editing/producing for local newspapers or TV and translation work is desirable.

Language Proficiency: Level IV (fluent) in written and spoken English. Very high degree of Arabic fluency is required. **Knowledge:** Thorough knowledge of Department of State information procedures, programs and services. Thorough understanding of the principles and policy considerations behind Mission program Plan (MPP) themes. Thorough knowledge of local media institutions and laws on media. Good knowledge of the principles behind the laws, policies, and economics governing U.S. media.

Grade: *EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: EP-5 (to be confirmed by Washington)

* Ordinarily Resident: FSN-09 (Trainee level) FSN-10 full level

Teaching Trainer/Curriculum Specialist

The position is located in the Yemen-America Language Institute, American Embassy, Sanaa, under the direct supervision of the Director of Courses and the Public Affairs Officer. The Teacher Trainer/Curriculum Specialist will be responsible for providing training to teachers on both a regular and on as needed basis, including classroom observation and evaluation/feedback of teachers, and to develop/revise/adapt curricula and tests to be used with Yemen-America Language Institute (YALI) students.

Required Qualifications

Education: M.A. in English as a Foreign/Second Language (ESL/EFL) or Applied Linguistics or, as a substitute, a Bachelor's degree with 7 years of ESL experience, including a minimum of two years of teacher training and a minimum of two years working in a developing country is required.

Experience: A minimum of five years of ESL/EFL work, including a minimum of two years of teacher training and minimum of two years working in the Middle East is highly desirable.

Knowledge: Knowledge of language learning theory and methodology is essential; basic computer skills and ability to use MS Word and Excel is desirable.

Skills and Ability: Ability to work well with others while still maintaining high instructional and organizational standards, ability to be constructively critical in order to effect improvement in teacher performance, ability to be flexible in working in a cross-cultural environment, ability to achieve work goals/objectives in a timely and organized manner, and an ability to analyze and formulate conclusions and develop recommendations.

Grade/Salary: * EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-06

* Ordinarily Resident: FSN-8

How to apply: Interested applicants and U.S. Citizens should complete OF-Y612 or submit a current C.V. with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned that address the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 303-155, no later than April 20, 2003.

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Rami Mobarak receives MA Degree

Rami Mobarak received his MA degree in management from the Taiz-based National University last week. His MA thesis, which received an excellent grade, was on full equality management in the services department in general and health section in particular. Yemen Times seizes this opportunity and congratulate Rami on the behalf of the paper's staff and wishes him a prosperous future.

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U.S. Marines exchange heavy fire in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, April 12 (Reuters) - U.S. forces came under heavy automatic fire on the west bank of the Tigris river in central Baghdad on Saturday evening, and said they had killed up to 20 "enemy".

Reuters correspondents on the eastern side of the river, around the central Palestine Hotel, said they heard heavy machinegun and tank fire by U.S. forces across the river.

The exchange lasted around 20 minutes, they said.

U.S. Marine Sergeant Daniel Finn told Reuters that enemy fire had opened up on U.S. troops from six bunkers on the western river bank.

"We're not sure how many of them there were, but they opened fire and now they're dead," he said adding that he guessed there were 15-20 Iraqis or other nationals involved.

Separately, one U.S. Marine was killed when a gunman dressed in civilian clothes opened fire on Marines guarding a hospital near the Palestine Hotel.

"We lost a Marine," U.S. Marine Major Michael Purcell told Reuters.

He said a group of Marines was guarding the hospital when a gunman mixed in with civilians, moved close to the Marines and opened fire at close quarters.

"The gunman was wounded or killed," Purcell added.



U.S. soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade patrol in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk April 12. Kurdish fighters continue to control most of the city after Iraqi forces collapsed on Thursday, but the U.S. military is gradually increasing its presence. REUTERS

Thousands in India, B'desh protest against Iraq war

CALCUTTA, India/DHAKA, April 12 (Reuters) - Thousands of people chanting anti-U.S. slogans took to the streets in a major eastern Indian city and Bangladesh on Saturday in protest against the war in Iraq, but there were not reports of violence.

About 15,000 leftist demonstrators formed a human chain around the U.S. and British consulates in Calcutta, which has seen many anti-war demonstrations.

Shouting "Iraq will become another Vietnam for America", they blocked traffic in the city's main shopping and business centre, as hundreds of police armed with bamboo canes and rifles stood guard at the foreign missions.

"Baghdad may have fallen to U.S.

forces, but we shall continue to protest against American imperialism and its attempt to control human civilisation," Tithankar Mukherjee, an activist leading the demonstrators, told Reuters.

Several effigies of U.S. President George W. Bush were set alight by the protesters.

Most of the anti-war protests in Calcutta, capital of communist-ruled state of West Bengal, have been peaceful but a few have turned violent, including attacks on a Nike showroom, a Citigroup Inc office and the stoning of the American Center.

India, a Cold War ally of the Soviet Union, has said the war on Iraq could have been avoided but has refrained from

directly criticising the United States as ties between New Delhi and Washington have warmed in recent years.

In neighbouring Bangladesh, about 20,000 rallied in the capital, Dhaka, protesting against what they said was the "occupation of Iraq by Anglo-American forces." They chanted "Down With Bush, Down With Blair." "Bush Blair Go Back From Iraq," "Bush Blair (are) Enemies of Humanity."

They also burned the effigies U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair as well as the national flags of the two countries.

Similar protest were also reported from other parts Bangladesh, including the port city of Chittagong.

France urges US, UK to ensure Iraqis' security

CAIRO, April 12 (Reuters) - France urged the United States and Britain on Saturday to ensure security for the Iraqi people after scenes of looting and lawlessness following the fall of President Saddam Hussein.

"It is important that everything be done for the security of the population. Coalition forces present on the ground have a particular responsibility," French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin told a news conference after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Starting a tour of Arab Middle East nations, Villepin said there was bound to be a period of restoring security during which U.S. and British forces would play the main role, but it was important this phase be as short as possible to allow an Iraqi government to be established.

Only the United Nations could give that new government the legitimacy it required to begin rebuilding the country and mobilise international aid for reconstruction, he said.

In the Russian city of St Petersburg on Friday, the leaders of France, Germany and Russia — all strong opponents of the U.S.-led war — reaffirmed their belief that the United Nations must play the central role in rebuilding Iraq.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has scorned appeals to give the world body a leading political or administrative role, but has said it could coordinate humanitarian assistance. Villepin said that, while France believed there had been an alternative to war, "with the fall of Saddam Hussein, a new page is turned" and there was no point raking over the past.

He told the Egyptian Council for Foreign Relations the world faced a choice: "On the one hand, we have the temptation to use force, to take unilateral pre-emptive action. On the other, we have the desire for justice and discus-

sion, based on the primacy of law and the legitimacy of international action, vested in the United Nations alone."

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE EFFORTS

A senior French official said the United States would run into trouble trying to build a stable post-war Iraqi government and would come to realise, as Britain already knew, that only a leading U.N. role would enable it to get its troops home.

"The Iraqi challenge will remain a test for the international community for many years to come," Villepin said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher rebuffed a question about why the two countries had not called for an immediate withdrawal of U.S. and British forces from Iraq.

"It is not necessary to talk of a withdrawal of foreign troops... Even the Americans and British have indicated their presence was temporary," he said.

Many Arabs are worried the U.S.-British military presence in Iraq could be lengthy and herald a new era of colonialism.

Villepin and Maher stressed the urgency of reviving Middle East peace efforts through the publication of a "road map" to a Palestinian state, drawn up by the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations.

The French minister said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was a root cause of frustration and a sense of injustice in the Middle East which fuelled tensions and terrorism.

He said France was willing to contribute to an international military presence to observe a ceasefire and to host a conference to provide an international framework for peace, once the first stages of the "road map" had been implemented.

Cairo was Villepin's first stop on a regional tour that will also take him to Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

War clouds democracy debate among Arabs

By PAUL TAYLOR

CAIRO (Reuters) - Can a superpower that has long supported Arab autocrats promote democracy in the Middle East through military action?

The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq has clouded the debate among Arab pro-democracy activists and, in the short run, given their rulers fresh reason to clamp down on civil liberties. Some reformers believe a combination of external pressure and popular anger at the war may in the longer term force Arab governments to loosen their iron grip, but Islamist movements are more likely to benefit than pro-Western modernizers.

"Do you think democracy will come to Iraq on the wings of a B-52 (bomber)? Or on the back of a tank? Or with an armored division?" Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa asked.

"Normal development, especially after globalization, would have led to democracy. But it shouldn't have been done through war," Moussa told BBC World television.

Many intellectuals, angered by the attack on an Arab nation, question U.S. sincerity in urging greater political freedom in an area where it has long backed unelected monarchs or strongmen for the sake of stability and cheap oil.

The fact that the new democratic agenda is being pushed most aggressively by U.S. officials closest to Israel, who have vowed to make a democratic

Iraq an example to other Middle East states, makes it doubly suspect in Arab eyes.

Indulgence for Autocrats

"We don't trust American talk about democracy. The U.S. has supported very much this (Egyptian) regime that has oppressed, tortured and imprisoned people and stopped newspapers and closed associations," said Farida Naqqash, a leader of Egypt's leftist opposition Tagammu Party and a feminist human rights campaigner.

"How can we believe the United States is suddenly coming now to support democracy in the Middle East? They are still friends with the Saudi regime, which is the model despotic regime in the area. Look at their record in Chile, Venezuela or Indonesia."

Acknowledging its past indulgence for autocrats, the United States said last December it would promote democracy more actively across the Islamic world.

State Department official Richard Haass said Washington had "learned the hard way" with the September 11, 2001 attacks that Muslim states under authoritarian rule could become breeding grounds for militants who attack the United States because of its support for those governments.

U.S. officials talk openly of applying pressure for reform on traditional allies such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and not just on adversaries such as Syria, Libya and Iran.

The war has brought hundreds of

thousands of Arabs into the streets in anti-American protests, challenging the legitimacy of Arab leaders seen either as impotent for having failed to stop the conflict, or as actively collaborating with the U.S. attack.

Governments have fallen back on security services to stifle protests and stop mosques boiling over after Friday prayers.

But some pro-democracy activists believe that when the wave of anger has blown over, rulers will realize they must change.

"Once the dust settles ... other Arab leaders will not fail to read the writing on the wall, that their time is over and the only way to survive is to initiate reforms," U.S.-Egyptian civil rights campaigner Saadeddin Ibrahim told Reuters.

"If they don't they will face both internal pressure and external pressure."

Token Reforms

Several Arab states have taken steps toward greater public participation over the last decade. Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Yemen, Morocco and Algeria have held elections, although critics say in no case would voters have been able to oust their rulers.

Egyptian political analyst Hala Mustafa, editor-in-chief of the quarterly journal Democracy, the first of its kind in the Arab world, welcomed U.S. pressure for change but said reforming education and the media must prepare the

ground for elections.

"In this country, if you say 'have free elections,' the next day you'll have the Islamists in power. No doubt. So you must first modernize and secularize to predispose society to democracy," she told Reuters in an interview.

"The Americans don't give real attention to cultural and societal factors, so I'm afraid this initiative will end up enhancing Islamists and not liberal democracy," Mustafa said.

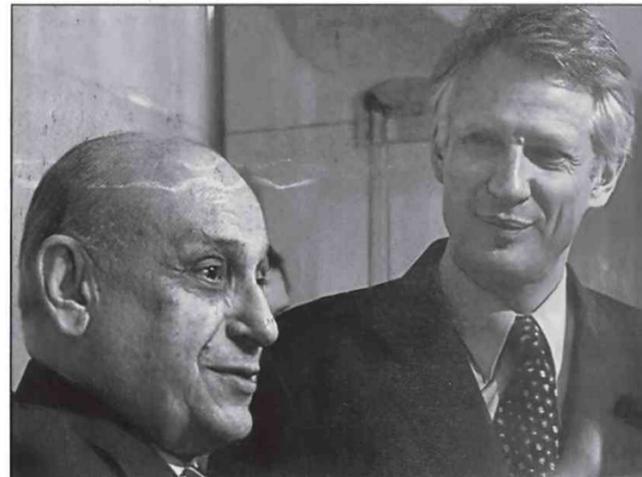
When Islamists were set to win elections in Algeria in 1992, the army stopped the vote and outlawed their party, triggering a decade of civil war in which about 150,000 people were killed.

Jordanian officials say privately the Iraq war has piled pressure on pro-Western King Abdullah to allow greater democratization after stalling political reforms for two years.

Public anger over U.S. special forces operating from Jordan may help Islamists in a general election delayed until June.

Even Saudi Arabia, birthplace of Islamic militant Osama bin Laden and most of the September 11 hijackers, began talking this year of reforms to its archaic tribal political system. Crown Prince Abdullah is considering a petition from 104 prominent Saudis calling for change based on constitutional rule.

But the crown prince, regarded as a reformer by Saudi standards, faces stiff resistance from a religious establishment emboldened by the war in Iraq.



Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher (L) and his French counterpart Dominique de Villepin address a news conference after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo April 12. REUTERS

U.S. searches Iraqi prisons, not found POWs

AS SAYLIYA CAMP, Qatar, April 12 (Reuters) - The U.S. military said on Saturday its forces had searched a number of Iraqi prisons in recent days but had not found any of the missing servicemen listed as prisoners of war.

Brigadier General Vincent Brooks said the collapse of President Saddam Hussein's rule meant ordinary Iraqis were starting to provide information to U.S.-led forces, some of which could help locate prisoners of war.

"While those who absolutely know where any prisoners of war have been held might be gone, there are others that might have information and we'll seek to gather that," Brooks told a briefing at Central Command in Qatar.

"There have been indications of dif-

ferent prisons where they might have been held. We've entered some of these in very recent days and have not found them which means our work is not yet complete," Brooks said.

"We haven't forgotten, we won't forget them," he said.

He urged what was left of Iraq's administration to allow Red Cross staff access to prisoners.

U.S. officials say seven Americans are listed as prisoners of war while several others are missing in action.

Earlier this month, U.S. special forces rescued Private First Class Jessica Lynch, who was being held as a prisoner of war, in a night raid on a hospital in Nassariya.



US forces guard Baghdad water plant, hospital-ICRC

GENEVA, April 12 (Reuters) - U.S. soldiers are guarding a main Baghdad water utility and a major hospital in a welcome move to curb looting in the Iraqi capital, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Saturday. "There are signs that the U.S. forces are trying to make such contacts and take such action that will go in the direction of what we have been asking, which is securing vital infrastructure," ICRC spokeswoman Antonella Notari said.

The Swiss-based humanitarian agency had urged American troops who swept into Baghdad this week to help end the chaos that erupted when Saddam Hussein's administration collapsed under the U.S.-led onslaught.

It has also been trying to contact whoever is holding American prisoners of war to ensure they are not being harmed and to arrange to visit them, Notari said.

The ICRC brokered talks among U.S. civil affairs officials and representatives of Iraqi health and sanitation authorities that started on Friday evening in an effort to restore basic public services to Baghdad's five million residents.

"One concrete result of one of the meetings...was that in the evening the U.S. forces secured one of the main water supply stations for Baghdad which was under threat of being attacked by looters," Notari said in Geneva. This helped maintain a low level of water supply, she said, but demand was also limited by the reduced needs of industry. U.S. troops were also protecting a major hospital, she added. "Medical City Hospital seems for the most part secured so that we're able to go back," she said.

The ICRC has previously said Baghdad's 33 hospitals had been ransacked and were in no shape to cope with wounded people or patients with chronic diseases like diabetes.

The ICRC has repeatedly reminded U.S.-led forces in Iraq of their responsibilities under international law as an occupying power. These include protecting vital public services.

Promised law and order

U.S. President George W. Bush promised Iraqis in a videotaped message on Thursday that the United States and its war allies would help maintain law and order.

But images of widespread looting in Iraqi cities as soldiers looked on triggered an international outcry.

U.S. Marines plan to impose a night curfew in parts of Baghdad on Saturday, and will challenge anyone on the streets after dark in the east of the city in an attempt to stop the looting.

Notari said the ICRC was struggling to arrange visits to captured American soldiers in Iraq now that the Baghdad government had ceased functioning. "We have lost the counterparts we had. They are just no longer there," she said.

The ICRC has appealed on radio stations in Iraq to whoever is holding the prisoners of war to protect them from harm and grant the ICRC access to them. "We can launch a public message but we are not sure who will hear it and what they will do," Notari said.

The Geneva Convention aims to protect captured troops and entitles them to visits by ICRC officials who interview them in private, check on their conditions and allow them to send messages to their families. POWs must be treated humanely.

ICRC officials have visited 3,800 Iraqis held by U.S. and British forces, officials said.

The United States said on Friday that 11 U.S. soldiers were missing and seven held as prisoners of war. On Thursday it said that concern was increasing over the fate of the seven — five members of a U.S. supply convoy and two military fliers.

Coalition loses a key ally

By ELI J. LAKE
FOR UPI STATE DEPARTMENT
CORRESPONDENT

The United States and the Iraqi people lost a valuable conciliator Thursday with the slaying of Seyyed Abdul Majid Al-Khoie, scion of one of Shiism's most revered clerical families and an Iraqi leader willing to embrace Americans as liberators.

Al-Khoie was stabbed to death outside of the shrine of Imam Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammad and the first Islamic martyr. Imam Ali is the founder of the Shiia Islamic sect to which 60 percent of Iraqis belong.

Al-Khoie was in the process of giving the key to the mosque to Haider al-Kadar, a longtime ally of Saddam Hussein and widely hated in al-Najaf for usurping the temple's spiritual leadership.

Accounts of the killing vary, but it's thought that al-Khoie — who had just returned to his native Iraq from exile in

London — was killed by the mob because he was mistakenly associated with Kadar, who was also killed.

Some report that al-Khoie fired a gun inside the mosque after a disagreement with Haider al-Kadar, an official with Saddam's Ministry of Religious Affairs. But both clerics were then hacked to death by a crowd outside the building.

The Najaf clerics had come to symbolize the Saddam regime's persecution of the country's Shiite community.

Twice in the past 20 years, Saddam's men killed the grand ayatollah of Najaf, leaving the city leaderless. In 1999, Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr, the leading Shiite religious authority in the world, was slain with two of his sons.

Less than a year before, al-Sadr had begun speaking out against Saddam.

It is not clear what al-Khoie was doing with Kadar, or why he had given him the key. Some U.S. officials argue al-Khoie should not have had the key in the first place, but rather the slain aya-

tollah's living descendant Muqtadah.

"It was a great risk he took going to Najaf. But that was not his key to give to anyone. Particularly someone like Kadar, who was hated," one U.S. official said.

Al-Khoie's decision to allow the U.S. military to transport him from Kuwait to Najaf was also controversial. The week he left, a leading Iranian-based cleric, Ayatollah Mohammed Baqr al-Hakim, criticized the decision publicly.

"He was a very brave guy," says Dr. Mowaffak al-Rubaie, a neurologist in London who was working with al-Khoie to form a moderate Muslim political party for Iraq. "He is by nature a high risk taker. He wanted to do something with the coalition and to help them in Najaf and Karbala without a lot of fighting."

Arriving in Najaf, one of the first things he did was to calm the crowds and urge them not to attack American military men.

In London, al-Khoie had been con-

sulted by Prime Minister Tony Blair on aspects of the post-Saddam reconstruction. He had also been working discreetly with the United States on the State Department's "Future of Iraq Taskforce," a committee consisting of Iraqi dissidents that discuss a wide range of issues germane to rebuilding their country. Al-Khoie was a member of the task forces on local governance and civil society.

He was an early critic of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. On Oct. 4, 2001, he wrote in al-Hayat, the most respected Arab language newspaper "What happened on 11 September ... was a criminal and barbaric action totally remote from moral values and religious and human principles."

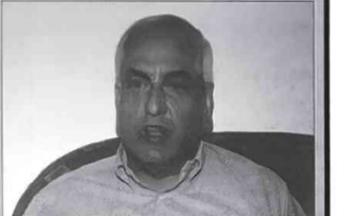
His foundation was instrumental in setting up Shiite mosques throughout the world. Representatives of six Iraqi opposition groups are to meet on Tuesday in An Nasariyah. Al-Khoie's presence will no doubt be missed.

Saddam adviser surrenders to U.S. forces-German TV

BERLIN, April 12 (Reuters) - Saddam Hussein's top scientific adviser, one of 55 people on America's most wanted list of Iraqi leaders, has surrendered to U.S. forces, German public TV station

ZDF reported on Saturday. General Amer Hammoudi al-Saadi, who denounced weapons inspections before war broke out, gave himself up to U.S. forces in Baghdad on Saturday, ZDF said,

adding that its camera crew had accompanied al-Saadi at his request. His surrender would be the first from the group of 55 the United States wants pursued, killed or captured, ZDF said.



Saddam Hussein's scientific adviser General Amer Hammoudi al-Saadi (L) is seen giving a television interview before surrendering to US forces in Baghdad in this ZDF television footage, April 12. REUTERS



Staff at a Baghdad hospital treat a wounded man hospital sources say was hurt in a rocket attack by U.S. forces April 11, 2003. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Friday it doubted any hospital in Baghdad was still working because of "anarchy" on the city's streets. REUTERS

 SAY MUBAYYED AL-KHAYRI President	 MARIAM HUSSEIN AL-TIKRITI President	 ABD HANMAD MAHMOUD AL-TIKRITI President's Secretary	 QUNAYYAH HUSSEIN AL-TIKRITI Special Security Organization (SSO) Supervisor/Brigade Military Human Rights, Chairman	 UDAY SADDAM HUSSEIN National Assembly Member/Foreign Minister/ Saddam's Foreign Minister	 ALI HASSAN AL-HAJRATI President's Advisor/ICC Member	 AZIZ SAJJAH AL-NUMAN Brigade Commander/Commander of Baghdad
 IZZAT HUSSEIN AL-DURI ICC Vice Chairman	 HANI ABD AL-LATHI YILFANI AL-TIKRITI Vice President Special Security Organization	 MUHAMMAD HANMAD AL-SAYIDI Special Security Organization Member	 MUHAMMAD SAJJAH AL-TIKRITI Al-Dustour Party Chairman	 KUNAYYAH HUSSEIN AL-TIKRITI Secretary of the Republican Guard & Special Intelligence	 BARZAN ABD AL-GHAFUR SULTAN HADID AL-TIKRITI Special Security Organization	 IBRAHIM HANMAD ABD AL-BAYTAN Special Security Organization/ Iraqi Armed Forces Chief of Staff
 SAJJAH HUSSEIN HUSSEIN TALAH AL-KHAYRI Republican Guard Chief of Staff	 RASHID ABD AL-LATHI YILFANI AL-TIKRITI Director of General Security (DGS)	 HANMAD SAJJAH AL-TIKRITI Al-Dustour Party	 YUSUF YUSUF HANMAD AL-KHAYRI Vice President/ICC Member	 LATIF NUSAYIB JASSEM AL-GULAYMI Brigade Deputy Chairman	 ABD AL-TALIB MULLAH HUSSEIN Deputy Prime Minister	 SULTAN HUSSEIN ABD AL-GHAFUR SULTAN HADID AL-TIKRITI Chief of Staff/Al-Dustour
 JAMAL MUSTAFA ABDELMAJID SULTAN AL-TIKRITI Deputy Head of 'Talab' Al-Dustour Office	 HUSSEIN KHAYRI HANMAD ICC Member	 YUSUF YUSUF Deputy Prime Minister/ICC Member	 IBRAHIM HANMAD HUSSEIN AL-AZZAWI Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister	 WALID HANMAD TALAH AL-TIKRITI Minister of Defense	 SULTAN HUSSEIN HADID AL-TALIB Minister of Defense	 MUSTAFA HUSSEIN AL-HANMAD President's Advisor
 ABD HANMAD HUSSEIN AL-BAYTAN Iraqi Armed Forces Chief of Staff	 IBRAHIM HANMAD ABD AL-GHAFUR SULTAN HADID AL-TIKRITI Deputy Prime Minister Intelligence (DGI)	 AMIR HANMAD MUHAMMAD AL-LATHI President's Advisor/ICC Member	 SAJJAH HUSSEIN HUSSEIN AL-TIKRITI President's Advisor	 HUSSEIN MUHAMMAD AMIN AL-KHAYRI Head of National Monitoring Directorate (NMD)	 MUHAMMAD HANMAD AL-SAYIDI Minister of Defense	 WALID HANMAD HUSSEIN AL-TIKRITI President's Advisor
 BARZAN HUSSEIN HANMAD AL-TIKRITI President's Advisor	 IBRAHIM HANMAD ABD AL-GHAFUR SULTAN HADID AL-TIKRITI Brigade Commander/Commander of Baghdad	 MUHAMMAD ZINAB ABD AL-AZZAWI AL-HANMAD Brigade Deputy Commander/Chairman of 'Talab' Movement	 YUSUF YUSUF HANMAD AL-KHAYRI Brigade Commander/Chairman of 'Talab' Movement	 AMIR HANMAD MUHAMMAD AL-LATHI Brigade Commander/Chairman of 'Talab' Movement	 HUSSEIN MUHAMMAD AMIN AL-KHAYRI Minister of Defense	 SULTAN HUSSEIN HADID AL-TALIB Minister of Defense
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Vanishing liberties:

Where's the press?

By NAT HENTOFF
FOR THE VILLAGE VOICE

If Americans win a war (not just against Saddam Hussein but the longer-term struggle) and lose the Constitution, they will have lost everything. —Lance Morrow, Time, March 17

On March 18, the Associated Press reported that at John Carroll University, in a Cleveland suburb, Justice Antonin Scalia said that "most of the rights you enjoy go way beyond what the Constitution requires" because "the Constitution just sets minimums." Accordingly, in wartime, Scalia emphasized, "the protections will be ratcheted down to the constitutional minimum."

I checked with the Supreme Court for a text of this ominous speech and was told Scalia didn't use a text that night, but the quotation appeared to be accurate. I said, would Justice Scalia let me know? My question was relayed, but I've heard nothing since.

Most of the radical revisions of the Constitution that I and others have been writing about will ultimately be ruled on by the Supreme Court. Scalia indicates he will come down on the side of Bush and Ashcroft. A few days after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said that as a result, we would have to give up some of our liberties. That's two of nine justices we are not likely to be able to depend on.

And in his 1998 book, *All the Laws but One: Civil Liberties in Wartime* (Knopf/Vintage), the chief justice of the United States, William Rehnquist,

admiringly quoted Francis Biddle, Franklin D. Roosevelt's attorney general: "The Constitution has not greatly bothered any wartime president." And Rehnquist himself, who will be presiding over the constitutionality of the Bush-Ashcroft assaults on the Constitution, wrote in the same book:

"In time of war, presidents may act in ways that push their legal authority to its outer limits, if not beyond." (Emphasis added.) And writing of Lincoln's suspending habeas corpus during the Civil War, Rehnquist said, "It is difficult to quarrel with this decision."

Reacting to Rehnquist's deference to the executive branch in previous wars, Adam Cohen, legal affairs writer for The New York Times, wrote: "The people whose liberties are taken away are virtually invisible" in the pages of Rehnquist's book.

Meanwhile, in an invaluable new report by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, "Imbalance of Powers: How Changes to U.S. Law and Policy Since 9/11 Erode Human Rights and Civil Liberties" (available by calling 212-845-5200), a section begins: "A mantle of secrecy continues to envelop the executive branch, largely with the acquiescence of Congress and the courts. [This] makes effective oversight impossible, upsetting the constitutional system of checks and balances."

So where is the oversight going to come from? If at all, first from the people pressuring Congress—provided enough of us know what is happening to our rights and liberties. And that requires, as James Madison said, a vigorous press, because the press has been,

he noted, "the beneficent source to which the United States owes much of the light which conducted [us] to the ranks of a free and independent nation."

But the media, with few exceptions, are failing to report consistently, and in depth, precisely how Bush and Ashcroft are undermining our fundamental individual liberties.

For example, in writing here about the Justice Department's proposed sequel to the Patriot Act (titled inoffensively the Domestic Security Enhancement Act), I noted that it had been kept secret from Congress. A week before it was leaked by an understandably anonymous member of Ashcroft's staff, a representative of the Justice Department even lied to the Senate Judiciary Committee about its very existence.

A few sections in that chilling 86-page draft were briefly covered in some of the media. But as I predicted after providing more details here ("Ashcroft Out of Control" and "Red Alert for the Bill of Rights"), these invasions of the Constitution were only a one- or two-day story in nearly all of the media.

How many Americans know that if the bill is passed (and Bush certainly won't veto it), they can be stripped of their citizenship if charged with giving "material support" to a group designated by the government as "terrorist"? Sending a check for the outfit's lawful activities—without knowing why it landed on Ashcroft's list—could make you a person without a country and put you behind bars here indefinitely. As Chief Justice Earl Warren said, "you lose the right to have rights" when you lose your citizenship.

How many Americans know that the FBI can get a warrant from the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and go to a library or bookstore to find out what books you read or borrow if you are somehow, according to the FBI, connected to "terrorism"?

In the First Amendment Center's "Legal Watch" newsletter (March 11-17), Charles Haynes writes that "a warning sign greets patrons entering all 10 of the county libraries in Santa Cruz, California." It says: "Beware, a record of the books you borrow may end up in the hands of the FBI. And if the FBI requests your records, librarians are prohibited by law from telling you about it." The message to the readers ends: "Questions about this policy should be directed to Attorney General John Ashcroft, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530."

Librarians—and bookstore owners—are also forbidden by this section of the law from telling the press of these visits by the FBI to inform John Ashcroft of what people on the list of suspects are reading.

I've checked with the American Library Association and am told that very few other libraries are warning their patrons to be cautious about which books they ask for. Shouldn't the press spread the news of this risk more widely?

And I've seen little in the media about a bill, "The Freedom to Read Protection Act of 2003," introduced in the House by Bernie Sanders (Independent, Vermont) that prevents the government from "searching for, or seizing from, a bookseller or library . . . materials that contain personally identi-

fiable information concerning a patron of a bookseller or library." Under the bill, a higher standard than mere FBI suspicion will be required.

How many of you know the answer Assistant Attorney General Daniel J. Bryant sent Democratic senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont about our expectations of privacy in bookstores and libraries?

"Any [such] right of privacy," says the Justice Department, "is necessarily and inherently limited since . . . the

patron is reposing that information in the library or bookstore and assumes the risk that the entity may disclose it to another."

Have you ever assumed that the librarian or bookstore owner has a right to bypass your First Amendment right to read what you choose by telling "another" (the FBI) whether you read, for example, the Voice? Senator Leahy's office made that Justice Department letter available to the press. Have you seen it before now?



A candle illuminates a placard with the photographs of eight of at least ten journalist that have been killed covering the war in Iraq during a candle light vigil to protest the killing of journalists in the Bahraini capital Manama April 11, 2003. Journalists from Reuters news agency, Spain's Telecinco and Arab TV channel al-Jazeera died April 8 after a U.S. tank fired on a hotel packed full of journalists and U.S. air strikes hit Jazeera's offices, prompting calls for an investigation. REUTERS

Looters ransack Baghdad's antiquities museum

BAGHDAD, April 12 (Reuters) - Looters have sacked Baghdad's antiquities museum, plundering treasures dating back thousands of years to the dawn of civilisation in Mesopotamia, museum staff said on Saturday.

They blamed U.S. troops for not protecting the treasures.

Surveying the littered glass wreckage of display cases and pottery shards at the Iraqi National Museum on Saturday, deputy director Nabhal Amin wept and told Reuters: "They have looted or destroyed 170,000 items of antiquity dating back thousands of years...They were worth billions of dollars."

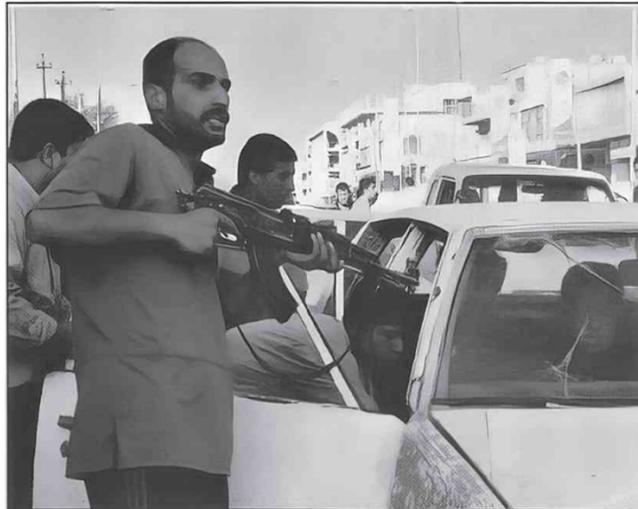
She blamed U.S. troops, who have controlled Baghdad since the collapse of President Saddam Hussein's rule on Wednesday, for failing to heed appeals from museum staff to protect it from looters who moved in to the building on Friday.

"The Americans were supposed to protect the museum. If they had just one tank and two soldiers nothing like this would have happened," she said. "I hold the American troops responsible for what happened to this museum."

The looters broke into rooms that were built like bank vaults with huge steel doors. The museum grounds were full of smashed doors, windows and littered with office paperwork and books.

"We know people are hungry but what are they going to do with these antiquities," said Muhsen Kadhim, a museum guard for the last 30 years but who said he was overwhelmed by the number of looters.

"As soon as I saw the American troops near the museum, I asked them



An Iraqi vigilante points an assault rifle at a suspected looter driving a car in Baghdad April 11, 2003 as others search the car. U.S. and British troops struggled to restore order to Iraqi cities as looters rampaged through ministries, schools and shops in a non-stop frenzy of plunder and arson. REUTERS

to protect it but the second day looters came and robbed or destroyed all the antiquities," he said.

Armed Guards

Amin told four of the museum guards to carry guns and protect what remained.

Some of the museum's artefacts had been moved into storage to avoid a repeat of damage to other antiquities during the 1991 Gulf War.

It houses items from ancient Babylon and Nineveh, Sumerian statues, Assyrian reliefs and 5,000-year-old tablets bearing some of the earliest known writing. There are also gold and

silver helmets and cups from the Ur cemetery.

The museum was only opened to the public six months ago after shutting down at the beginning of the 1991 Gulf War.

It survived air strikes on Baghdad in 1991 and again was almost unscathed by attacks on the capital by U.S.-led forces.

Iraq, a cradle of civilisation long before the empires of Egypt, Greece or Rome, was home to dynasties that created agriculture and writing and built the cities of Nineveh, Nimrud and Babylon — site of Nebuchadnezzar's Hanging Gardens.

Iraqis demand security in Baghdad, police volunteer

BAGHDAD, April 12 (Reuters) - Iraqis protested on Saturday in Baghdad at the breakdown in law and order since U.S.-led forces overthrew Saddam Hussein, and Iraqi policemen volunteered to help the occupying forces end looting and anarchy.

Holding a banner that read "We want a new government as soon as possible to ensure security and peace", about 100 Iraqis, many of them students, protested outside Baghdad's central Palestine hotel, where most foreign journalists are based.

"We want to cooperate with the new Iraqi government and American troops to keep peace and security," said Dharham Adnan, a 25-year-old student from Baghdad university.

Violence and looting have swept Iraq as Saddam's iron rule crumbled this week after 24 years. Aid officials say badly needed humanitarian aid could be delayed unless U.S.-led forces step in to prevent a slide to anarchy.

Adnan said U.S. troops did not appear to be doing anything to stop the looting of most public buildings in the capital.

"They try just to protect the oil companies and the oil ministry and everything else is destroyed. They don't do anything, they just watch," he said.

Haidir Shawk, a 58-year-old engineer, urged U.S. soldiers to act to impose order. "The Americans replaced the regime and security is part of their responsibility," he said.

At one point the crowd outside the Palestine hotel approached U.S. troops, waving their hands in the air, but they were moved back.

Police volunteers

Meanwhile, several former Iraqi policemen spoke to U.S. officers at the Palestine hotel to volunteer their services.

"We volunteered to maintain the security of the city," said Brigadier Mohammed al-Bandr, a retired policeman who said he ran a police station in western Baghdad until 1996 when he was forced to retire by Saddam's gov-

ernment. "We appeal for police patrols to resume their work. The Americans have welcomed our move and they said they want to cooperate with us."

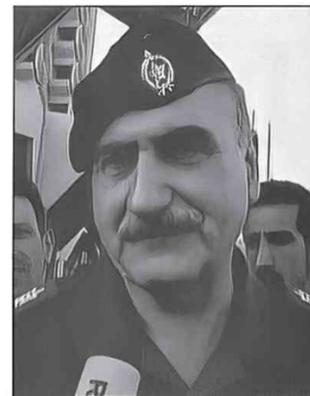
Another retired officer, Brigadier Sadeq Azawi, said he also hoped to persuade policemen to return to work.

"We are going to organise visits to various areas in Baghdad using loudspeakers to appeal for policemen to return to work."

Mohammad Abdel Rahman, who said he was an officer in the Iraqi special investigation department, was ready to go back to work, but only in cooperation with the U.S. forces.

"I am a police officer but I cannot carry a weapon. If I wear a uniform, they (the Americans) will kill me," he said.

Latif Abdullah, who said he had been in the police force for 25 years and was a specialist in fighting car crime, said he had burned his uniform because he was worried he would be taken for a Saddam loyalist. But he was ready to help patrol the streets.



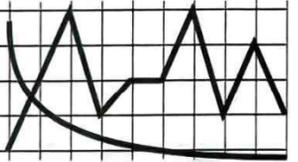
A senior Iraqi police official is seen leaving the Palestine hotel following talks with US military on policing the streets, in Baghdad in this Reuters TV footage, April 12. REUTERS

"A week ago I left my weapon because I did not want to defend Saddam Hussein. We want to defend the people," he said.



U.S. soldiers attempt to calm Iraqis during a rally demanding the reinstatement of law and order, in the centre of Baghdad, April 12. REUTERS

YT Business



Investment opportunities in textile industry

Blossoming

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The state establishment for weaving and textile has drawn up a strategic plan for improving production of Sana'a Textile Factory. The plan aims at developing machines of the factory and improving the workers performance through increasing the volume of spending by \$ 500,000 thousand. This would double the volume of production by 30,000 yards per day. The Sana'a textile factory production amounts to around 120,000 yards a day. Its products include various kinds of cloth provided to local market, hospitals and armed forces and security. The factory's production does not meet the local market demand and this situation necessitates building more factories, for Yemen consumes 75 per cent of its needs of clothes imported from abroad. There are existing investment opportunities in textile industry where good and excellent cotton production is available in many agricultural parts of the country especially in Tehama and Lahj.

The State Establishment for Textile Industry has opened in Zabid area. Hudeida cotton ginnery, producing 190-200 kg for a bale at a cost reaching to about YR 130 million with production capacity of 16 tonnes of cotton hair. The establishment also encourages farmers to increase cotton production by concluding contracts with them and offering financial support. Also contributing to this effort is the Agricultural Encouragement Fund which offers loans for easy interests to the farmers. Tehama area produces about 65 per cent of the total volume of cotton production if Yemen and it has a factory that produces around 600 tonnes of cotton production.

The establishment has built a sewing plant and has plans for expanding its production in order to meet demand of the local market for cloth. But the volume of Sana'a factory for textile remains less than the market demand and there are plans for providing opportunities of investment offered to the private sector in this field. Yemen needs an industry for woman



Locally manufactured fabrics

and men clothes industry made of wool and nylon, not only of cotton. Merchants import large quantities of

excellent clothes from abroad. The Yemen fashion styles are varied and are not governed by one kind of taste. Some

people wear local-made folklore clothes but the youth prefer imported foreign modern styles.

Yemen a good source of Solar energy

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In the light of scientific studies on using the solar energy in Yemen there are great possibilities for its utilization accurately in a way qualifying Yemeni areas to operate public services projects. What Yemen does actually need are sources of funding the construction of solar power stations to be used for lessening the shortage of power and helping enlarge electric power and water projects and others.

There is capability for Yemen's benefiting from Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia for using the solar power in many fields. In this context success has been achieved in the first experi-

ment of lighting the village of sheik Salem in Abyan governorate on an area of 15 square km to the east of Zanjibar by the solar energy project at a cost of YR 10 million.

Success of the experiment provides opportunities for Yemen to utilize the solar energy and erecting stations for generating electricity and running projects that need the energy, as Yemen has a good source of solar energy around the year. Many experiments have been made for generating solar power and benefiting from it. But the question of investing this energy is still in its beginnings and needs funding and scientific plans for how to utilize the sun in operating public services and other projects.

Huge quantities of minerals in Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Recent geological surveys conducted in Yemen have disclosed the existence of huge quantities of minerals encouraging investment, mainly gold, copper, iron and zinc. Preliminary results have proved that existence of these metals in many areas. Geological reserve of gold in al-Harith area is estimated at 16 million tons and a possible reserve estimated at more than 40 million tons. Gold ores are also discovered in al-Faidh area, north of Sa'da at a proportion ranging between five out of ten to 3 grams per each ton.

Discoveries are still yielding positive and encouraging results regarding

the existence of other metals in Yemen, the matter that helps develop investment in the mineral sector. The surveys have also reported the existence of zinc, copper, nickel and platinum in commercial quantities.

In al-Hamour sector in Taiz governorate the surveys conducted over the past six years for exploring copper by digging thousands of meters deep inside the rocks there and after analyzing process the results have shown the existence of the metal in big commercial quantities. Geological sources expect that Yemen would reach new results this year in the field of mineral wealth is hidden inside the earth. Competent authorities are conducting surveys in Mareb governorate where the primary results have proved the existence of big quantities of zinc in

the southern part of the governorate.

Geological surveys estimate reserve size of zinc, lead, and silver in Mareb area at about 9 million and 400,000 tons. These results indicate that the volume of metals in Yemen is bigger than what has been discovered so far. The exploration operation needs firstly developed technological means for exploration of metals and scientific devices to estimate the volume of reserves. Yemen also needs enough money to conduct scientific studies on minerals and investment in this sector.

Local factors also hinder the investment of metals because of aggravation of problems between tribes and fighting that happens in some areas where metals exist. These factors impede the operation of digging and extracting the mineral wealth.

The war on Iraq,

Negative impact

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni economic experts have expressed their dissatisfaction for the American-British war against Iraq and the accusations and lies Washington unleashed against the region's countries despite the latter's stands, including Yemen, in backing America in its war on the so-called "terror". Experts observe that the Yemeni market is up till now seem to be relatively stable. But in the long-run the businessmen and merchants could be in need of the dollar and therefore they rush to buy the dollar for its use for the process of imports. This would consequently make the Yemeni rial lose some points in the exchange rates to form points of

weakness for the rial whose exchange rate may be 200 rials against a US dollar.

On the other hand the Yemeni Central Bank affirms that the volume of reserves it possesses is bigger in proportion than the local consumption for a period estimated for six months and in a volume keeping the domestic stability.

The rate of circulated cheques through the clearing house during February 2003 amounted to around 29.8 thousands at a value of YR 44.8 billion, and 69.5 thousand cheques at a value of YR 103.5 billion. The volume of exchange during the period of January-February 2003 amounted to 16 per cent in number and 48 per cent in value compared to the same period last year. Financial experts say the Central Bank possesses about 4 billion dollars as a cash reserve for defending the national currency in case of a demand for

the dollar. The bank sources affirm that movement of stocks through purchasing treasury bonds is still escalating and there is demand for them. Sources at the chambers of commerce and industry in Sana'a report that the war against Iraq would have negative impact on the commercial activity in Yemen, among which is a retreat in trade movement in the non-supplying and food field by 50 percent. There also would be an increased harm on the Yemeni industrial sector and its production as well as the volume of the exporting movement and a rise in goods prices.

The sources also expect that wheat, flour, transport and insurance prices would rise due to the state of caution shown by merchants and consumers in their waiting for what consequences the war would result.

Despite that the officials at the Central

Bank have issued securities, there is a necessity for ensuring many needs of food stuffs to avoid any aggravating living crisis especially with indications of a drop in levels of growth and rates of production in precaution for the worst in transport activity and expected disturbance at some sea ports.

Experts warn from a long-term war, a matter that would have a destructive effect on the Yemeni economy. This is particular especially if prices of oil got deteriorated. Oil constitutes the major source that feeds the state's general budget.

What increases the difficulty of the challenge is Yemen's stand rejecting the war of aggression aimed at the civilians and occupation of Iraq. Yemen is determined to encounter its problems on its own and does not want to squander its

pan-Arab stands for a handful of dollars. Yemen, for any price, does not accept this aggression. On the contrary there are Yemeni volunteers to carry out martyrdom operations in Iraq and its economic situations would not preclude it from that. Yemen does not want to see the Americans occupying Iraq and utilize the Arab oil wealth in favor of the foreign colonizer.

The Yemenis confirm that their economic future would be stable in case of inflicting defeats on the American and British colonialists and expelling them from the region's countries and from Iraq. They conclude that the war this time aims at the Arab economy. Hatred would increase against the United States and its interests in the region would not be safe in future, whether in Yemen or in the region's countries.

The Road Ahead

Always say less than necessary

BY RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
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Robert Greene states in his book "The 48 Laws of Power", Law No. 4: Always say less than necessary:

"When you are trying to impress people with words, the more you say, the more common you appear, and the less in control. Even if you are trying something banal, it will seem original if you make it vague, open-ended, and sphinx-like. Powerful people impress and intimidate by saying less. The more you say, the more likely you are to say something foolish".

History books have many examples of people who perfected the art of gaining power through words; through saying the right thing at the right place, time & occasion. The secret for gaining such power is through saying less than necessary, that communicates the idea with a little bit of ambiguity and mystery with the help of short answers and silence. In fact, silence makes it more difficult for others to learn about your intentions, and hence you appear greater and more powerful than you actually are.

The important thing is not to allow others to know everything that you are all about. Successful businessmen know that once words are out, you cannot take them back, and business is nothing but a process of gathering information in the hunt for opportunities, and so are many forms of art.

Successful artists do not let you see what aspired their work; they know that if they let you see them sweat producing their art, the artwork loses its mystery. Something similar happens in business, if you had to get something done, and for that you had to call on a few favors, always make it look like it was nothing comparing to what you can actually do. This will empower your appearance, goodwill and credibility. It is the no-sweat style that adds power to what you do.

Nevertheless, there are situations where it is unwise to be silent and to hide your sweat, because sometimes silence stimulates a sense of insecurity and suspicions, especially while carrying out investigations or meeting with your superiors. The balancing point is where you appear less powerful to your superiors, and appear much more powerful to your subordinates.

In life, there are some people who like to show their sweat and talk about the things they do, and on the contrary, there are those who await others to speak first. Those are powerful people because they can know and understand the real intentions of others around them first. And so others can't predict their reactions.

Endnote: You can be more powerful through impressing by saying less, no one can predict what you will say and so can't deceive you by saying what you want to hear. The point is that ambiguity adds power to you through your words, and your work.

Words of Wisdom



Intellectuals and urban elites are supposed to lead society and spearhead the march towards modernization. That role, at least as much as many countries in the Third World are concerned, is either totally absent or badly deficient.

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



OUR OPINION

Attempts to fool the world will backfire

By showing a few hundred people parading in the streets of Baghdad City or looting government buildings the US has used its last card. It wanted the world to say, "Hey, may be this was a just war after all" and trying to overcome the opinion of the overwhelming majority of world citizens who do not support the war.

But you know what? I am happy that this all happened. I am truly glad that this Oscar-award winning Hollywood movie of a nation being "liberated" has come to an end at last. I am truly happy that the pictures were broadcast all over the world.

Why you're asking? Well, the answer is simple: Because the US demonstrated that because it failed to convince the world that Iraq was a potential threat to the world by its alleged weapons of mass destruction, and because no such weapons were used or even found, the US wanted to get the emotions and sympathy of naive Americans and citizens all over the world by saying, "You know, at least we liberated the Iraqi people! They knew that they would fail to convince the world from the start. This is why they named their war "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Well, not all Americans are naive, and not all world citizens can be fooled. It is a show, and it is an excellently executed one. It more or less goes like this:

- 1- Support a dictator and encourage him to oppress his people
- 2- Provide him and let others provide him with WMDs
- 3- Let him use them on his people and others
- 4- Encourage him to get into wars with neighbors
- 5- When time comes, tell the world that this is a dangerous regime threatening its neighbors
- 6- Tell the world it has WMDs that you know of (because you gave them to him)
- 7- Let the world apply sanctions on the regime to make people suffer and hate their leader
- 8- Let inspectors go in to destroy most of its military capability
- 9- Tell the world it is an oppressive regime that tortures and kills its people
- 10- Show the world you are committed to rid the regime of WMDs by force
- 11- Show the world you are committed to liberate the people from this dictatorship
- 12- Go for war and destroy the regime easily as it will have little military might left
- 13- Declare yourself liberator of the country
- 14- Rule the country for an indefinite time (define the term "as long as it is necessary")
- 15- Use the country's oil wealth and secure a great strategic spot in the Middle East to defend Israel
- 16- Think of your next plan for another "dangerous" regime (preferably with rich oil fields)
- 17- Go to step 5 and go on in loops until you dominate the region/world

Simply put, the way this is played shows a disgusting well-played game of fooling the world on the expense of poor people who would not have suffered from the start of the US had not supported their brutal dictatorship. They make those people suffer from sanctions and dictators until they believe that even a foreign colony is better than living such a life under oppression and degrading economic conditions. What is even more ridiculous is the way the scenario will probably continue showing the world that the colonizing force is treating Iraqis nicely by offering them the best of services and a decent life. This is to divert Iraqis from the fact that the occupying force is sucking away its oil and controlling the country's resources and political stance.

What we have seen on TV last week is a means to try and shift popular anti-war opinion. It is the best thing that could ever be done to guarantee maximum influence on world opinion in an attempt to present a pretty mask (alleged freedom) for an ugly face (the war). But guess what? Even this best shot is failing!

Today, more people are beginning to question the justice in this war. People who paraded for a few days are now complaining. There is no law or order in the country. There is no food, no medicine, no water, no electricity. "What are we parading about?" one Iraqi asked. "Even though Saddam is gone, but so are security, food and water!"

Even if they have all that, how can proud Iraqis be ruled by a military general coming from across the Atlantic? Does this conform to the national pride of an Iraq people lived with for long?

All this media coverage of Saddam's status falling, pictures torn apart and burnt were not enough to change the opinion of billions of viewers worldwide to this war, what will? You don't suppose a military regime in Iraq will? Or will the future of US oil companies sucking Iraq's oil to supposedly rebuild a country destroyed by the US will?

Now the US has used all its cards, and is running out of options and ideas.

No doubt, as days pass by, the US would realize that trying to fool the world will definitely backfire.

The Editor

Thoughts of a caring mind

The eternal search for Utopia

By SAMIRA ALI BINDAARI

I am writing this as a human being, with no political affiliations – but I would be lying to say that without affiliation to culture, religion, homeland and nationhood. I do not think that anyone could make that claim of being totally free of affiliations at any level. However, in the end we are all human beings, with the same substance running in our veins...whether our skin is brown, white, yellow or black. Through the sheer accident of birth, that places us in a particular corner of the earth, our education, and religious-cultural beliefs are purely circumstantial. We are the product and sometimes the victim of our environments.

Losing direction

Many have in later life chosen to alter the course of their lives by changing their earlier affiliations...some may do so out of expedience in order to gain from a particular stand. Some may do that out of fear and many others are prepared to die for their beliefs, one presumes after a long struggle with the self. These are probably the lucky few who have come to terms with the world and managed to restore the alignment with the self that events in the modern world quite often destroy. History is full of men and women who have died for their beliefs, whether Scientists, Humanists, Men of Religion, or Social Reformers. It was not that long ago when people were burnt at the Stake and denounced as Heretics simply because of their scientific statement that the world is round. With the present technology of nuclear bombs and nuclear medicine, we have gone far from that dark era! Or was it so dark after all? One begins to wonder at certain times. The Scientists who discovered Uranium could very well be turning in their graves.

Max Born, wrote in 1957, in "The Bulletin of Atomic Science: The human race has today the means for annihilating itself...either in a fit of complete lunacy, i.e. in a big war, by a brief fit of destruction or by careless handling of atomic technology, through a slow process of poisoning and of deterioration in its genetic structure".

Omar Bradley, delivering a speech on Armistice Day in 1948, had stated: "The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom; power without conscience...ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. Rebellion to Tyrants, he continues, is obedience to God".

Life reduced to neat compartments

We have come to live in a world of extreme specialization thus leading to the compartmentalization of life which has resulted in turn in the "One dimensional Man" that Herbert Marcus spoke of in his writings. Our educational systems oscillate towards leveling out all forms of uniqueness, penalizing critical thinking and overwhelming children with facts to learn without any lessons to learn from facts. Universities also put adolescents through the conveyor belt like raw material in factories and the result is mass produced certificates that stand in a queue at jobless corners.

Within this backdrop education has suffered a serious dichotomy between facts/technical expertise and the inculcation of human values and ethics...which is an important aspect of education and which distinguishes it from mere training and the acquisition of specialized skills.

Education and democracy

The rounded education of the Classicists has become a thing of the past. The corollary to this at the social macro level is the tendency for those who question the Establishment to be dubbed as "Miscreants" gradually becoming social misfits. Mediocrity by its very nature tends to breed mediocrity and becomes a self propagating mechanism for leveling out all members of society who attempt to rise above it, thus negatively inducting them into the establishment. Democracy becomes a dubious term under such circumstances, going very far from the original connotation of "The Rule of the People, By the People for the People".

Religion versus secularism

With the emergence of secular states, religion has become something that the individual must keep between themselves and the God of their choices, thus isolating religion from its outward manifestation in society as a mechanism for regulating human behavior in order to create a better world. The kind of individualistic values that we hold today of the single-minded pursuit of economic interests "par excellence", is a kind of fundamentalism much worse than that of religious fundamentalism. Man since creation has always had a need for filling the spirit and thus the spiritual void that ensues from this separation between the material and the spiritual has led to different reactions like religious extremisms because people feel threatened at every level, or in the search and eventual adoption of strange and false Idols on the other side of the fence. Just as the middle class is slowly disappearing from impoverished countries due to the widening gap between the very rich and the very poor, the middle course of the spirit is also slowly been threatened by the same unjust world that we live in today.

Might is right

With the political ethos of Might is Right, giving way to the successive exploitation of weaker nations by the stronger ones, the creation of so-called cross cultural understanding does not go beyond the arm chair philosophy that goes on in intellectual discussions and workshops, with human rights becoming solely the property of the dominant cultures. These become merely a conscience salving gesture to justify the kind of subtle racism that underlies culture bound slogans and political euphemisms uttered by culturally blind militants. Those fighting for their usurped lands indiscriminately become labeled as terrorists and those who terrorize others are often hailed as heroes, and recourse to international law becomes selective according to the predilections of the dominant forces. We have recently been celebrating the death of the United Nations as this body

has been reduced to the role of a helpless bystander albeit the fact that it will be burdened with the task of distributing the coffins in the aftermath. The United Nations was formed to bring back sanity to a world gone mad after two major world wars.....will it stand the test of time and avert a possible third one? In other words, our generation has set the stage for never ending conflict and the potential of self-annihilation as mankind now stands poised at the edge of a dangerous precipice in the 21st Century!

Casualties of the 21st century

Going back to my opening about the fact that children do not choose their parentage or their nationalism, I feel extremely sad whenever I watch young men and women from different camps who in the end are helpless victims of their different establishments having gone through a process of indoctrination. Being a parent myself I can only see these people as somebody's children whose loss of lives will cause pain to their parents whatever their beliefs may be.

The World has seen far too many wars already, which have created nothing but destruction, deep cracks in human relations, depletion of the world's resources and the loss of innocent lives which get caught in the cross-fire. It makes me sad to hear military men announce proudly the capability of their weapons of destruction which to me is an insult to human ingenuity.....the hallmark of the well trained individual, professional in all but the basics of humanity.

In the Holy Koran, it is stated that when the Almighty had said to the angels that He will place mankind on earth, they had protested and said "You are creating those who will be engaged in bloodshed, while we bow to you in obedience and celebrate your bounty". God's answer to the angels was "I know what you know not"

As I said before I am simply writing this as a human being like so many others on this earth who are alarmed to see what is happening in our world today. Yes perhaps I take comfort in the fact that God in creating Man knew what we know not....only God knows where all this will lead to and end.

Universal democracy versus the New World Disorder

I also take comfort in the fact that for the first time in this Era, the common man in the street whatever camp they belong to have expressed their discontent with the way our world is heading. Green and Peace movements have been questioning this one sided philosophy of Globalization and senseless wars that threaten to erupt into God knows what like hot soup escaping from a neglected saucepan when no one is looking. That is the only hope we cling to, in order to ensure a better world for the future generations...that we come together as human beings with the common purpose of peace in rejecting the "New World Disorder". Perhaps then we can begin to see Universal Democracy of the first order, and to borrow terms from the French revolution, a world of global "Equity, Equality and Fraternity".



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Who said that it is over and done with?

Thank you very much Mr. Bush for all the malady and demise you have unleashed in the Fertile Crescent! Thank you for killing 1,500 innocent civilians, wounding another 10,000 or so of them – not to mention the tens of thousands of poor soldiers, many of whom would be the last to be interested in defending Saddam Hussein. Just look at the beautiful mess you have created in Iraq. Your father has already done enough with the help of the entire world, and now you come in and show us how to really eliminate a regime – a people. That is the way to freedom and liberty.

The Right to Know vs. the Right to Kill!

Much can be and will be written about the great American liberation of Iraq. Thus, there is no sense in trying to defend one's position to all the naive emails that have been obtained with the "We told you so, attitude" that reeks with suspicion and covert foundations. What a joke? The killing goes on, the Iraqi people lack even the water to drink and the food to nourish them, and we are supposed to believe that Mr. Bush has done a great deed. Yes, indeed he has. He has unleashed all the criminal elements, looters, and vandals to complete the job that his Tomahawks, Bunker Bombs Abrams tanks and Bradley killing machines could not finish. The Iraqi people are still crying and moaning in pain. Yet the White House and 10 Downing Street carry on their humiliation with their soothing words to a people without electricity to even hear those kind words. One is reminded of the butcher who slays his calf, while uttering soothing words to show his faith in God. Let us not be fooled by illusions. Just because a few looters were happy for the vacuum left now that everything that used to function in Iraq was brought to a dead standstill, thanks to the war of liberation, unilaterally unleashed by the world's deadliest power (Notwithstanding the tyranny and oppression of Saddam Hussein, there were very important functioning institutions and services that let people go by – albeit in a totally oppressive environment!). But now, what do we have? We have US and British Marines parading little girls of four and five years old with their hands up in the air and the M1 rifle pointed at their heads! They call that liberation!

Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair are only adding humiliation to their death and destruction of the Iraqi people by announcing to their victims that they have come to liberate them and that they are ready to distribute their humanitarian assistance to underline their humane intentions. This observer however, could not fail to see that their humane intentions were manifest the night before the entry into Baghdad, as the newscast was reading off the oil company concessions that were already being divided up by the sponsors of the next Presidential Elections and that the Israelis were assured that the Iraqi oil would flow to Haifa. Give us a break!

One should not fail to point out the truly ugly nature of this latest adventure of George W. Bush, as if to underscore the association of this right-wing madness being unleashed in the Fertile Crescent with freedom and liberation. The military might of the liberators was directed against the international press with a clear obvious message, that "this is not your ball field, so pack up your gear and get out of the way of our liberation armies. Three journalists lost their lives as the mighty liberators aimed their killing tools at the press without feeling any shame or sense of hypocrisy. Three unarmed civilian members of the press, in locations that are clearly well-known as teaming with members of the press, were deliberately and brutally murdered by Bush and Rumsfeld, just so the only things that should ever be aired are those portrayed by the "embedded" correspondents, who are spoon-fed the news that should go to the public. Since the war began, Mr. Bush and Rumsfeld never liked Al-Jazeera and Abu-Dhabi and the other unembedded members of the press (even the BCC is off-limits to British troops!), which ironically, but not coincidentally, are the same two stations that Israel has never hidden its dislike for. This is how liberation is portrayed. One never thought that the American press would keep its mouth muffled over such a serious human rights breach. But, it was. In fact the American press during the past three weeks operated like a powerful propaganda machine, with forty eight hour coverage of the "liberation of a woman soldier", whose company took the wrong turn and fell victim to an ambush, while hundreds of Iraqis are dying by the scores, as all the destructive tools (one suspicious email tried painstakingly to convince this observer that only conventional tools were used by the US in obliterating the Iraqis. How kind and merciful can you get?), at the invaders' disposal were unleashed, for no reason at all. Yet, those press organs that tried to portray a real "balanced approach" to the news were accorded the right dosage of "liberation" medicine with, not one but two missiles against the Al-Jazeera Office and tank shells lobbed against the "unembedded" press that was staying at the Palestine Hotel. Our sympathies go to press freedom and the relatives of the deceased newsmen, who died because they wanted to emphasize the right of the public to know that no men should ever be given the right to kill under any pretext.

Israel...

An ideal and role model for America

By ABDUL-BARI TAHIR

The link between the Palestinian issue and the War against Iraq are very obvious to be hidden. While it is true that Iraq assaulted his neighbors and went through an ugly war with Iran, and occupied Kuwait in a cruel and unjust way, and used Mustard Gas against the Kurdish minority in his own country, as well as reduced his people to refugees throughout the world. And it is also true that Saddam's a real dictator and autocrat of the first class, besides all the facts cited above. However, these are not the actual reason America and Britain enforced the siege on Iraq for around 12 years, or the reason they are not using their high-tech arms and weapons to eliminate the Iraqi ruler and occupy its land. This is not the reason, because Iraq, with all its outrageous faults cited above was an ally to the USA until recently and in fact committed his tremendous wars in their interest and their allies' favor.

Therefore, one can not search for the causes of the present war in Iraq in Saddam's dictatorship, because everyone

knows that the United States of America had close times ties with the worst regimes such as that of Soharro, Pinochet, Duvalier, Salilzar, Franco, Somoza, Sadat, Numeiri, Began, and Ariel Sharon. So getting rid of the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein is a lame excuse for igniting this war, even though all the reasons the USA and Britain had produced forward are true. Undoubtedly, it is clear that the Eleventh of September event had instilled a war fever in American strategic thinking, yet all evidence indicate that the Iraqi regime did not have anything to do with that. The American Administration is using terrorism as an excuse to invade Iraq, and convince the American people that war against terrorism is a synonym to war against Iraq, a misleading and fake political coverage for the actual reasons, which can be deciphered by reading between the lines.

The current war has only one purpose and that is to occupy Iraq. That is because the US Government views Israel as an ideal and role model and it should adopt the strategies and perceptions followed by the Zionist Stat. Israel is the best ally of the USA and is occupying

Palestine cruelly and systematically expelling most of the original natives of the land for more than half a century now. A sad situation indeed right under the eyes of more than 22 Arab countries with a total of more than 300 million citizens, who are standing motionless and handicapped. And in the end, the Arab governments, with their Arab League, will accept the occupation of and extends their hands to Israel, as well as impose on the Palestinians to accept what is even less than the self-determination, which was approved by the United Nation's General Assembly unanimously, in the International Convention On Civil Rights For All Nations in 1966, as well as th Camp David Agreement in 1977 and the subsequent agreements which emerged from it: Madrid, Oslo, etc. Agreements, which have imposed an attitude of sublimation on the Palestinians and made Palestine an easy target for Israel.

This has led to the frustration of the Frist Intifada Revolt of 1987, and is now clamping down on the present Intifada, imposes a siege on it. The Arab rulers have put all its papers in the hands of Uncle Sam.

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Eyes of the beholder

Lessons to be concluded from Iraq events



BY MOHAMMED KHIDIR
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The invasion of Iraq by America and Britain has constituted a serious precedence, especially in respect of launching a pre-emptive war on a sovereign country under pretext of dismantling its weapons of mass destruction the two administrations have always insisted that the regime in Iraq was in possession of weapons of mass destruction. Before going in details on causes of these consequences there must be a brief introduction on results of the military campaign the American and British administrations have embarked on and having aims and strategies quite contrary to what is publicly declared. The war against Iraq is almost finished or it is at its final stages, in dependence on the development of the course of events in that Arab Islamic country.

At the beginning it is important to draw a picture on the current situation in Iraq, mainly the capital Baghdad in the fourth week since the start of the American-British military campaign on 20 March. Militarily the Anglo-American forces managed to control the majority area of the country from the very south to the north following the fiercest and ruthless bombardment with all weapons from air, sea and on the ground. The remainder seems to be intermittent acts of resistance here and there which could not form decisive factors able to change what has been so far realized on the military side. The Anglo-American brutal bombardment with the most sophisticated weapons used by the invading armies struck Iraqi military concentrations all over Iraq, inside and around the cities to neutralize their power, the presidential palaces, civilian government institutions and civilian residential areas. They targeted and destroyed hospitals, economic and public services infrastructure such as communications and electric power networks and the radio and television stations. Destruction extended to everything in Iraq by the military campaign which was code-named "freedom for Iraq". Civilian victims exceeded tens of thousands Iraqi civilians killed or wounded, mostly children, women and elderly people. Huge and comprehensive destruction and human massacres seen everywhere in Iraq in the process of "liberating" the Iraqi people. The allied forces spared only oil fields and oil installations and institutions, a clear-cut indication of one of the major aims of the Anglo-American military campaign against Iraq.

On the twenty-first day of the military occupation campaign the Baghdad regime led by President Saddam Hussein collapsed all of a sudden in a very mysterious manner and there is still a wide-scale controversy on the causes and circumstances of the regime's government dramatic fall. American and British occupation military forces were deployed in many parts of Baghdad in a show of power amidst apparent atmospheres of joy by residents of Baghdad who in fact were celebrating the end of dictatorship in their country but not necessarily welcoming the Anglo-American occupation. The invading forces' main concern at the present time is securing their own safety, heedless of whatever violations of the security situation inside the Iraqi cities and towns, particularly the capital Baghdad, occupied by their military forces. Acts of looting and pillage, carried out by some Iraqis exploiting absence of government security bodies, included all government institutions, officials' residences, some hospitals and even buildings of some foreign embassies, all this is car-



Demonstrators burn effigies of U.S. President George W. Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, outside McDonalds in Manama, Bahrain, during a protest against the U.S.-led war in Iraq, April 11. REUTERS

ried out under the very nose of the American and British military forces without interference to keep security. This can be interpreted that the allied forces encourage such mobbish acts to give a deformed image on the people of Iraq, although those were only few unorganized and undisciplined groups. Although all international conventions stipulate that keeping security and protecting life of the people under occupation is the responsibility of the occupying forces, especially in the absence of any government. Anglo-American forces did nothing to prevent the chaotic phenomena now prevalent in Iraq, offering various unacceptable justifications, such as they are not a police force.

Whatever descriptions applied to Iraq ruling regime is applicable to almost many other regimes in the region, with some slight differences and exceptions in forms and ways of implementation of the regimes' policies.

For more than three decades Iraq has been ruled by a one-party totalitarian regime depending on police methods. A regime the people have not played any role in bringing it to power but it has imposed itself on the country by the force, an example that can be seen in many countries in the region. There has been a yawning gap between the people and the government. The people have no say in drawing up neither the internal nor the foreign policy of the country. Everything set up, planned, decided and implemented by the ruling elite. There have been no individual freedoms, no political pluralism, no civil society organisations, no freedom of press and expression, except for a nominal parliament deprived of any legislative power. All information media are state-owned and state-run whose role is praising the authority and publishing propaganda in favour of the regime policies. And of course there was not any kind of political opposition but rather being oppressed all the time. All legislative and executive powers were laid in the hands of the head of the state; the president of the republic. His entourage is merely a group of opportunist yes-men benefiting greatly from this state of affairs. Under such circumstances represented by complete absence of any role by the people the country has been led from one disaster to another and the only victims have always been the people.

As this is the common situation in the Arab world for more than half a century, colonialists and imperialists have been setting up plans for many years on how to control this area, rich with all sorts of natural wealth, especially oil, and entertains a vitally strategic situation on the globe, in order to serve their own interests. Western and American imperialist powers exerted all possible efforts to fabricate reasons and justifications to

implement their strategic schemes against the region as a whole and worked hard to install and protect some puppet regimes in it to facilitate implementation of their plans there. The American and British administrations wanted by invading Iraq and changing its regime, even without having any international legitimacy, to set an example for other regimes in the area, sending them a message that the same destiny awaits them if they dared to oppose or not support their policy

designed for the region. They claim to have prepared all this military campaign and spent billions of dollars on it just for the sake "of ridding the Iraqi people" of their dictatorial regime and bring them "democracy and freedom". All of a sudden the American administration has become the saviour of humanity from injustice and messengers of peace on the earth.

The essential lesson to be concluded from what has happened in Iraq, which is a prelude to the full American hegemony and neo-colonialism on the entire region, is that absence of unity between the regimes and their peoples is the essence of all calamities befalling the peoples of the region. Ruling regimes suppressing freedoms of their peoples, oppressing them and depriving them of any role in deciding their own destinies, should not expect to be supported or protected in hard times when those regimes are exposed to attacks threatening their existence. When these people resist a foreign invasion and fight back, they actually act out of their love for their homeland and independence but not in defence of their regimes. Oppressed and tyrannized peoples would usually adopt negative stands towards such regimes and their main concern would be the protection of themselves only. Even when an external power helps them get rid of their oppressive regime that does not mean that they accept to be occupied and their freedom be confiscated.

What is now happening in Iraq, despite the tragedies the people of Iraq are suffering from and the heartrending casualties they sustain at the hands of the Anglo-American occupiers, could be repeated in other countries in the region if the situations in those countries remain as they are. America acts out of its own narrow interests and ambitions in the area by exploiting the nature of the abnormal and backward relationship between the regimes and their peoples and comes to the area under many disguised faces and intentions as "liberation and freedom." America gives priority to its own interests in the region in the first place. The whole region is heading for many dramatic changes and the neo-imperialism powers are determined to re-shape the geopolitical map of the region and all its other aspects of life.

The big and urgent question is would the regimes in the region learn the lesson? Would they reconsider their relationship with their peoples and rectify their policy to win their support and achieve a real cohesion and integration with their peoples to fortify their countries against the imminent dangers awaiting the region? Would they unchain their people from shackles of suppression and oppression and set free their creative energies to build their own future and protect their independence and sovereignty under democratic atmospheres and dignified life before it is too late?



America and world opinion

Political animals

Revised by Tawfik A. Ali Mahdi
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Anti-war Protester: What did you say, why are we invading Iraq?
White House: We are invading Iraq because it is in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution S/1441.

AWP: But, I thought Israel has violated and remains in violation of 62 UN Security Council resolutions for the last 35 years.

WH: It's not just about UN resolutions. The main problem is that Iraq might have nuclear weapons.

AWP: But I thought the UN weapons inspectors said Iraq did not have any nuclear weapons.

WH: Yes, but biological and chemical weapons are the issue.

AWP: But I thought Iraq did not have any long-range missiles for attacking us.

WH: The risk is not just Iraq directly attacking us, but rather that terrorist networks could get these weapons from Iraq and these terrorists might attack us.

AWP: But we sold quite a bit of such arms to Iraq in the 80's ourselves, Didn't we?

WH: That's ancient history. Power-hungry murderer!

AWP: We sold chemical and biological weapons to a power-hungry, murderer?

WH: The issue is not what we sold, but rather what Saddam did. Powell already presented a strong case against Iraq.

AWP: He did?

WH: Yes, he showed satellite pictures of an Al-Quaked poison factory and nuclear facilities in Iraq.

AWP: But there are also hundreds of pictures like that in Israel!

WH: Then there is also a British intelligence report...

AWP: Wasn't that evidence contradicted by the Chief of the Weapons Inspectors who worked in Iraq, Hans Blip?

WH: Yes, but there is plenty of other hard evidence that cannot be revealed.

AWP: So, there is no real evidence available to the public of Iraq possessing any weapons of mass destruction?

WH: The inspectors are not detectives, it's not their JOB to find Evidence. You're missing the point.

AWP: So what is the point?

WH: The main point is that we are invading Iraq because resolution 1441 warned of "severe consequences." If we do not act, the Security Council will become an irrelevant debating organ.

AWP: So, the main point is the compliance with the rulings of the Security Council?

WH: Absolutely ...unless the SC rules

against us.

AWP: We are not above the law then, right? Therefore, what if the Council rules against us?

WH: In that case, we must lead a coalition of the willing to invade Iraq.

AWP: The Coalition of the Willing? Who's that?

WH: Britain, Turkey, Bulgaria, Spain, and Italy, for starters.

AWP: I thought Turkey refused to help us unless we gave them billions of dollars.

WH: Nevertheless, they may now be willing to join.

AWP: However, I thought that public opinion in all those countries was against war.

WH: Current public opinion is irrelevant. The majority expresses it's will by electing leaders to make decisions.

AWP: Now, it's the decisions of leaders elected by the majority that are really important?

WH: Yes.

AWP: But the majority of the voters didn't elect George Bush to the Presidency of the United States. He was put there by the U.S. Supreme Court.

WH: I mean, we must support the decisions of our leaders, however they were elected, because they are acting in our best interest.

AWP: What are you saying? This war is against the public's interest. Therefore, why are we invading Iraq?

WH: As I said, because there is a chance that they have weapons of mass destruction that threaten our allies and us.

AWP: But the inspectors have not been able to find any such weapons.

WH: Iraq is obviously hiding them.

AWP: You know this for sure? How?

WH: Because we know they had the weapons ten years ago.

AWP: The weapons we sold them, you mean?

WH: Precisely.

AWP: But I thought those biological and chemical weapons would degrade to an unusable state over ten years.

WH: But there is a chance that some have not degraded.

AWP: So as long as there is even a small chance that such weapons exist, We must invade Iraq?

WH: Exactly.

AWP: But North Korea actually has large amounts of usable chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, and long range missiles that can reach the West Coast of the United States and it has expelled nuclear weapons inspectors, and threatened to turn America into a sea of fire and

WH: That's a diplomatic issue.

AWP: So why are we invading Iraq

instead of using diplomacy?

WH: Aren't you listening? We are invading Iraq because we cannot allow the inspection to continue any longer. Inspections cost us tens of millions of US Dollars.

AWP: But war would cost us tens of billions of US Dollars.

WH: Yes, but this is not about money. This is about security.

AWP: But wouldn't a war against Iraq ignite radical Muslims against us, and decrease our security?

WH: Possibly, but we must not allow the terrorists to change the way we live.

AWP: What, then, is the purpose of the Department of Homeland Security, Color-coded "terror" alerts, and the Patriot Act? Aren't these already changing the way we live?

WH: I thought you had questions about Iraq.

AWP: I do. Why are we invading Iraq? Why?

WH: For the last time, we are invading Iraq because the world has called on Saddam Hussein to disarm, and he failed to do so.

AWP: So, likewise, if the world called on us to do something, such as to find a peaceful solution, we would not have an obligation to listen?

WH: By "world", I meant the United Nations.

AWP: Okay then, we have an obligation to listen to the United Nations!

WH: By "United Nations" I meant the Security Council.

AWP: So, we have an obligation to listen to the Security Council!

WH: Oh. I meant the majority of the Security Council.

AWP: In that case, we have an obligation to listen to the majority of the Security Council!

WH: Well... but...there could be an unreasonable veto.....

AWP: but there was not even a majority vote in the Security Council, and no need to use the right of veto...

WH: Look But...right is what we believe to be only what is in our interest ...

AWP: In which case?

WH: In which case... we have an obligation to ignore the veto

AWP: What if the majority of the Security Council does not support us at all?

WH: Then we have an obligation to ignore the Security Council.

AWP: That makes no sense.

WH: If you love Iraq so much, you should move there. Or maybe to France, along with all the other cheese-eating surrender monkeys. It's time to boycott their wine and cheese; there is no doubt about that.

AWP: I give up!

Ayoob Tarish Absi:

Legacy of a traditional Yemeni singer

IMAD AL-SAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES TAIZ BUREAU

Coming from the country side of Al-Aboos in the governorate of Taiz, he brought to the world a spectacularly wonderful and colorful portrait of traditional Yemeni songs and music.

Nicknamed "Yemen's Bulbul", Ayoob Tarish Al-Absi is the voice that accompanied us throughout the last three decades. His songs accompanied us during happy and sad days. His patriotism was clearly resembled in the national anthem and other national works he contributed to the country.

Even now as the Arab world is going through critical times, we find the best elements that comfort us and encourage us to go on in Ayoob's national songs. Just like his song "Come back to your land, it's crying for you" was effective in encouraging a lot of Yemenis to decide not to be part of the massive immi-

gration move that took place in the 1990s to Gulf countries, it also reflects the true love to Yemen this singer has.

He is an artist of all types and for all occasions. He was closely linked to the religious sentiments especially that of Shiekh Ahmad Bin Alwan and Sheikh Mohammed Al-Junaid. For example, the song "Jala' Al-Qalb" (Purity of Heart), which he termed as the closest to his heart was derived from his relations to those religious personalities.

Ayoob's performance reached its peak when he joined late poet Mr. Abdulla Abdulwahhab Noman. As a poet and singer, those two created a spectacular team that excelled in producing many beautiful songs that would remain in the Yemeni as well as Arab memory forever.

However this great artist did not receive the recognition or appreciation he deserved. In his humble home, which also belongs to Sheikh Mohammed Al-Junaid, he is left alone with little care or attention by the authorities.

Q: How did it all start for you? And who supported you throughout your career?

A: I was a fan of the late musician Mohammed Abdulwahhab, and used to imitate his actions and by-heart his songs. In school I used to recite Quran in the school broadcast and school events and I used to sing for my friends during my school time and honestly speaking, they used to love it and they all encouraged me to sing even more.

When I finished studying I started working and gradually saved money from my salary and then bought my first traditional Arabic guitar "Ud".

I started discovering the strings and the tunes then I came to know a few musicians who helped me explore and learn the basics of playing and singing. I used to stay late at night in the house roof practicing while my flat mates slept. When I went home with my musical instrument, my father was furious because he thought it would be a cause for me to stray and mix with bad guys, because during those times musicians were not appreciated much by the community, and if it wasn't for advice from my father's friends he would not let me stay home with my Ud.

I really didn't face any difficulties in my career as such, perhaps it was because I didn't want fame and did not play music to be known. In fact when there is audience I become nervous even today!

Q: How can you describe the influence of your village and the Yemeni environment on your songs?

A: In my village I used to hear the chants of the farmers in their farms and the villagers when they sang on occasions. All those songs reflected in my conscious and through them I understood the passions of my people and how they felt when they were sad or happy, I felt their deepest desires and despairs. It all remained in my memory as I composed my songs and re-voiced their emotions throughout my career. Moreover, since I used to recite Quran



Sheikh Mohammed Al-Junaid



Mr. Abdulla Abdulwahhab Noman

in my early life I got the hang of the linguistics of Arabic and it also helped soften my sentiments because of the beautiful effect of Quran on the souls.

Q: Who are the people who left their mark on your art?

A: There are many people I came in acquaintance with and who helped me with music. Some of them are not known at all to the public. Among the people at the beginning of my career were my brother Mohammed, poet Abdu Ali Dhubhani, poet Abdulkareem Fareed, poet Abu Jalal Abdulrahman Subhi, poet Ali saif Ahmd Al-Jaradi and poet Abdulla Abdulwahhab.

I was supported by many others as well. But I must say that my best songs were those produced when I worked with Al-Fadool whose poems I sang even before meeting him. And then it seemed as a twist of fate and as if we were destined to work together. He used to say: where were you all this time? And I used to say to him that he was the poet I was looking for. I remember him all the time and I pray for his soul to rest in peace in heaven.

Q: What about your shift to religious songs and melodies?

A: The two songs "Juriht Walakin" (I was wounded but...) and "Jala' Al-Qalb" (Clarity of the Heart) came as a

balsam for my wound. I feel that religious songs give me peace of heart and mind. My song was in praise for Prophet Mohammed (mpbh) and as I was convinced to publish my other songs in the beginning, now I am more convinced on the types of songs I will publish now, for no matter how mature I become, I will never be able to exceed the prophet's guidance. Yet I also sang for the people songs like "come back to your land", "You who went far away", "Even time sang for Sana'a" and others. I admire these songs even more nowadays because I have gone deeper in their meanings and found the true essence of their words. I found solace in poetry of Shiek Ahmed Bin Alwan -mercy be upon his soul- and I am trying to compose my own pieces, although I would consider them modest attempts to create something that would bring me closer to God and his prophet and bring good to the people.

Q: Why have you chosen Al-Junaid as a refuge for your soul and which you visit every Thursday?

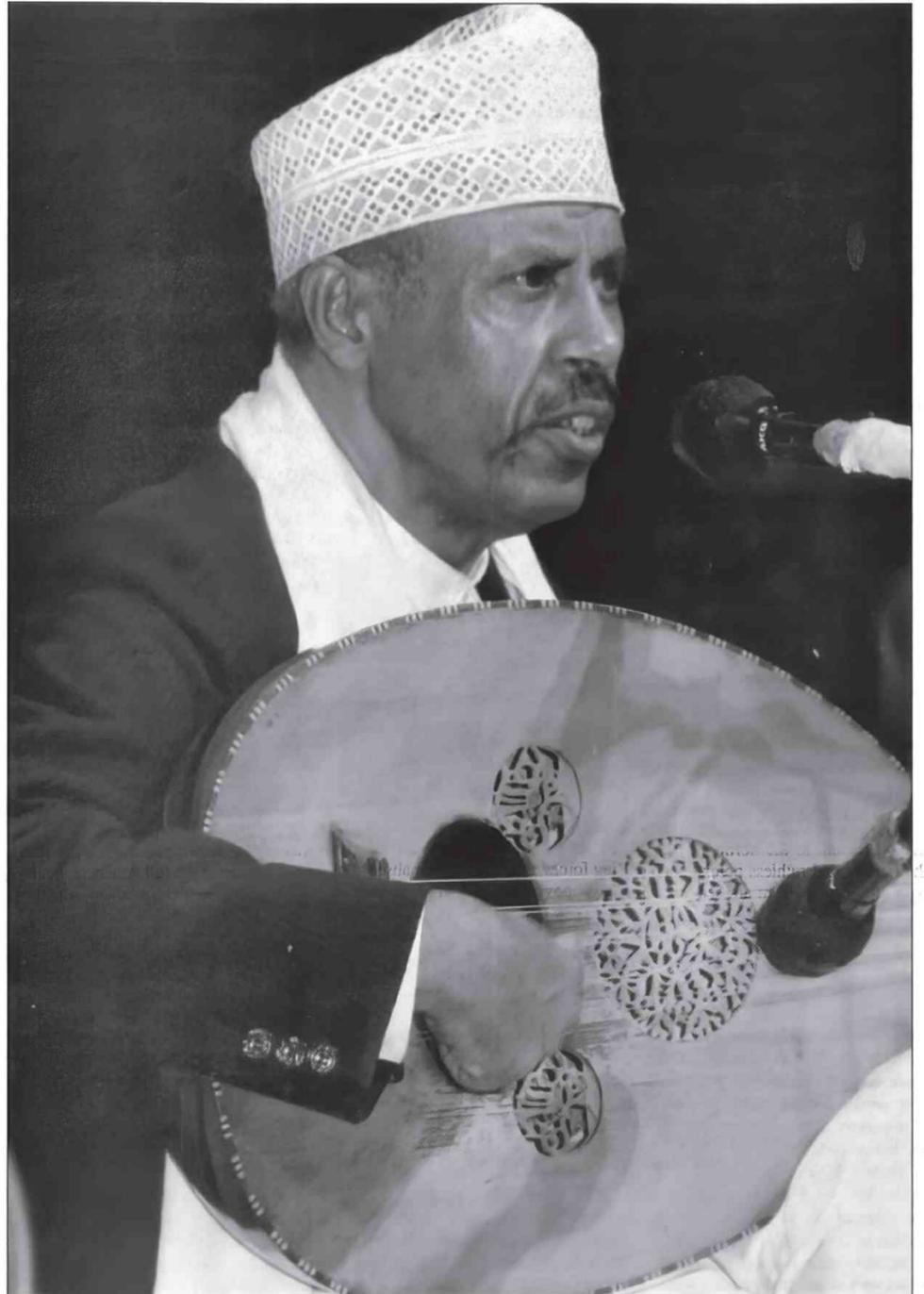
A: One is gathered on the day of resurrection with whom he loves, and I wish to be gathered with him. In his home there is a spiritual sense that is not found elsewhere and remembrance of God, which is good especially on Fridays which are said -as told by prophet (mpbh)- to be blessed day. Moreover, we discuss intellectual topics and spiritual issues and we come closer to our prophet whom I love dearly.

Q: So what do you think of the new Islamic trend of singing, namely "Anasheed" that is said to be permitted in Islamic Sharia "Halal" and substitutes for regular songs and music?

A: Our religion says that everything that adds beauty to voice and allows more enjoyment in listeners is good as long as it is decent and within respectable limits.

Q: What do you think about arts of songs and singing in the Arab world today?

A: Because of the increasing pressure of today's life, daily stress is reflected even on songs and perform-



Ayoob Tarish Absi

ance so you see songs with very fast beat and fast rhythm with no attention paid to lyrics and with no message to be conveyed. Every period has its characteristics and you can not say this singer or artist is a replacement of another or is a legacy carrier. But there are some artists who rise here and there and they still carry values and missions which they want to fulfill through their art. But on many occasions, we don't find such artists receive attention from authorities and concerned people. As an example, I find Abdulrahman Al-Amry a promising talent and one which if encouraged would bloom beautifully.

Q: After so much giving and a life full of dedication to music, what can you say now, and will you retire from singing?

A: Well, to start with, I can't say that all that I have given is enough because there is no limit to what a person could give. Yet, I feel that art with no mission is no art and an artist has to have a case to fight for and present decent ideas to the world through his art and music. Songs are part of any culture and will remain there as an inheritance from one generation to another.

As for retiring, actually I did not announce any of that, but I have reduced my work load and you can say that I am slowly moving towards retirement because I feel I won't be able to give music what it deserves in my age and conditions. I would rather not perform if I can not live up to my standards.

DFID Department for International Development

SMALL GRANT SCHEME

The DFID in the British Embassy Sana'a is inviting applicants for small grants.

The Department for International Development (DFID) in the British Embassy of Sana'a, Yemen, is announcing its Small Grant Scheme (SGS). Projects presented should be in line with DFID's strategic objectives. The SGS encourages policies and actions which promote sustainable livelihoods, better education, health and opportunities for poor people.

Who can apply?

All applications from local and international NGOs, government institutions and other partners are welcome. The SGS does not fund individuals applying for their behalf.

Applications:

Application forms and guidelines are available on www.britishembassy.yemen.com.ye website. Deadline for the applications is April 30, 2003. All applications and any relevant questions should be sent by fax or email addressed to the Development Officer. E-mail: britemb-sanaa@y.net.ye; Fax No: +967 (1) 263059.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is the UK government department responsible for promoting development and reduction of poverty



Ayoob Tarish with Imad Al-Saqqaf

SARS symptoms, countries affected, how to avoid it, treatment, and more

Written by BUPA's Health Information Team

What is SARS?
SARS stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome.

What are the symptoms of SARS?
The main symptoms of SARS are:
- a high fever (over 38°C) associated with one or more respiratory symptoms, including:
* cough
* shortness of breath
* difficulty breathing.

People who experience these symptoms and have been to an affected area are advised to see a doctor immediately.
The above is taken from the World Health Organisation (WHO) advice - 4 April:
http://www.who.int/csr/sars/2003_04_04a/en/

Which countries are classified as "affected"?

As of 2 April, the WHO currently classifies China (the Guangdong Province), Hong Kong, Singapore and Canada (Toronto) as the most affected countries.

For the latest updates on affected countries, the WHO publishes its daily reports at:
<http://www.who.int/csr/sarsareas/>

What is believed to cause SARS?

The cause of SARS has not yet been confirmed but is thought to be due to a virus. Viruses from two families coronavirus and paramyxovirus have been linked with the disease, but neither has yet been proved to be the causative agent. At the moment research by the World Health Organisation (WHO) is increasingly focusing on a coronavirus being the cause of the disease.

http://www.who.int/csr/sars/press2003_04_01/en/
http://www.who.int/csr/sars/2003_03_27/en/

How is the infection spread?

Initially the WHO reported that the disease seemed to spread by close person-to-person contact only. Close person-to-person contact means that the infection is spread by:

a person inhaling or swallowing droplets that contain the virus that have been released by an infected person sneezing or coughing

a person mean coming into direct contact with an infected person's secretions.

It was thought that person-to-person contact was the only route of transmission because most people who had been infected had been in direct contact with an infected person. In other words, healthcare workers who had been directly involved in caring for infected people, or family members who lived with an infected person.

However, a cluster of cases in central Hong Kong has caused concern that other routes of transmission may be at work. This is because the disease has spread beyond the initial focus in hospitals to a residential block of flats. Also the disease was spreading to people living vertically above each other in a tower block in Amoy Gardens. (Although transmission through the sewage, water or other transport con-

nections have been suggested as possible new routes these have not been confirmed).

http://www.who.int/csr/sars/press2003_04_01/en/

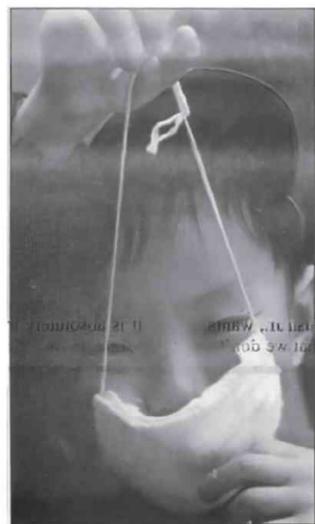
Why are people in the Far East and hospital workers wearing face-masks?

The disease is believed to be spread by inhaling the droplets released by an infected person coughing or sneezing. Facemasks help prevent these droplets from being breathed in.

What is the incubation period of the disease?

SARS is thought to have an incubation period (time between catching the infection and the symptoms showing) of 2-10 days. For this reason, people who have returned from SARS-affected areas (see FAQ "which countries are classified as 'affected'") or been in close contact with someone with SARS are advised to look out for the symptoms for approximately 10 days. If no symptoms have developed during this period of time, it is unlikely that a person has caught SARS.

http://www.who.int/csr/sars/2003_03_27/en/



A Chinese boy puts on a mask in Beijing, April 11. REUTERS

[3_27/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/sars/2003_03_27/en/)

Is there a test for the disease?

Testing for the disease involves a number of different techniques. Screening includes asking a number of questions, including whether or not a person has been to an affected country recently, and whether or not they have been in close proximity to someone who was showing symptoms of SARS. If the disease is suspected, a chest X-ray can help to confirm the diagnosis (however, in the early stages, a chest X-ray may not show any changes).

Work is underway to develop a blood test to detect the coronavirus, but until this virus is proved to be the cause of the disease, any such test cannot be seen as diagnostic confirmation of the disease.

How dangerous is the disease?

Despite the widespread coverage of the deaths that have resulted from the disease, most people have an excellent chance of making a full recovery, especially if the disease is caught early. In fact 90% of people make a full recovery.

ery. According to the WHO on 27 March: "About 90% [of people with SARS], who will have all the characteristic symptoms upon presentation, will progress to about day 6 or 7 and then will spontaneously start getting slowly better."

People who experience the greatest difficulty with this disease are those who already have another health problem (for example diabetes or a weakened immune system) or who were diagnosed with the disease at a late stage. According to the WHO on 27 March: "The other group, the remaining approximately 10%, has a more severe form of the disease and progress to acute respiratory distress syndrome, many of whom will require mechanical ventilatory support. The mortality among this second group is quite high and early indications from my clinical colleagues suggest that most of these who do succumb actually have significant other illnesses at the time of presentation."

At the moment approximately 3-4% of people who have contracted the disease have died as a result.

http://www.who.int/csr/sars/2003_03_27/en/

What measures are being taken to control the spread of the disease?

In countries most affected by the disease a number of different measures have been brought in:

a) Quarantine. In Hong Kong and Singapore, people who are believed to have been in contact with someone who has SARS are being put in quarantine so they cannot spread the disease to others.

b) Schools have been closed. To avoid children becoming infected by close contact at school, all schools in Hong Kong and Singapore have been closed.

c) Health screening at airports. To prevent the disease being carried to other countries by air travellers, people leaving affected countries such as Hong Kong and Singapore are now being asked a series of health questions before they can catch a flight. Any people who show signs of the disease are not allowed to fly.

What is the current travel advice?

To the Far East

The WHO has advised against non-essential travel to Hong Kong and the Guangdong Province of China. This is a temporary recommendation and will be reviewed daily by the WHO. For the latest information please check the WHO website <http://www.who.int/en>.

Taken from WHO advice - 4 April: "WHO recommends that persons travelling to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Guangdong Province, China consider postponing all but essential travel. This temporary recommendation is being reassessed daily as the outbreak evolves. The recommendation does not apply to passengers simply transiting through international airports in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or Guangdong Province, China."

http://www.who.int/csr/sars/2003_04_04a/en/

This advice has been echoed by the UK Department of Health (DoH).

Taken from the DoH website - 2 April: "Defer travel to areas where there is, or is thought to be, ongoing transmission of infection."

Based on information currently available from the World Health Organisation (WHO), areas in which local chains of transmission of SARS are or may be occurring are:

Country Area

China Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China Guangdong Province

The UK public is strongly advised not to travel to these areas. This advice is being reviewed daily and this travel warning may be extended to other countries later.

For the moment all travellers going to other areas where SARS has previously been reported (Hanoi in Vietnam, Singapore, Toronto in Canada, Beijing and Shanxi and Taiwan) should be aware of:

The current situation - cases of SARS are continuing to increase

The fact that they may be screened prior to air travel

The symptoms of SARS

They should take this into account in making their travel plans."

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice/emerg.htm>

The Singapore Department of Health echoes the WHO recommendations but in addition advises against travel to Taiwan, Shanxi, Hanoi (Vietnam) and Toronto (Canada) (7 April).

<http://app.moh.gov.sg/new/new02.asp?id=1&mid=5961>

From the Far East

People travelling back from affected countries such as Hong Kong and Singapore are being asked to fill in a screening questionnaire (at airports). People with signs or symptoms of SARS are not allowed to travel (see next point).

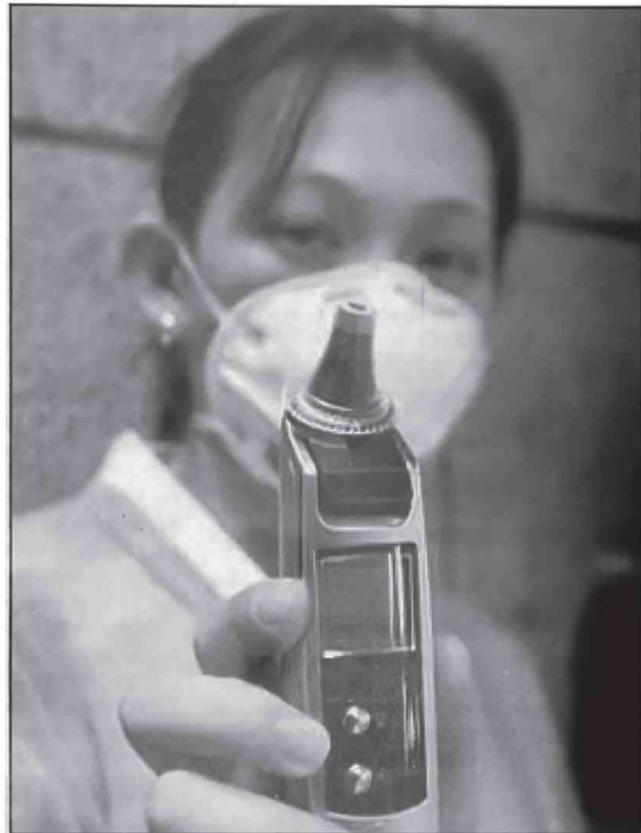
Taken from WHO advice - 4 April:

"International travellers departing from the places on the affected areas list (See archives of Affected Areas) should be screened for possible SARS at the point of departure. These affected areas have shown transmission of the SARS infectious agent from human to human. Such screening involves answering two or three questions. Travellers with one or more symptoms of SARS and who have a history of exposure or who appear acutely ill should be assessed by a clinician and may be advised to postpone their trip until they feel better."

http://www.who.int/csr/sars/2003_04_04a/en/

Travelling when ill

People with a confirmed diagnosis of SARS or under quarantine cannot travel



A Taiwanese nurse wields an electronic thermometer at the arrival hall at Taipei international airport, April 10. REUTERS

on commercial airlines (including air ambulance repatriation services). The health authority in the relevant country is making recommendations locally, and the current position seems to be that no country will accept anyone with SARS.

Further information:

BUPA website for background information on SARS

BUPA website news 27/03/02: www.bupa.co.uk/health_information/html/health_news/270303sars2.html

BUPA website news 20/03/02:

www.bupa.co.uk/health_information/html/health_news/200303sars.html

Websites and telephone hotlines for the latest information

The situation is constantly changing and further BUPA updates will follow. Please check the websites below for the latest WHO and country-specific information most relevant to you

Global:

The World Health Organisation (WHO): <http://www.who.int>
Daily SARS updates: <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/en>

Int'l day to combat tuberculosis marked

Fight continues



By ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The 24th of March of every year is marked worldwide as the international day for combating Tuberculosis. On this day, World Health

Organization (WHO) amid many other health organizations call upon developing countries that suffer from this disease to combat it and spread awareness regarding the social and health dimensions and consequences of the disease. WHO stressed in its call this year on the importance of governmental and nongovernmental organizations' cooperation in fighting this fatal disease.

International Statistics:

Tuberculosis is one of the main reasons behind early death worldwide. Around one quarter of the world's population is infected with the bacteria and as many as 8 million new cases are reported yearly out of which 2 million are fatal according to 1997 census.

Ninety five percent of the infections and 98% of death cases resulting from this disease are reported to be in developing countries only while in the developed world it is almost extinct. The disease in poor countries has taken the shape of epidemics where the immunity to the medication is strong and failure of combating programs is drastic in most of the developing countries.

In Yemen:

Forty five out of every 100,000 people



in Yemen were said to be infected with Tuberculosis in the 1990 census. However, recent statistics raised the figure to 100 cases in every 100,000. UNICEF explained that this increase is due to the deterioration of living conditions, malnutrition, early and repetitive pregnancies and population congestion.

During the mid-1990s the National Program for Eradication of Tuberculosis (NPES) started a strategy to provide short term chemical treatment under direct supervision by experts. Medically this was known as DOTS. This strategy was promoted by WHO due to its effectiveness in eradicating the disease as 85% of patients treated by this method are reported to heal completely.

Misconceptions:

A sum of common misconceptions regarding Tuberculosis in the Yemeni society plus the gap between the NPES and the society were factors that lead to the failure of various Tuberculosis combating programs. These were related to the disease itself, to the treatment and to the perception of the society's role in these matters.

Many Yemenis think that the disease is incurable, or could not be cured com-

pletely. Some people try to ignore or even hide the symptoms of the disease either out of shame or ignorance. Some of the patients stop taking the medications once they start feeling better and some are not regular or accurate in taking them. All these factors that originate from illiteracy and lack of awareness should be eliminated through education programs and consistent follow ups by medical teams. Governmental institutions and NGOs along side donors should join hands to help promote awareness and eliminate the disease throughout the country. The medical treatment should be made available and accessible by all Yemenis, especially the poor segments of the society, which is the segment that suffers from most of Tuberculosis infections.

Not only among patients, but awareness should be spread among those who work in the medical field as well, especially with regards to the DOTS method of treating that requires continuous monitoring of patients while they take the medications in the first two months of treatment.

In essence, for the ultimate success of this method, five factors should be achieved:

- Government commitment to combating Tuberculosis
- Diagnosis of the cases through microscopic testing
- Continuous and nonstop supply of medications to all patients
- A standard gauge for monitoring and supervision of the treated cases
- Finally, there should be a two month intensive medication program in medical centers where patients receive their medical doses.



A Taiwan immigration officer (R) directs passengers at the arrivals counter of the Taipei international airport on April 12. REUTERS

Letters to the Editor

Readers speak on the Iraqi War



USA's history in providing WMDs
Concerning the editorial of the editor published in issue 628, I've got some different questions and answers:

What if Americans' hard-earned tax dollars stopped flowing to poor countries for aid?

Actually, US-Aid is for 95% military-aid and most people would be happy about it.

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?

Actually, the US-Government supported Saddam Hussein by developing BC-weapons (for example: anthrax-cultures) in the 80s. Iraq has a lot of US-weapons, because Ronald Reagan supported both side in the Iran-Iraq war.

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

I don't believe that Iraq will be democratic.

A short look back in U.S. history (source: Bowling for Columbine, Michael Moore (2002)):

1953: U.S. overthrows Prime Minister Mossadeq of Iran.

U.S. installed Shah as dictator.

1954: U.S. overthrows democratically-elected President Arbenz of Guatemala.

200,000 civilians killed.

1963: U.S. backs assassination of South Vietnamese President Diem.

1963-75: American mili-

tary kills 4 million people in Southeast Asia.

September 11, 1973: U.S. stages coup in Chile.

Democratically-elected President Salvador Allende assassinated.

Dictator Augusto Pinochet installed.

5,000 Chileans murdered.

1977: U.S. backs military rulers of El Salvador.

70,000 Salvadorans and four American nuns killed.

1980's: U.S. trained Osama bin Laden and fellow terrorists to kill Soviets.

CIA gives them \$ 3 billion.

1981: Reagan administration trains and funds "Contras"

30,000 Nicaraguans die.

1982: U.S. provides billions in aid to Saddam Hussein for weapons to kill Iraqis.

1983: White House secretly gives Iran weapons to kill Iraqis.

1989: CIA agent Manuel Noriega (also serving as President of Panama) disobeys orders from Washington.

U.S. invades Panama and removes Noriega.

3,000 Panamanian civilian casualties

1990: Iraq invades Kuwait with weapons from U.S.

1991: U.S. enters Iraq Bush reinstates dictator of Kuwait.

1998: Clinton bombs "weapons factory" in Sudan.

Factory turns out to be making aspirin.

1991 to present (this means 2002): American planes bomb Iraq on a weekly basis.

U.N. estimates 500,000

Iraqi children die from bombing and sanctions.

2000-01: U.S. gives Taliban-ruled Afghanistan \$245 million in "aid"

Sept. 11, 2001: Osama bin Laden uses his expert CIA training to murder 3,000 people"

Hence, I really don't believe that Iraq will be a democratic state after the war.

On which side do you like to stand: On the side of Mass Destruction or on the side of Mass Destruction?

Rochus Hilber
St.Gallen, Switzerland
rhlber@gmx.ch

How could Arabs keep silent?

I am one of so many Muslims who are greatly sad because of the recent oppressive attack on Iraq.

How could Arabs keep silent while their brothers are massacred by those who claim to be "the guards of peace"?

I really don't know whether to cry or laugh when I see the aggressors very angry because of their POW's being paraded on TV.

The real paradox was that when they described this process as "violation of the Geneva Conventions", they themselves demonstrated that they are the biggest violators of all UN resolutions.

Nobody should ever doubt the sad truth that we are living the life of jungle where "right is might".

"We love American people and we are become really sad when seeing the dead bodies of the American soldiers who are forced to go to war." This is what an Iraqi man once said about

the deaths of American soldiers. This is a real representation of Islamic principles, because Islam is a religion of universal peace and love to one another. We are really helpless. The angry massive protests all around the world are a clear evidence of the deeply founded truth of the futility of this war and its evil purposes.

The least we can do for the time being is to pray for our brothers who have suffered and continue to suffer more than any other nation in recent history.

Osama alshargabi
tom1485@hotmail.com

Just a question

I have just one simple question. So where were all those anti-war protestors when Saddam was killing his own people? Why does Saddam have all these palaces being built all over Iraq while his people are starving to death? Saddam is using Islam to obtain sympathy from Muslims so as to have them fight along his side.

Garry Bidine
gabidine@saraleecoffee.com

Not all Americans support war

There are a lot of Americans who are mad and angry about this ongoing war. We think we do not have the right to wage war. But our government, like all governments, does what it wants. The ordinary Americans have no direct power.

Yemenis should realize that Americans citizens are not to blame. Killing missionaries serves no purpose as those missionaries are

just trying to help. We protest the war in all of our states. But that seems to do little good. I sometimes don't believe that other world citizens should agree on the US actions. It would be rather dangerous.

Bajoran A.
Bajoran0025@aol.com

Naïve US citizens

For some unknown reason the American public learn in early stages to be hypocrites. From one side they support the war now and from the other side, they choose to use no violent means next time around. (Fox-news, poll). Is it because they know better? Is it because they try to be politically correct? No one really knows...

The war on Iraq is only just an ambition and a reflection of the business "approach" of the US government. They will lie to their own people, just like they lie to you, every day, anyway. They call this, politics. Remember Reagan? He was selling weapons to his enemies so they can fight him back. "Iran-Contra" affair they called at the time. How about G. Bush and his little ring of oil exploration company, who stopped the war in the Gulf, because the idea of taking Saddam out at that time, was not profitable, since Saudi Arabia would not buy Patriot missiles anymore 'cause they wouldn't need them. In the mean time, he put the US in a depression for 4 years, although at the same time, Israel had its annual US tax payers check, for the amount of 20-30 billion dol-

lars....

It is a comic/tragic situation with this group of people (The elite, the powerful) that makes the world to look like a puppet show.

And we (the people) obey, pay, pray and like damn oxes, we follow his masters voice.

Some Americans are so dumb that they ask themselves: Why they hate us? Taking into account that the average American doesn't know where Iraq is, he has been patronized enough through media's propaganda, to support a war which is fought under the banner "liberation". Americans think that they are a "free" country. They (the government) told them so. It is so free, that if you are protesting in the side of the street, you will go to jail if you do not have...written, paid, permission! And that's ok!

They call that "law"! No one knows (common people), how and when a law is passed, or who wrote it and why!

You wake up one morning and you see it on TV or you read it in the newspaper.

I will not carry on with the "liberties" that we enjoy everyday in the US, but I feel sad when we are going to export these "liberties" to other nations with 4000 years of history!

George Bush Jr., wants to make sure that we don't run

out of oil for our 1 billion automobiles that we move everyday!

Saddam would be history if CIA wanted him so. But then, where is the excuse?

Did you notice how Powell replied to the request for letting the UN take care the business after the war is over? His answer was: "We didn't go through this trouble for UN to take over!" That says it all!

'Sorrays, regrets and apologies for the loss of Iraqi people are like "everyday donuts"...we make them, eat them and excrete them!

So, don't get confused about how's and why's.

One day, all common people, all over the world, they will understand why we are here, and forget who wants us to be here and who doesn't. Enough said.

Dimis A.
xasapomaxero@hotmail.com

Look at Iraqis after liberation

As an American, I would like to explain to the Arab world why it is that my country is fighting the war in Iraq.

It's because we have to. We didn't want to. We didn't even have to. The fact is, if the Arab world had taken care of its own problem, then our sons and daughters wouldn't be fighting in Iraq.

It is absolutely incomprehensible to me that Arabs

are now protesting this war. Your culture has already been made to appear weak because you let Saddam Hussein have his way. He killed hundreds of thousands of his own Muslim, Arab people and you stood by and did nothing. Shame on you! Instead of protesting, you should be taking up arms against Saddam and protecting Arab children.

Because Arabs have allowed terrorists and terrorist states to flourish, my country is now fighting a war on terrorism. I hope that our disarmament of Saddam Hussein's regime is getting our message across loud and clear.

After Sept. 11, 2001 we will no longer stand idly by and allow terrorists and those who support them to kill innocent men, women, and children. It doesn't matter what nationality the victims are, either. I am very proud that my country stands up for those who can't stand up for themselves. Terrorism will end. Period.

I urge the world to watch what happens in Iraq. How the people react when they realize their oppression has been ended. How their country will flourish with the renewed vigor of a long-suffering people. It will be a model for the Arab world.

Harry Knopp
West Virginia, USA
harryknopp@hotmail.com

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Readers speak on the Iraqi War (continued)

Why didn't

Arabs remove Saddam?

I cannot believe all of the criticism of the American soldiers and Bush. It's one thing after another. I didn't like what his father did in 1991 and didn't even know what happened back then until now. Maybe he's trying to right the wrongs of his father. A lot of innocent people have died but why does everyone say that the Americans did it? Saddam had his "gang" shoot people that didn't want to defend him or his regime. He sent his regime to cut out some guys tongue and let them bleed to death in the middle of the street. It is unbelievable what these people have done to the innocent people of Iraq. Why did the other Arab countries sit and watch and do nothing? Saddam and his "police" have used innocent people: men, women and children and put them in front of U.S. armed forces to protect his regime. They know that this bothers the average American person and soldier. What a coward. He's like a bully. Use the helpless, scared out of their wits, innocent people, to create a situation in which the soldier has to decide to either take a chance and fire hoping no one innocent in this mess is hurt or fire and kill the enemy. Why did the rest of the Arab world let Saddam get away with his brutality and sick torture methods of those poor innocent people? I hate politics and I always have. I do know how I feel and what I think and thank God I can express it here in the United States. I know that most of the soldiers want to help the Iraqi people and make their lives better, but you would think that we are there to get something else. We didn't take Kuwait's oil. Did we? Our soldiers don't put innocent people in front on the line to get what they want. Do they? Saddam is a sick individual and he thinks he is next to God or is one of his prophets? Please, I have heard from Iraqi people and war is better than the life they were living. Never knowing when, in the middle of the night Saddam's secret police was going to come and get a family member to take him away forever for some stupid reason and torture him to death or kill him and put him out of his misery for what? Because they're not stupid and they know he is a sick person and they love to torture people?

At least now they know that "God willing" they have a chance at another way of life. The one that these poor people had before was no life at all.

Pattie Peterson
PDunn4good2@aol.com

Dear Pattie,
We in turn would like to also ask why the United States supported Saddam for so many years and in fact encouraged him to do all that you say he did and discouraged anyone here from trying to "reform" Saddam.

Thank you for your interest in the YT.
—The Editors

To Hassan Al-Haifi:
Let's contribute positively I've been reading your editorials for some time and wish to say the following. That most of what you say about Mr. Bush is true, at least from where I sit. I would disagree with the tone, anger, angst that you exhibit, though, by using such words as criminal as well as some of the connections you make i.e. that because civilians were

harmful, therefore they were targeted.

There is no doubt that the reason for our nations attack on Iraq is dubious at best. That Mr. Hussein had chemicals and has used them is a historical fact. If you were as well connected with your Moslem brothers in Iran, you would not only know this - but have actually done something about it before. Since you haven't, I can only come to the conclusion that you are a hypocrite.

When Saddam gassed Iran, that was de facto proof that he had chemical weapons, wouldn't you agree?

Perhaps Iran's army consisted of Christians and that is why you, therefore, have no anger or opinion about when Iraq's forces used chemical warfare on those people, since it's apparent from your editorial that you only pledge consequences when Moslems are harmed. After all, as you say, "the affinity that Arabs and Moslems share towards each other. The first one being of blood kinship, while the second is a spiritual kinship..." and I assume from these words that there will be a price to pay for anyone who does harm to Moslems illegally. Since I haven't heard you say anything about those attacks, or Saddam's attacks of chemical agents against the Kurds, they must be Christians as well.

But I wonder, when Milosevic was mass murdering Moslems in Bosnia etc., where were you then? No where, sir. It's for these observations that I call you a hypocrite.

Truth is truth and when you set a standard to judge another by, first look in a mirror.

Now, that's not why I wrote. The message I wanted to write and say was - what good can we, all of us, make from what is there now? How can we, all of us, make a positive contribution?

I'd be interested to hear your words about that in your column, rather than words of death and hatred.

Charles Gaynor (Chuck)
chmg@warwick.net

Dear Charles and other YT readers disappointed in Al-Haifi's writing,

Thank you very much for your interest in the YT and your recent attraction to my articles.

I am sure that if you have been reading my articles for many years back you will find the following facts:

1) I was and continue to be a staunch opponent of the regime of Saddam Hussein (and of most of the oppressive regimes in the Middle East and rest of the world), while you and most Americans were even unaware of where Iraq was located.

2) I was a staunch opponent of Saddam's war against Iran, in which, by the way, the United States had a big hand in and may have even prodded Saddam to initiate the attack against Iran, not to mention the hardware, software and chemical ware, they supplied Saddam to used as he liked.

3) I applauded President Clinton, may God keep him, for his actions in both Bosnia and Kosovo (that was what I call a genuine US Presidency, if we ever saw one!) and praised the United States for such commendable initiative, which was solely done for humanitarian reasons, and not mesmerized in a lot of hogwash to disguise hidden suspicious motives, are already

beginning to surface in the case of the "liberation of Iraq".

4) I have never called for a holy war on Christians or any other ethnic group. In fact, you might be enlightened by previous articles I have on the need for peaceful coexistence between Moslems and Christians, some of which are as recent as last Christmas.

5) If the US was so interested in doing any positive actions, in the Middle East, the Palestinians are there waiting for years for the White House to just reenergize the well-intentioned efforts of President Bill Clinton again, where final settlement was underway just before his term of office was over. But instead, the White House turned its back, even when the Israeli Army literally crushed an American peace advocate by a Caterpillar Tractor. You might also look at the record of atrocities, which the Israelis have inflicted on the Lebanese, Egyptians, Syrians and of course the Palestinians. Some of those atrocities are of an equal, if not worse part than that of Saddam Hussein.

6) We must bear in mind that just because "victory" has been achieved, this war should not be seen as having become correct and called for, by any legal, moral or ethical standards.

7) I should not forget to mention that the undersigned also strongly condemned the tragic events of 9/11 (I was a New Yorker for a considerable part of my life), but you know and I know that such horrendous acts provide no basis for the unilateral action against Iraq, but rather represent an evil misuse of events to serve more narrow minded dubious intents.

8) I trust that I have clarified my character and attitude in a manner worthy of your continued trust in my intentions.

Hassan Al-Haifi

Al-Haifi's opinion: Disturbing

Hassan Al Haifi's comments regarding the new freedom the Iraqi people will have, is disturbing. What does Hassan suggest the world do to free the Iraqi people, or does he think the lies, the torturing, the raping of women, the slaughtering of children should continue, the U.S. is the friend of all peace loving nations. I know that bother's the hate mongering people. But too bad we will free the oppressed!

Matthew Goguen
chips@capul.net

Iraqi freedom is not under Saddam

I would like to respond to the editor's viewpoint published on April 7th entitled "True Freedom". In your editorial you say, "Only Iraqis can decide on what they want and need.

So, doesn't this assumed "freedom" contradict with true freedom?"

Well, I myself have a question to the editor, "are you serious when you're saying that Iraqis had freedom under Saddam?"

Richard Tessier
rtessier43@sympatico.ca

Stuck with absolute freedom

The editor seems stuck on absolute freedom, freedom without restriction. Does he mean the freedom to rape, murder steal? I think not.

All "free" societies are limited in some manner. Personal freedoms are limited sufficiently to allow civility. National freedoms are limited to allow mutual

existence. Freedom from an arms race allows resources to be used for services and infrastructure. Reasonably free elections may allow Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish Muslims to live together in peace and security.

David Lockhorn
Cincinnati, Ohio USA
nighthift@fuse.net

A dictatorship or a free colony?

First I would like to say that I have read your paper online now off and on for about three years and have appreciated your cause to report the news how it really is.

I found the article "True Freedom" to be well written and agree with it on almost all cases about what true freedom is. But in the quote: "Freedom means that you can stand up against any unjust power and say "no!" That is true freedom."... I am also asking the same question. Is it better to have the rights of a country where the citizens do not have the full freedom to stand up and say "no!" (as in the dictatorship seen), or is it better to have a colony (one who does not have the full rights to act as a free country) where the citizens will have a greater personal freedom to stand up and say "no!"?

I understand this article was written to prove a point, but I urge you to also report All the news and present the alternatives as well. Keep up the good work.

Charley A.

Defining freedom

Regarding your editorial published in issue 631 in which you use rhetorical questions about freedom to claim that Iraq has not been freed, I would like to say the following.

First, although I find serious flaws in the logic of your editorial, I am very excited about its general theme. Many of us here in the United States of America, me included, have serious doubts about whether the Arab world understands freedom, that it is as alien to them as Americans in Baghdad.

Your editorial confirmed to me that at least you personally do not yet comprehend it, however, I mean no disrespect, I don't expect you too to disrespect my opinion. What I find hopeful is that you are asking the question!

By asking the question, even if it was only done as a rhetorical device to make the point of your editorial, you have become a citizen of America (Again, I mean no disrespect).

We here in the United States have been asking "What is Freedom?" for over 200 years. We believe that we have some discovered that some amazing answers to that question, answers that have permitted us to pursue life, liberty and happiness in unprecedented ways.

We don't have all the answers however. We still have flaws and failures. Many of which you seem only too ready to remind us. Thank you. We are listening and hoping that in your quest to discover freedom that you will find that often loyal friends, and true friends, sometimes have flaws and failures.

What is freedom? Let us ask it together.

Troy Campbell
tcampbell@uofu.net

Dear Troy,

Thank you and all the other readers who provided us feedback on the material of the YT recently.

We should like to reiterate what the Foreign Minister of

the Soviet Union aptly remarked on this theme: "One does not deliver (the message of) freedom on a Tomahawk Cruise Missile".

—The Editors

Arab leaders worshipping the West

The Middle-East nations need to be ashamed for what they allow the Israelis to do to the Palestinians.

They need to be ashamed for having allowed the US and Britons to do to the Iraqis based solely on the lie of "weapons of mass destruction" and the lie of an Iraqi threat to America.

All Middle-East nations need to be ashamed for the ease at which they become traitors to their own people; all the CIA needs to do is promise them an American dollar or position of power and they become traitors.

They need to be embarrassed at how easily they cower, hide and surrender to the west.

Afghanistan and Iraq have taught the world that Middle-East nations have the most cowardly, traitorous and incompetent leaders and soldiers in the world! Because of their cowardice, incompetence and treachery, it is clear now that the control of all their nations and their wealth belong to the US! Middle-East nations have taught the world that America, with its bribery, coercion and "mass weapons of destruction" can take whatever they want, wherever they want and whenever they want and nobody can stop them. The West rules the world and you will bend to their demands or suffer under their power!

While the impoverished and subjugated people of these nations pray to the East, it appears that their corrupt leaders bend on their knees and pray to the West! They cower and break like twigs under the power of US propaganda and weapons.

You all should be embarrassed and disgusted with yourselves. George Bush makes me embarrassed to be American. God save the world from George Bush and his lackeys, his militant hawks, his religious right wing. And may God save the world from the Israeli power and influence, itself - a nation gone insane, nobody on this earth can!

John Cayo

john.cayo@verizon.net

Dear John,

Thank you very much, we tend to fall in line with much of what you say.

—The Editors

Iraqis will still be freer than you

I found your "True Freedom" article interesting. We Americans have a strange way of wanting everyone else to have the same opportunities that what we have. We were a "Colony" once too.

Your statement that the liberation of Iraq is not what the Iraqi people want. It's hard to believe that they would prefer living under Saddam Hussein, to the chance to be "free".

We "liberated" the French in two World Wars. Thousands of Americans gave their lives for that purpose. Do you think the French feel they "owe this favor to the US forever" So the Iraqi regime that's appointed could turn out just like the French or the Germans. Your World History will tell you that Americans, through the Marshall plan paid for those countries to get back on their feet.

You talk about "approval

of the International community" Where has the international community been for the last 12 years while Hussein has killed and tortured hundreds of thousands of his people?

I suppose you would suggest that they were better off like that rather than be given the opportunity to be "free". America has only been around for 227 yrs. If you'll remember we fought for our freedom from the British? The Industrial revolution began to change the world 175 yrs ago. Americans, the British and to some degree the French played major roles. These were all "free" societies. Unfortunately there are some cultures that have been around for 3000 yrs who have no concept of what Freedom is. If you were to look at the intellectual contributions these cultures have made to the improvement of mankind you would be hard pressed to find any. One might speculate that perhaps there is a correlation.

If you look at the vast majority of the Arab states many have rich cultures. Yet what have they done for mankind? Maybe you could send me a list of the great accomplishments that the Arab countries have contributed to the betterment of mankind?

So far it's apparent the one thing that has come out of the Middle East that is at the fore front is the fatalistic insanity that is responsible for killing innocent people in the name of God!

Maybe Freedom no matter how limited is better than what you currently have?

Bill Nehmzow
bnehmzow@kraft.com

Writing about "freedom" while not having it?

Concerning your editorial on "True freedom", you should remember that it was France that helped liberate the American colonies. And we do not feel we owe them anything. Besides, it must be difficult to write about "True Freedom" when you do not have it yourself.

Matthew Brown
matbrown34@hotmail.com

A black stage in Arab history

Being far away, I look at my Arabic world with great agony. I watch my Arabic world in disbelief, and what is worse, hearing what the Western world views us Arabs is further disheartening.

How did we Arabs get to this dreaded stage? I doubt many can offer coherent explanation without blaming the world or subscribing to conspiracy theories and getting emotional. Hungry empires have played a terrible role, no denying there, but we provided these empires the greatest excuses to ravage us.

The Arab world never fails to point out its past as if it guarantees a solid lead in the world. We keep calling our long dead heroes to save us from the doomed future. Meanwhile, the world is taking giant leaps towards education, health, and progress.

We are full of misguided intentions and unjustified superiority. For some reason, we Arabs believe that we are better than many in the world such as China for example, neglecting the fact that China is poised to be the next superpower in the world stage. Yet, no ones seem to pay attention or learn how they managed to overcome so many hurdles.

Arabs view their leaders as if they have an inherent right to rule, steal and point their sons and family to fur-

ther steal what is ours. Where did that come from? Islam for sure has nothing to do with that. We have been trained to not question our shackles for that is a foolish quest. We Arabs, have forgotten our rights guaranteed by basic human laws and above all, guaranteed by our religion.

We have neglected Islam's call for genuine education to a point that we only accept what we are told as being the truth. Isn't education based on one's need to find the truth? We have numbered our brains and accepted the least educated as Devin source of wisdom. We have successfully killed our inquisitive minds and substituted it with great appetite to appease morons.

Look at Iraq, the land of ancient civilizations where people now are killed either by their leaders or by foreign powers. But like many things around us Arabs, we will not learn from this or any lessons in our shameful recent history. We will go worshipping our incompetent leaders and complement their devastating leadership and call them saviors. What is even worse is that Arabic leaders start to really believe that they are as bright as they come and why not? Look at the herd of Arabs behind their leaders praising every idiotic move.

There is no solution to the problem but one, education. We should focus on nothing else but to educate ourselves first. We need to learn from our past and true history, and not allow every leader to throw out the former leader's accomplishments without learning from them. We need to know that we have rights, and leaders have a momentarily trust to lead. A Yemeni or an American in Saudi Arabia should be treated the same. If you're from Egypt or Dubai should not make a difference as well, it's what you actually do that matters not your country of origin. So as long as we're not ready to answer hard questions and face certain truths, we will be an easy target for the willing, or their coalition. Educate is my message, at least for now.

Abdullah Al-Wazeer
Canada
alwazeer@hotmail.com

Dear Abdullah

You showed very good insight into our tragic plight and this is a trend in Arab opinion that is beginning to show some energy. Needless to say, there is some sacrifice that will also be required to strengthen this trend.

—The Editors

Pathetic symbols of backwardness

Your trite and banal pathetic newspaper is a symbolism of the backwardness of Muslim culture. Far from embracing political change which may have resulted in an economically competitive Middle East, you chose the path of dictators who rule through the fear of the people. You feed news to your citizenry and hope that they're ignorant to what is really going on in the world. Who is really the suppressor of freedom in the world, a country which allows its citizens to march freely and voice their disagreement with their president, or a country which shoots all dissidents?

Quite naturally, the people in power in your country will want to maintain the status quo that is expensive yachts and palaces while the rest of the gullible citizens live in squalor. That is why they pay you to spin these

webs of lies.

How dare you accuse the US/Britain of achieving the level of destruction to Iraqi citizens that Hussein has done. He killed 2 million people. That is an average of 50 people per day over 30 years.

Finally, I would like to say that if the clash of civilizations commences (Arab and West), I will be happy to fight it.

Gi Joe
USA

Dear Gi et al,

You will be surprised to learn that most of the dictators you are talking about where chosen and propped up by the US and the UK (over the last fifty to a hundred years). Maybe it is you (with all due respects, of course) who should refresh your knowledge of world history.

—The Editors

Don't you care for Iraqis?

I have just finished reading the editorial by Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf entitled "True freedom" and I have to ask those questions: Are you kidding me? Were the Iraqi people better off under Saddam than to "suffer" under this "false freedom" brought by the U.S and U.K? On my TV, I saw pictures of people kissing soldiers and tearing down statues chanting "No Saddam"! Where are the pictures in your paper? Why aren't you telling the whole truth?

If the Arab world cares so much, why did it stand by all these years while the Saddam regime oppressed and tortured your Arab brothers and sisters? Could it be that you don't really care about the Iraqi people? Maybe you liked the idea of being associated with a powerful Arab leader. Or maybe it was the way Saddam spread his money around. Money he stole from the Iraqi people.

Yes, it's true that some in the American power structure will try to profit off of this war but rest assured that many American's are watching and expressing our concerns about this with our government leaders about profiting on the blood of innocent people and American and British soldiers.

Your readers should know that the average American citizen does care about the rights of all people to choose their personal and political destiny. Many of us believe in a strong Middle East peace which includes a free and independent

Palestine. We are the home to many Arab people, especially here in the Detroit area, mostly Iraqi (and Yemeni as well) and few want to return to Iraq. They are a vital part of our community and they enjoy the freedoms that America gives them and Saddam didn't.

A good newspaperman will question everything and I appreciate the concerns of Mr. Al-Saqqaf but if he and all Arabs want to help the people of Iraq the rhetoric must stop. It's time for actions of substance. Not with guns but with butter. As we say here in America, it's time to step up to the plate Mr. Al-Saqqaf.

Henry Yanez
Detroit, Michigan, USA
henryyanez@hotmail.com

Dear Henry,

Continue working on your strong belief in a peaceful Middle East, in deed and not just in words. The Palestinians (and the rest of the Arab World) would be highly appreciative.

—The editors

Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

For the third week running the Yemeni local press continues its detailed coverage of the ongoing U.S.-led aggression on Iraq. Yemeni newspapers are giving prominence to speedy developments of the war which capture the main headlines of front pages. Articles and analyzes on the war and future of Iraq take large spaces on pages of the newspapers along with images of the civilian victims and increasing casualties due to brutal bombardment of civilian targets of Iraqi cities and villages all over Iraq.



Al-Tagamou weekly, organ of the Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party, 7 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Baghdad between invasion and resistance
- Redlines before the Yemeni Socialist Party at the north constituencies
- Law on money laundering issued
- Electoral violations by the ruling party
- Two terrorist elements including al-Rabei arrested
- Yemeni writers union demand trying Bush and Blair for their crimes against culture in Iraq
- Yemen demands Britain to hand over the extremist Abuhamza al-Masri

Columnist Abdul Bari Tahir says in an article that for sure the imperialist greed in the Iraqi huge oil reserves is reflected by the mask put on by the American extremist right that is completely biased to Israel. This alliance is embodied by a grouping led by America and Britain to occupy Iraq as a first step for returning the entire Arab region to the colonialism and to distribute its riches among the American companies. Failure of the imperialist schemes and battings for bringing the people of Iraq to their knees has pushed the American and British fascist right to target the civilians and take revenge on them by burning their cities with bombs and missiles and killing thousands of Iraqi children and women with their "smart" bombs.

Killing thousands of civilians and destroying the Iraqi infrastructure and civilian houses places the international community before its moral and humane responsibility to announce the live active solidarity with the people of

Iraq and to work for stopping this big war crime. The American and British force cannot cover the failure of its barbaric campaign by more killing and destruction and ruin.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization (UNO) April 2003.

Main headlines:

- UNO candidates: More challenge to corruption
- Iraq inflicts heavy losses on the American enemy
- National alignment document signed
- American military to take part in interrogations with al-Rabeeie and Magalli
- Iraqis disappear

Editor in chief Ali al-Saqqaq says in his column this week that British protesters demonstrating in Belfast before the recent meeting of Bush-Blair had described Bush as the thief of peace and thief of oil. So Bush in the eyes of many Europeans is no longer the saviour seeking the liberation of the Iraqis from the Iraqis and that his merchandise of lies does no longer find publicity. The same can be applied to the American army commanders and American media supervised by the American intelligence. All of them have taken lies as a profession. Because of their many lies no one believes them any more even if they said something true. When they announce that their casualties reached 79, they come the next day to announce that they have lost another 8 of their troops. No one believes their lies except Arab rulers as if they fear that if the Iraqis scored victory in this unparalleled battle their peoples would punish them for their defeated stands.

Al-Mithaq weekly, mouth piece of the General People's Congress Party, 7 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- First batch of Yemeni medical aid presented by the Yemeni Red Crescent Society to the Iraqi people arrived to Baghdad
- Experts committee discusses the current economic challenges
- FM al-Qirbi: Yemen's demand for handing over al-Masri still standing
- More than 1600 candidates representing 21 political parties compete in parliamentary elections

Columnist Nour ba Abbad confirms in her article that the war on Iraq represents a great humanitarian ordeal the Arabs are suffering in their contemporary history, as well as the Islamic nation and the entire world. This war is targeting everything in Iraq even the cultural structure of the Mesopotamia where the Sumerians, Caledonians and Assyrians had lived. Protection human rights of the Iraqis remains the task of all the honest people in the world in Asia, Europe and America, especially that the demonstrations condemning the war have explained concern and fear of humanity from results of the war and the huge number of the killed and wounded in a war that did not get any international legitimacy. The war has been also condemned by great powers at the Security Council in addition to refusal of many European countries.

Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Yemeni Union of People's Forces, 6 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Opposition representatives and independents arrested and prevented from nomination
- Aggression on Iraq continues
- Chairwoman of woman forum accuses political parties of abandoning woman nomination
- 800 dead American soldiers in a morgue in Kuwait

Administration from the Pentagon to seize Iraq's oil

In its editorial the newspaper says the Yemeni Union of People's Forces, along with parties of the JMP are to run for the parliamentary elections to be held on 27 April for restoring balance of the political life and straightening the course of democracy in addition to enhancement of pluralism and role of the political parties and organizations of the civil society for reaching to peaceful exchange of power. The editorial maintains that there are many factors impeding preparation of the democratic climate for holding free and honest elections at secure atmospheres. It says the that the people's interest is the objective of democracy and defining this interest is to be founded on a free popular will and any interference by any party to block this will or any violation is considered violation of freedom and democracy and against the country's constitution and laws.

Al-Thawri weekly organ of the Yemen Socialist Party, 10 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Attempted assassination against the YSP candidate terrorist message to the party
- Iraq's regime falls to the occupation forces
- YSP source: Satisfied over coordination among JMP

Columnist Abda Farie Nouman says in an article that the Anglo-American aggression on Iraq and the Palestinian people reveals itself as an attack of annihilation because it targets killing the civilians with internationally-banned weapons and mainly aimed at children and women. The Anglo-American aggression proves to be a Zionist plot disclosing an unprecedented rancor. In their aggression the Americans and the British are using more lethal weapons of mass destruction and poses a danger to the entire world. The American aggression on Iraq had actually begun in 1990 and it is an aggression on the entire Arab and Islamic nation aimed at controlling and robbing their wealth and enslave the

peoples. The author maintains that it seems the world has been afflicted with a demonic regime settling in the United States spreading its aggression here and there in regions and continents, the most dangerous one is its cancerous growth in occupied Palestine. The writer calls for a world awakening to put an end to this ghoul and curb its dangers.

AL-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, 6 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- Warship in Bab El Mandab strait, mujahideen prevented from leaving Sana'a airport
- American thinker confirms the end of Bush gang
- Aggression on Iraq, aggression on the nation
- Fears from effect of tribal conflicts on the elections
- Damascus and Tehran study mechanism for facing the American threats

The editor in chief writes that the failure reached by the official Arab system in achieving the national security has many causes that affected its composition. The regionalism and stabilization of its status and the rush for establishing unbalanced relations with the foreigner and obeying orientations of their policies was one of the main factors shaking its pillars. The most dangerous aspects is seeking the help of the foreigner to help on country against another and the accords of Camp David that excluded Israel from the circle of threat to the national security. These developments have created two dangerous facts. The first is the foreigner entering the Arab homeland, occupation a part of it and then rendering it into a foothold from which to start its attack on the Arab nation. The second is imposition of the new regional security promoted by America as part of its new world order. It aims at creating a regional security regime compatible with its goals in the region consists of some Arab countries; Turkey and Iran. The official attitude of the Arab regime has entrusted the

Palestine issue and then Iraq with the international organization that is controlled by America which sped its steps to utilize this situation and declared the war on Iraq. It is a war considered by many politicians as a war on the Arab nation and the Islamic world aimed at re-drawing the region's map according to the American interests.

Al-Balagh weekly, 8 April 2003.

Main headlines:

- American secret report discloses the post Iraq war situation;
- Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain not on the map, Arab peninsula divided into three big states; Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Oman
- Saudi media sources: Corpses of 800 American soldiers in Kuwaiti military hospital, 1543 corpses in Pakistan
- Mercenaries promised to get American nationality, 25 thousand
- Mexican, African soldiers fight with the allied forces in Iraq

Editor in chief of the newspaper says the American soldiers are killing the people of Iraq for "liberating" Iraq. The liberation of Iraq is the code name of the Americans to kill the people of Iraq. On the screens of the TV channels we watch the American soldiers pointing their guns at an Iraqi family members of parents and their daughters of no more than ten years old threatening them after he ordered them out of their house and stand on their knees. The innocent small girl of eight years putting her hand on her head crying and shaking of fear, while the American soldier feels proud by pointing his machine gun at her. Would this picture be enough to move the Arab rulers' blood? Are not these crimes committed by the Americans and the British against the Iraqis enough to act and express practically their support for the people of Iraq?

America which you fear today would not remember your stands when your turn comes. Then you would not find but your peoples to stand by you. Why don't you stand by your people and brothers now?

World Press

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

Egypt

Al Ahram

The Egyptian cabinet will review the state budget 2003/2004 Monday and submit it later to the People's Assembly and Shura Council for approval.

Public expenditure in the new budget amounts to 158.6 billion Egyptian pounds (about 27.1 billion US dollars), including 63.1 billion pounds (10.8 billion dollars) for social services.

Al Akhbar

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received Saturday French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin who arrived in Cairo for a two-day visit.

Mubarak will discuss with the French top diplomat the latest developments in Iraq and the Middle East

issue.

Al Gomhuria

Thousands of people gathered outside Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo after Friday noon prayers in support of the Iraqi people.

The demonstrators called for supporting the Iraqi people against the US-British invasion and adopting a prompt Arab stance to save Iraq from foreign occupation.

Egyptian Mail

President Mubarak on Friday urged the United Nations to intervene to stop wide-spread chaos and looting in Iraq.

In a telephone conversation with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Mubarak stressed the importance of a UN role in protecting the life and property of the Iraqi people.

Britain

Daily Telegraph

Downing Street was left on the defensive yesterday over claims that Britain and America are standing aside and allowing Iraq to plunge into lawlessness.

Financial Times:

Three days after reaching the heart of Baghdad, US land forces were engaged in military operations through large parts of Iraq yesterday, as the UK disclosed that it is to begin scaling back its forces in Iraq and the Gulf.

The Independent

The first case of a potentially lethal virus caught in Britain was announced last night as health officials tried to trace anyone who had been in contact with an infected Hong Kong businessman.

The Times

Britain and the United States have bypassed the United Nations to establish a secret team of inspectors to resume the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Germany

Die Welt

After the allied forces controlled Iraq militarily, a humanitarian catastrophe has broken out in the country with the collapse of public order and wide-spread looting.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

The German government sees no role for NATO in Iraq for the moment.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung

After the takeover of northern Iraqi cities of Kirkuk and Mosul by US soldiers and Kurds, the Iraqi oil reserves are completely in the control of American-British allies.

The Philippine Star

The Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest electricity distributor, faces serious financial problems, including possible bankruptcy, after the Supreme Court ordered that it refund consumers billions of pesos it overcharged its customers since 1994, company officials said Friday.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Pieter Lerrick, the last of the three Indonesian seaman held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf since last June, escaped his captors in the southern

Japan

Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri, Nihon Keizai

The United States confirmed the Saddam regime of Iraq has lost control.

Mainichi

Seven people were killed in fire-works factory explosion in western Japan.

Yomiuri

Japan mulls doing away with income tax cuts.

Nihon Keizai

Tokyo stocks hit 20-year low.

Philippines

province of Sulu province on Friday. His colleague Julkipli also escaped to freedom last month. Julkipli told authorities that the third hostage had died in captivity.

The Manila Times

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said Friday that a 64-year-old foreigner who arrived in the Philippines last month could be the country's first reported case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), but the man, who was confined on April 1 at a government hospital, is recovering.

Nigeria

The Nation

Pakistani Minister for Information and Broadcasting Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Friday made it clear that the country's defense is invincible and dispelled the impression of Pakistan's turn after Iraq.

Business Recorder

The Ministry of Health has informed the government that strict

preventive measures are being taken to avoid yellow fever epidemic in Pakistan.

Dawn

Minister for Industries and Production Liaquat Ali Jatoi on Friday once again asked the auto assemblers and parts makers to cut down prices so that their products could reach common man.

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India

The Times of India

Top Bush administration officials, including Secretary of State Colin Powell, will come to South Asia possibly within the next fortnight. There is growing concern in Washington that the situation in the region is taking a turn to the worse.

Hindustan Times

Senior consular officials of the Indian and Russian foreign offices will meet early next month to resolve the problem of visa restrictions imposed by Moscow on countries that pose the threat of "illegal immigration." India is one of them

The Indian Express

The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a stern warning to all ministries and departments to strictly follow new procedures on allowing visitors inside their offices.

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 موبوكا، ١٢٠٠، ١٢٠٠٠ ريال
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وظائف شاعرة

مطلوب موظف، موظفة، للعمل في جريدة كمنسول، اعلانات، على ان يبيد التعامل مع الزبائن ولديه طريقة حسنة للتعامل، دول كامل او نصف يوم، للاتصال: ٧٧١١٠١٧٦ - ٧٧١١٠١٧٦ (تحويلة ١-٥)
 ٧٧١١٠١٧٦ - ٧٧١١٠١٧٦ (تحويلة ١-٥)
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مطلوب مدرسو كمبيوتر، مهندسين معاريين، ومدربين، سائكو نقل خفيف، ملحقين، شرفيين، مندوب مبيعات، اخصائي ائتمان، مدفوق حسابات ورئيس قسم حسابات ومدراء ماليين للعمل في السعودية، علماء بان الرواتب مرفوعة، ٣٤ مليون، ٢٣٧٧٤٥ - ٧٣٩٠٨٧٢

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يمن مكتب الشيرة للتوظيف عن حاجته الي: سكرتيرة تنفيذية وعيادية، مدير تجاري، مهندسو كمبيوتر /شبكات/ اتصالات /بدي/ ميكانيكي، موزعين، مندوب مبيعات، محاسبين، مدراء ماليين، مدراء مكاتب، اساء، مخازن لاستئجار شارع الزبيدي عمارة موتورولا الدور الثالث ت 278817 - 278817

باحثون عن وظيفة

هلال محمد عبده ليسانس ادب انجليزي، دبلوم كمبيوتر، انترنت، لغة انجليزية متوسطة للاتصال ٧٧١٨٩٧٧

هاني عبد الحافظ دبلوم فني ادارة تنمية -تخصص حاسوب-، خبرة سنتين في مجال صيانة الحواسيب وربط الشبكات، خبرة في مجال الطابعة والتصميم في برنامج فوتوشوب والبرامج التطبيقية بشرط ان يكن العمل في تعز ت. ٤٠٧٣٠٨٧ - ٤٠٧٣٠٨٧

احمد صلاح منصور: دبلوم في اللغة الانجليزية، دبلوم تخصصي في برامج الكمبيوتر التطبيقية ودورات في مجال خدمة العملاء، الاستقبال، والعلاقات العامة، خبرة عمل تزيد عن سبع سنوات في المجال الارادي التنفيذي والترجمة ت. ٢١٤٢١٠ - ٢١٤٢١٠

٧٧٧٦٩٠٤ - ٧٧٧٦٩٠٤
 رياض النبا خبرة خمس سنوات في فندق يعمل بالمكاتب الفندقية ت. ٤٠٧٣٠٨٧
 عدد الله الجبري بك كمبيوتر، تحليل نظم وبرمجة وهندسة، شبكات داخلية وخارجية، التسويق والمشتريات، مراكز معلومات صنعاء، ت. ٦٩٠٦٦-٦٩١٠٢

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179

I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (46):
Expressing in how many cases a statement is true (III)
(Use of negative inversions)

The purpose for which negative inversion is used is to give emphasis to what is said or written. Although negative inversion occurs both in speech and writing, yet it is used more often in writing than in speech since there are several mechanisms such as stress and intonation for marking emphasis in speech.

- Only in a few cases has the medicine proved ineffective.
- Not only did he neglect his studies, but he also ruined his health.
- Rarely does one come across such gruesome instances of cruelty.
- Never did I feel a calm so deep.
- Not a moth is cloven in vain; there is a purpose for everything.
- Not an eyebrow was raised when the leader delivered his speech.
- Nothing but misery and turpitude seems to be in store for me.
- Not a single voice of protest was heard when the decision was announced.
- Not a soul could resist tears when the body of their departed leader was cremated.
- Not till/until the police resorted to the third degree torment did the criminal confess his guilt.
- Nowhere else would you find people who are so simple and loving as here.
- No one is prepared to believe a habitual liar and a bribe giver like him.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. Ahmed is absorbed at his work.
2. Do your work without speak.
3. I asked my friend his book.
4. The student failed to answer to my question.
5. I last night went to a park.

Answers to last week's questions

1. He is better than any other student.
2. I am junior to him.
3. Mohammed is superior to Faiz.
4. It is a perfect answer

Note: Some adjectives are not compared because they denote meanings which do not admit variation of degree or qualities already possessed by them to the utmost possible extent. Some such adjectives are: *unique, ideal, perfect, extreme, chief, entire, complete, round, square, universal, impossible, golden, infinite, and perpetual.*

5. His motor car is more expensive than his neighbour's.

Note: We cannot use 'one' or 'ones' immediately after a genitive or possessive adjective. If, however, these words are preceded by an adjective, they can come after a genitive or a possessive adjective.
Ex: His new house is better than my old one. My old watch is in a better condition than his new one.

III. Increase your Word Power

A) How to express it in one word

1. To sleep lightly
2. A group of twelve
3. A group of twenty
4. Very severe or cruel
5. First public appearance
6. The first rough written form of anything.

Answers to last week's questions

1. Treated badly by those in positions of power: **downtrodden** (adj)
2. Towards the lower part or business center of a town: **downtown** (adj)
3. Going in the direction that the wind is blowing: **downwind** (adj)

4. The property that a woman brings to her husband in marriage: **dowry** (n)
5. The oldest, and most experienced member of a group: **doyen** (n)

B) Foreign phrases and expressions

Use the following phrases in illustrative sentences

1. corpus delicti;
2. coup de grace;
3. coup d'etat;
4. crèche;
5. cuisine

Answers to last week's questions

1. **concierge** (Fr) (a caretaker): We have a vigilant concierge in our building.
2. **confrère** (Fr) (a person who shares in one's job or interests): I am lucky to have the company of a conscientious confrère in my office.
3. **consomme** (Fr) (clear soup made from meat or vegetables): Consomme is served as a first course in this restaurant.
4. **cordons bleus** (Fr) (a very good cook): Such a splendid meal is possible only by a cordon bleu.
5. **corps de ballet** (Fr) (a group of ballet performers): We had the opportunity of witnessing an excellent performance by a skilled corps de ballet.

C) Word commonly confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. abjure, adjure
2. adaptation, adoption
3. adoration, adulation
4. advantageous, adventitious
5. adventuress, adventurous

Answers to last week's questions

1. **action** (n) (process of doing things): Every action has its equal and opposite reaction.
2. **action** (n) (public sale at which goods are sold to the highest bidder): He bought the car at a public auction.
2. **address** (vt) (say something in speech): The President addressed the gathering.
3. **redress** (vt) (do something that compensates for the wrong): The man was repentant and willing to redress the wrongs.
3. **addict** (n) (a person who is given up to a bad or harmful habit): He is a drug addict.
4. **edict** (n) (an order or command): We always obeyed grandfather's edicts.
4. **addition** (n) (process of adding): There is a new addition in his family.
5. **edition** (n) (form in which a book is published): The book has appeared in a revised edition.

D) Idioms and phrases

Use the following phrases in sentences so as to bring out their meanings

1. strike a balance;
2. bad blood;
3. bad debt;
4. in a bad temper;
5. go bad

Answers to last week's questions

1. **save one's bacon** (to escape with difficulty from loss, harm, blame): He saved his bacon by arriving at the function just in time.
2. **backwards and forwards** (first in one direction and then in the opposite direction): He walked backwards and forwards trying to locate the post office.
3. **barge into** (to rush in rudely): The door burst open, and a stranger barged into the room.
4. **lose one's balance** (feel disturbed): She lost her balance when she heard that her child was involved in an accident.
5. **off balance** (in danger of falling): The cyclist was off balance in the crowded road and was about to fall.

IV. Grammar and composition

A) Grammar

Complete the spaces in the following paragraph, using appropriate words and phrases given:

In other words, that is (to say), for example, for instance, to be precise, namely, at least, particularly,

in particular, especially, what is more, (and) in fact, and actually, (or) rather, (or) better, furthermore

British English and American English are different languages, — they are distinctly different dialects of the same language. Nevertheless, the two 'dialects' are slowly moving closer together for a variety of reasons, — as a result of telecommunications. There has been a kind of rivalry for well over two centuries, — this rivalry has expressed itself in 'mutual snobbishness', — each language has been regarding the other as somehow 'inferior'. Attitudes in Britain have changed a lot in the last twenty years — the attitudes of some people have changed. Young people, — university students, tend to use more 'American words' than their elders. You will still find the occasional true-bred English 'bulldog' who insists that the American language, — the accent, has a corrupting influence. What such people do not seem to realise is that English is a living language, and — the importation and coining of new words and phrases is absolutely essential in our ever-changing world.

Answers to last week's questions

1. Most of us became very tired soon. (Declarative)
2. We got a ticket for the show without any difficulty. (Declarative)
3. Tell me all about the incident. (Imperative)
4. Who/Whom did the teacher give her notes? (Interrogative)
5. Work in the school begins at 8 A.M. (Declarative)
6. What a beautiful sight! (Exclamatory)
7. How did he speak at the meeting? (Interrogative)
8. Please get me a pair of scissors. (Imperative)
9. Let us go on a picnic tomorrow. (Imperative)
10. How gracefully she walks! (Exclamatory)

B) Composition

Expand the idea contained in

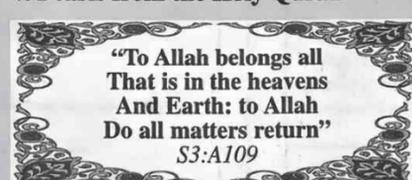
13. THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT

Answer to last week's question

12. AS YOU SOW SO SHALL YOU REAP

Our actions are a kind of investment, the fruit of which returns to us manifold, in much the same way as a farmer's sowing the seeds and his labour is returned to him in the form of the yield of his crop. Just as the farmer's output is dependent on the quality of seeds and the manner of his sowing them, similarly the results we get are contingent on the nature of our action. We are rewarded for our noble action and punished for our misdeeds. As this proverb forewarns us, sooner or later we all have to account for our wrong doings and suffer the consequences of our bad acts. We have to be paid in our own coins and can not escape punishment. Although the wrong doer may have a temporary relief from penalty, in the divine scheme of things one day or another he would be brought to book. Moreover, his guilty conscience would become the worst accuser and would never allow his mind to rest in peace. We have to bear in mind that bad deeds will never bear good fruit. Therefore, we should refrain from indulging in any evil thought or action.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran



VI. Words of Wisdom

"Lend money to an enemy, and thou'lt gain him; to a friend and thou'lt lose him"

— Benjamin Franklin

Message of the Symposium on 'Democracy and National Unity', Faculty of Education, Sa'adah

Uphold Democratic Ideals and Institutions



By Abdul Fattah Yahya Hassan Shwail
Level 4 (English)
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Arts and Science
Sa'adah

A two-day symposium (17-18 March) on Democracy and National Unity was organized at the Faculty of Education, Arts and Science under the patronage of Dr Nasser Awlaqi, Rector of Sana'a University. The Dean of the Faculty, Dr Abdul Wasa'a Al Himeiry, welcomed the speakers and underlined the significance of democracy in his opening remarks. Yemen is an old country but a young nation where the spirit of democracy has been steadily growing over the years under the dynamic and forward-looking leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He said. The need of the hour is to fortify its foundation through public awareness, popular mandate, mass access to education, women's empowerment and strengthening of the institutions that protect people's fundamental rights



(L to R) Dr. Mohammad Barakat, Dr. Abdul Wasa'a Al-Himeiry, Dean, Dr. Kareem and Dr. Mottahar



(L to R) Dr. Hassan Imam, Dr. Ayham A. Yahya, and Dr. Saleh Shamy

and ensure the health of democracy in any society. He called upon the students to disseminate democratic awareness in society and contribute to national unity so that a strong, prosperous and united Yemen can make its mark in the comity of nations. The first session began with recitation of a verse from the Holy Quran. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mohammad Abdul Karim Barakat, lauded the concept of democratic dispensation in accordance with Islamic tradition and teaching. While appreciating the point made by Dr Barakat, another participant, Dr Mottahar Siif laid stress on the essentially humane and tolerant spirit of Islamic precepts for evolving a model of democracy. He cautioned against the fundamentalist fringe hijacking the noble and gentle tradition of Islam.

The second session got started with a poem recited by Yusuf Salem. The topical theme of his poem drew a round of applause from the audience. In his presentation, Dr Hassan Imam, Department of Islamic Studies, supplemented the points raised by Dr Barakat. He made a plea for an indigenous tradition of democracy in the Arab region in that the teachings of the Holy Quran offer an alternative to the Western system of democracy. His point was rebutted by Dr Saleh Shamy, who argued that Islamic teachings can substantially inform and strengthen the Western model rather than run counter

to it. What is vitally valid is that the citizens, particularly the educated sections of society should practise the essentials of democracy instead of merely preaching it and become role models for other members of the society. Without an honest and active commitment to the ideals of democracy no system or model can work.

On the following day, the speakers including Dr Fadel Bonaian Mohammad, Dr Abdul Wasa'a Al Himeiry and Dr Ayham A. Yahya threw further light on the links between democracy and national unity—the main theme of the symposium. They

said that national unity can't be forged without a public-spirited government elected into office by the popular will of the nation. Only when people value their participation in governance and nation building can they contribute to the maturing of democracy. Democratic system based on equity and fairplay offers ample opportunity to all citizens, particularly women and weaker sections of society for their role in nation building. It is the cementing force for a united nation.

The Vice-Dean of the Faculty, Dr Ayham pointed out the ills in the Westminster model of democracy. He stressed on the significance of public vigilance during elections otherwise the high and mighty elements are apt to derail democracy, and defeat its ideals and goals. He sharply attacked the so-called leading Western democratic countries like the UK and USA for their dictatorial and imperialistic ambitions in the current situation. Each of the presentations was followed by sharp comments, observations and incisive questions. Among others who participated in the discussion were Dr Abdullah Tahir Al Hudaibi and Dr Md Abdullah Ali from Sana'a. In his concluding address, the Dean, Dr Abdul Wasa'a said that the presentations and discussions were provocative, productive and stimulating. He promised that he would line up a series of such interactive sessions on a variety of themes and issues in the future.

A section of the audience



A section of the audience

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				
Accountants	Clerks	Executives	Management	Secretaries
Activities	Clocks	Files	Managers	Skill
Administrators	Code	Filing	Memo	Stay
Assistants	Coffee	Furnishings	Messengers	Stenographers
Banks	Commerce	Furniture	Pads	Table
Bookkeepers	Companies	Gossip	Papers	Task
Bosses	Computers	Help	Party	Telephones
Business	Coolers	Hospitals	Payrolls	Tone
Cabinets	Decor	Hotels	Pens	Typewriters
Call	Deeds	Hours	Processing	Typing
Cash	Desks	Industries	Records	Work
Chairs	Duties	Keys	Scale	
Chum	Engagements	Machines	Schedules	

ANSWER NEXT WEEK Last Week's Answer: Sparks

OFFICE CHATTER

Solution: 12 letters

G	P	A	D	S	G	T	S	S	A	S	S	C	A	S	T	A	S	K	H		
E	N	P	S	N	E	R	Y	C	E	E	E	C	O	N	K	S	D	S	O		
L	K	I	I	R	E	I	O	P	V	N	T	I	E	M	T	R	E	C	U		
B	E	P	S	L	E	M	R	I	E	I	M	R	N	M	A	E	A	R			
A	Y	P	O	S	P	P	T	A	V	W	E	H	A	T	C	E	D	L	S		
T	S	O	S	A	E	U	E	I	T	G	R	T	C	G	S	M	R	E	C		
P	C	R	N	R	C	C	T	E	A	E	S	I	O	A	I	U	L	C	O		
I	A	I	E	E	E	I	O	N	K	I	R	U	T	N	M	U	D	N	E		
S	E	P	X	H	E	G	A	R	S	K	N	C	I	E	D	U	C	N	S		
S	G	E	E	S	P	M	N	S	P	T	O	S	E	R	O	H	E	I			
T	D	N	T	R	E	A	A	E	A	A	R	T	O	H	S	M	S	L	C	S	
N	E	R	I	M	S	S	R	N	S	A	R	T	C	H	B	P	T	I	H	K	L
E	C	R	O	H	K	T	T	G	A	S	S	T	U	A	F	A	N	L	A		
M	O	M	U	C	S	E	T	O	G	E	T	Y	Y	I	A	I	H	T			
E	R	G	O	T	E	I	O	N	F	N	E	M	K	R	B	K	O	C	I		
G	S	L	O	I	I	R	N	I	I	R	E	R	S	O	S	T	P	O	P		
A	C	K	T	S	S	N	L	R	S	B	O	T	S	L	E	E	C	F	S		
G	O	U	S	O	S	I	R	E	U	W	A	S	S	L	N	A	A	F	O		
N	D	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	F	E	C	S	S	S	P	L	E	H		
E	E	N	T	G	D	E	P	S	F	S	E	N	O	H	P	E	L	E	T		

Fourth Inter-College Literary Competitions, 2003

The Fourth Inter-college Literary competitions in English Short story, Poem, and Essay will be organized under the auspices of Yemen Times for the Year 2003. Competitions will be held in two categories, viz. Senior (level 3 and 4) and Junior (level 1 and 2). A bonafide student of any college in the Republic of Yemen is eligible to participate in the competition. Participants are free to choose any theme for English Short stories and Poems.

Topics for the Essay contest:

Senior group (level 3 and 4):

"Peace Hath Her Victories No less Renowned Than War" (2000 words)

Junior group (level 1 and 2):

"The Value of Time" (1500 words)

A participant can participate in any or all events. Entries should be original and typed or neatly written on one side of the paper. These are to be certified to be original by the Head of English department of the respective college and sent to Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, P. o. Box 14533, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. Last date for submission of entries is 14 May, 2003.

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Coordinator

Mr. Ahmed Ba Zaraa the chairman of the board of the Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain:

Bank's projects are many and diverse

Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain was established less than one year ago as a Yemeni joint-stock company with a starting capital of YR 2 billion. Ever since, it has been operating in conformity with many objectives, some of which are to introduce good banking services, develop ways of attracting money and savings and invest them in the best way. About the bank's progress in the elapsed period, experience Islamic banks in particular and the current challenges and impediments in banking work especially if the war on Iraq continues, Yemen Times reporter Mohammed al-Massani interviewed Mr. Ahmed Abu Bakar Bazaraa, the well-known businessman, the chairman of board the board of directors of the Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain, filing this report.

Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain i.e. Tadhamon International Islamic Bank, Saba Islamic Bank and Islamic Bank of Yemen- have gained a good experience in the Yemeni market and accordingly have been able to achieve a relative success so far. But the Yemeni market has its own peculiarities as technically it's still a beginner market compared to world banking industry and Islamic banks.

Indicators of their financing capabilities and the figures of their clients are so modest compared to population density and the gross national product. There are indicators about huge volume of liquidity at people's hands in comparison with the banks deposits and this mirrors the culture, speciality and uniqueness of the Yemeni society. I do believe that these indicators are slowly improving.

Q: What are the challenges Islamic banks currently encounter?

A: With respect to the major challenges I may sum them up as follows:

Internal challenges which lie in the arrangement of the banks' conditions and adopting strategic schemes that pivot on the market, its development and completion of the infrastructure of this industry which is still far behind that of many countries. Other challenges lie in the carrying out of real tasks of the banks to participate in the projects of infrastructure of economy as a whole have tangible social return.

External challenges which lie in creating an atmosphere of trust and globally extension the banking system of Yemen which regrettably does not have a world reputation. This is a common problem shared by Yemeni banks but it is more problematic with the Islamic banks which face many pressures and obstacles in their dealing with western corporations, especially after Sept. 11, 2001 under the pretext of fighting terrorism and money laundering and all this negatively affects and hinders the activities of Islamic banks.

Q: What's meant by the black list issued by the Central Bank and how do you deal with loans and clients?

Q: How do you assess the bank work so far?

A: It is supposed there should be several financing periods to form a serious and real assessment. But confidentially the past period of less than one year since the establishment of the Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain was very satisfactory. All indicators are positive for during that period we have achieved all prospects included in our working plan for the first year.

Q: What are the bank's investment projects, your future plans?

A: The projects of the Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain are many and diverse. Some are about our plans to extend the bank services to other governorates. We also intend to offer bank services to our clients through better and modern means. Regarding our dealings with the Islamic banks I do think they are improving and satisfactory and much better than that with other banks as Islamic banks offer good solutions to invest -and usually in Yemen- from the Islamic point of view.

Q: How would you estimate the experience of the Islamic banks in Yemen?

A: Islamic banks of Yemen still have a limited experience, if compared with other countries' Islamic banks such as Bahrain, Egypt, Emirates, Kuwait and many other countries. Yet the three banks that preceded the



Ahmed Abu Bakar Bazaraa

A: The black list issued by the Central Bank of Yemen every now and then is an indicator to some companies and individuals indebted to some banks and have not yet reached an agreement in a specific period of time. And here I

want to assure you that the adventure factor in paying and servicing of debts is regrettably so high in Yemen (one of the highest averages in the world according to evaluation of many world financing and insurance companies). And this is attributed to weakness of the judiciary system and its lack of harmony with the government. In the Shamil Bank of Yemen and Bahrain we consider ourselves still in establishment phase and so we give great attention to this aspect in an attempt to sustain burdens of difficult debts which could impede our job.

Q: If to assess the policy of the central bank of Yemen, what would you say and how it ought to be in your own perspective?

A: Central Bank of Yemen is competently and bravely dealing with monetary policy as it fulfilled an excellent role to maintain the market conditions and stability in the past years.

With respect to the monitoring role of

the central bank of Yemen on other banks, it does play its role effectively. But we should confess that the work atmosphere in Yemen has its own legal and executive obstacles from which even the central bank itself is suffering.

And I look forward to that the central bank of Yemen would pay attention to the infrastructure of the bank such as technical aspects (electronic clearing-house) and regularly offering data, statistics and competence in investing the legal reverses of the deposit accounts (savings, current accounts, debt and investment.) in a way that suits the working nature of different banks.

Q: How does the impact of the war on Iraq being reflected on the currently banking conditions of Yemen?

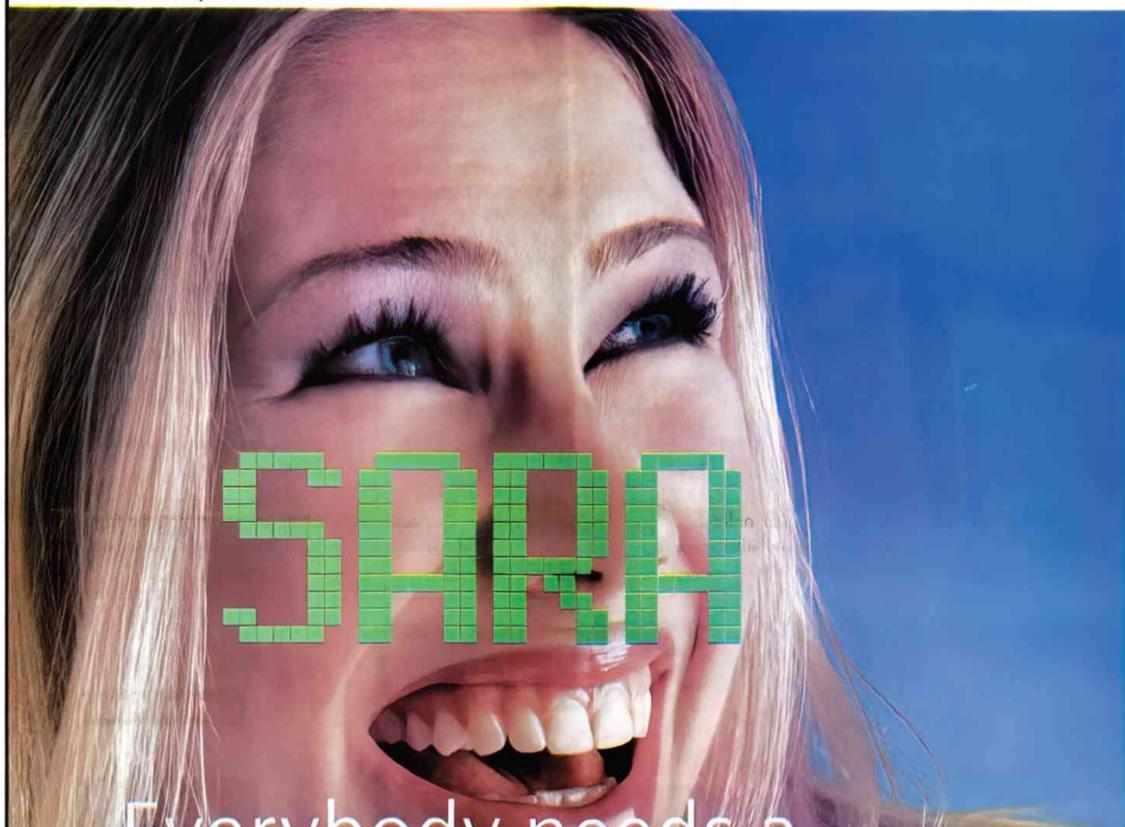
A: The US-UK aggressive war on Iraq, of course, has its negative impact on the entire world and we as an integral part of this world and a state of the region of war would be affected more.



In fact that depends on the course of the war and factors related to these developments.

But it's worth mentioning that some effects of the war have already been felt such as the fluctuations of the currency worldwide which affected the value of the YR. and also the fluctuations of petroleum would negatively affect the state budget which would directly influence the government and individuals' spending. Situations may further get escalated and that may hinder shipment movement and air cargo. But we do hope and wish that things will be settled down very soon.

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News from London claim that for the first SARS patient recovers:

Breakthrough in healing SARS

In what could be considered a breakthrough in healing the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) deadly disease, a recent news report from London said on Saturday that a British SARS patient is now recovering from the disease after applying a certain type of medication. The news report, which came on the Wales news service could be a motivating and encouraging sign for all researchers working around the clock to secure a treatment method to save thousands of people who could lose their lives.

The man who may have become the sixth person in the UK to have fallen victim to the deadly SARS virus is said to be responding well to treatment.

He is thought to have caught the flu-like virus in Britain after coming into contact with a Hong Kong busi-

nessman who was subsequently admitted to hospital in his own country with symptoms.

A spokesman for London's Northwick Park Hospital, where the British man is being treated, said he was responding well to treatment and was not feeling sick.

"It is still a suspected case and we are not expected to get any further information or confirmation this weekend.

"He is still in isolation as is the case with all the patients on the infectious diseases ward.

"We take wabs on a continuous basis to establish whether or not this is SARS," the spokesman said.

In a joint statement from the Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency yesterday, the man's symptoms were said to "fit the case definition of SARS issued by the



A Taiwanese nurse (L) takes the temperature of a woman who just arrived at Taipei international airport on April 10. REUTERS

World Health Organisation".

"Other people who were in close contact with him in the UK are being traced and will be monitored in case they develop any symptoms of SARS," the statement added.

Four of the other UK probable cases have all now recovered and have been discharged from hospital.

The fifth person, who is being treated in North Manchester General Hospital, is in a stable condition.

"There is no evidence of any transmission of SARS in the UK from any of these five people," a Health Protection Agency spokeswoman said.

SARS symptoms, countries affected, how to avoid it, treatment, & more (P.16)

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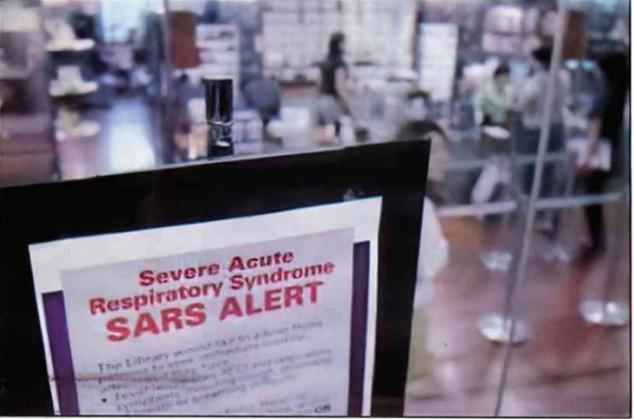
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A medical advisory on the flu-like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is displayed at the entrance to a public library in Singapore, April 11. REUTERS

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